



NEOEA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- retired@neoea.org
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Hank Haynes, Editor

This Fall, Make a Difference!

by Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

No matter how long it's been since your retirement, you probably recall how anything seems possible at the beginning of a school year. Education is a wonderful profession, and working with learners is a privilege as well as a responsibility. Most educators are idealistic and optimistic by nature; even in tough times, most can "paste on a smile."

Unfortunately, however, many educators will return to work this year with significant concerns. Chances are good that this year, most of our colleagues will:

- have larger class sizes or other increased work responsibilities;
- return without a meaningful pay increase (or with a net reduction due to increased retirement contributions);
- pay more for health insurance;
- face new mandates, more regimentation, and confusing evaluation systems; and
- experience less job security.

One way or another, all of these things come from a state government which shows greater hostility toward public education and public educators with each passing term. Each of us has a chance to change that. Here's a plan for meaningful change this election season.

- First and foremost: by Sunday, September 30, make sure that you and your eligible family members are registered to vote at the correct address. You can check your own registration at <http://voterlookup.sos.state.oh.us/voterlookup.aspx> or use the QR code to the right. See "Protect Your Voting Rights" for information on how to register.
- Find out who the OEA-endorsed candidates are. (NEOEA doesn't make endorsements, but OEA and its locals do. We've placed the OEA endorsement list online in our members-only area at <http://www.neoea.org/Private/EndorsedCandidates2014.pdf> .
- Consider financial support for your own preferred candidate(s). You can choose the recipient(s), and your donation won't cost you a cent. See "Personal PAC" article for details. Go to <http://www.neoea.org/Private/EndorsedCandidateContacts.pdf> for information on where to donate to OEA-endorsed candidates.
- Organize Your Colleagues! Participate in OEA's organizational tool, available at <http://ohea.ngpvanhost.com/>. The "My Colleagues" Organizing Tool consists of the following four steps.
 - Step 1: Sign Up.
 - Step 2: Identify Your Colleagues.
 - Step 3: Get Your Colleagues to Take the Pledge.
 - Step 4: Extra Credit.
- Save the Date: on Tuesday, September 9, we anticipate a particularly busy evening of campaign activities for OEA and NEOEA members. Watch for more information about this



important evening.

- Save the Date: on Saturday, September 20, we anticipate a day of campaign activities for OEA and NEOEA members. Watch for more information about this important day.
- Vote. You can vote by mail and avoid the lines starting on October 5. You can get a vote-by-mail form at www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/publications.aspx#abr .

Protect Your Voting Rights

By Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

Most of us believe strongly in the importance of each vote; I'm guessing that while you were an active educator, you worked hard to impress on your students the importance of participating in our democracy by registering and voting. We need to practice what we preach by making sure that we're registered to vote.

If you have moved or changed your name, or if it's been a while since you voted, there's an excellent chance that you need to register in order to vote in this fall's election. Friends and family who turn 18 before November 4 can register now and be eligible to vote on Election Day. Mail registration requires that you provide your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

Registrations are open until 30 days before Election Day. This year, mailed registrations must be postmarked by Sunday, October 5.

You can download the Ohio Voter Information Guide at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/upload/publications/election/GuidetoVoting2014.pdf>, and you can get a voter registration form at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/elections/forms/4010.pdf>.

Elections Boards in Northeastern Ohio

- Ashtabula: 440/576-6915, <http://www.electionsonthe.net/oh/Ashtabula/>
- Cuyahoga: 216/443-8683, <http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/>
- Erie: 419/627-7601, <http://www.electionsonthe.net/oh/erie/>
- Geauga: 440/285-2222, ext. 2030, <http://www.co.geauga.oh.us/Departments/BOE>
- Lake: 440/350-2700, <http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections/Home.aspx>
- Lorain: 440/326-5900 or 5901, <http://www.loraincountyelections.com/>
- Mahoning: 330/783-2474, <http://vote.mahoningcountyoh.gov/>
- Medina: 330/722-9278, <http://www.boe.co.medina.oh.us/>
- Portage: 330/297-3511, <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/election/index.html>
- Summit: 330/643-5200, <http://www.summitcountyboe.com/>
- Trumbull: 330/369-4050, <http://www.electionohio.com/trumbull/>

Would You Like to Have Your Own Personal PAC?

By Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

You've probably heard about all those corporations and wealthy individuals who make huge donations to political campaigns. Most of our members can't make those kinds of donations; but each of us can have our own personal PAC—and it's free!

If you favor a candidate for an Ohio public office, you can support that candidate's campaign, and it won't cost you a cent. Ohio Revised Code 5747.29 permits a taxpayer to claim a credit for contributions made to campaign committees for state office or for a seat on the Ohio General Assembly. Individuals can claim a credit of up to \$50; couples filing a joint return can claim a credit of \$100. The Ohio tax return contains a place to claim the credit, which is available whether or not you itemize deductions.

We always encourage members to donate to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education, but making this extra donation is a no-brainer since Ohio reimburses you for your donation—and you can target it to a particular candidate of your choosing.

You can't apply this credit to candidates for federal offices, and it doesn't apply to local and countywide elections. But it does apply to many Ohio elective office in which OEA has made endorsements, like Governor and the other state executive offices, Supreme Court Justice, State Senator, State Representative, and Ohio Board of Education.

So the deal is simple: you can support the candidate of your choice and the state will give you your money back when you file your 2014 Ohio income taxes. Want to see the actual statute? Go to <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5747.29>.

Just like having your own personal PAC!



NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee Report

By Gary Hollow, Chairperson

The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee is planning for County Retired Luncheons for several locations in Cuyahoga, Summit, and Lake. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for retired members to get together in locations close to where they live and get current information on issues affecting retirees. Watch for email notices and check the NEOEA-R website <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>.

The Committee has also planned for topics at NEOEA events that will appeal to NEOEA Retired members: NEOEA Day workshops – October 17, NEOEA MegaConference – March 15, and the NEOEA-R Spring Conference – May 12.

The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee will meet three times this year: September 16, February 3, and May 12. Members are welcome, but please RSVP.

Here is a summary of Committee and Sub-Committee activities:

- The Retirement Issues Committee continues to report on actions at the STRS and SERS Board meetings.
- The Political Action Committee identified retirees to serve on OEA-FCPE House & Senate District Screening Committees. Now the focus shifts to working with the campaigns of endorsed candidates and OEA Campaign 2014 Get-Out-The-Vote activities.
- The Membership Committee will have tables at MegaConference, the two NEOEA Representative Assemblies, and the Summer Leadership Conference to inform active members of the opportunity to join OEA-R/NEA-R.
- The Outreach Committee will help retirees to become active with the OEA/NEA Read Across America program reading to children at schools and libraries and the OEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring Program pairing retired members with OSEA education students at local colleges.
- The Conference Committee is planning the 2015 OEA-R Spring Conference for May 12 at the NEOEA Conference Center in Garfield Heights.
- The Communications Committee meets

to plan the five issues of the NEOEA-R newsletter and updates for the NEOEA-R website. An email notice is sent to all NEOEA retirees when the newsletter is posted to the website. NEOEA retirees who are also members of OEA-R and NEA-R will also receive the newsletter by US mail.

- The OEA Board of Directors approved an NEOEA-R proposal to make elections for OEA-R Advisory Council officers open to any member. Still under consideration is an NEOEA-R proposal for proportional District representation on the OEA-R Advisory Council.

NEOEA Day 2014 Welcomes Retired Members

By Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

Save October 17th on your calendar for a day with your NEOEA friends!

Although NEOEA Day has traditionally focused on the instructional needs of active members, recent changes have made it even more appropriate than ever for retired members.

A number of important northeastern Ohio sites that are destinations in their own right have proposed sessions, including:

- Cleveland Museum of Art,
- Holden Arboretum,
- Akron Zoo,
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo,
- Hale Farm and Village,
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History,
- Underground Railroad Trolley and Museum.

Retired members may enjoy participating in some of our more personally-oriented sessions, including the following:

- WVIZ/PBS ideastream will offer a tour of Amish country, and retired Parma teacher Nancy Szabo will provide a tour to the Longaberger factory in Dresden, Ohio.
- The Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCCTM), will be presenting a session on the Common Core and the associated assessments.
- The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood will provide a tour of the museum and educators will be introduced to interdisciplinary units to

take back to their schools. The units will address tolerance, diversity, Cleveland history, the Holocaust, and many other topics.

- The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County will present a session on digital library resources.
- The Western Reserve School of Cooking will present a session on "Kids in the Kitchen" (parents required).
- The Hospice of the Western Reserve will present a session on Creative Interventions for Child and Adolescent Grief.
- The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance will be joining us to present an outstanding literacy event. To help us align fiction and nonfiction books with our common core standards, she is inviting children's literature experts to present lessons on the spot incorporating current and classic books across the curriculum. There will be five authors and a representative from the Library of Congress to help facilitate. Also, there will be a panel discussion about new books, and a web site for online support. The first 400 registrants will receive a free book. CEU credit will be available.
- STRS will offer its popular Retirement Countdown program for teachers in their last two years before retirement.
- Dave Baker and 20th Century Tours will be offering two trips this year:
 - **New York City:** The NEOEA Day tour to New York City includes: lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights lodging in New York City, a ticket for one Broadway Show ("Rocky," "Aladdin," or "Kinky Boots"), a guided city tour, ticket to the 911 Memorial Site at Ground Zero, and dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania. Dinner at Carmine's in NYC is optional. More details at www.neoea.org/NYC2014.pdf.
 - **Niagara Wine Country:** After arriving in Niagara Falls, you'll have some free time to view the falls, shop, or try the casino. The next day we'll begin our wine tasting tour at three wineries. On our way home, you'll be able to try the White Water Walk along the Great Gorge Rapids, enjoy some of the attractions, shop or try your hand one last time at the

casino. More details at www.neoea.org/NiagaraWineryTour2014.pdf.

More information on this year's NEOEA Day will be posted at <http://neoea.org/ND2014.pdf>.

NEOEA-R Raffle

NEOEA-R needs volunteers to cover the raffle sales table for upcoming events. Contact Carol Dolgosh if you can give a few hours of your time. Leave a message at the NEOEA office or on the website.

- November 8 — NEOEA Fall Representative Assembly
- March 14 — NEOEA Megaconference
- April 25 — NEOEA Spring Representative Assembly

NEOEA Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts:

- **Best Benefits Club:** Our purchasing power allows Best Benefits Club to offer a complete and comprehensive benefits package including excellent discounts on quality products and services from mortgages, food, clothing, auto purchase/lease/repair and insurance... to theaters, amusement parks, sporting events, and more. Our password is **NEOEA0613e** or call 330-273-5756. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>
- **Cleveland Indians** are offering discounted tickets with your choice of seat location. Use the password "NEOEA." Go Tribe! <http://tinyurl.com/NEOEA-Indians14>.
- **Honeybaked Ham:** NEOEA's membership in Best Benefits Club (password: NEOEA0613e) permits members to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at <http://www.honeybaked.com/>.
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** Join their educator membership program and share your love of science with your family! Enjoy free, unlimited general admission to the Science Center and the Mather Steamship for a full year plus free general admission to more than 340 science centers worldwide. For information on their discounted educator

memberships, call 216-696-4576 or visit <http://www.greatscience.com/educators.aspx>.

- **Long-term Care:** Ensure your independence by contacting LTC Financial Partners. You can also receive a free *Dignity for Life* book. <http://www.neoea.org/2014GBHGS.pdf>
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Playhouse Square:** Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://ev15.venue.net/cgi-bin/incommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=psq&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR&promoType=corp>
- **Yankee Peddler:** Save \$2.50 for adult tickets and \$.50 for children's tickets for the annual Yankee Peddler Festival held the first three weekends in September. use the coupon code "14NEEA2", then update the cart. www.yptickets.com
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>

Retirement System Reports

The Ohio Education Association provides a periodic report on the three systems and posts the reports at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates>.

The OEA-R Advisory Council ESP Representative is Adele Matias (Mayfield EA-R). She attends SERS meetings and writes up her observations in periodic reports. We post Adele's reports at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>.

ORTA Links

Bring your OEA perspective to an ORTA meeting in your area.

- ORTA—<http://www.orta.org/>
- Greater Cleveland ORTA—<http://www.gccorta.com/>





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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Chairperson
- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Vice Chair
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R, Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R, NEOEA Liaison, & OEA-R Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Deb Bakos, Cardinal EA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Patricia Black, East Cleveland EA-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
- Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
- Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
- Sue Fatica, Painesville City TA-R
- Patricia Frost-Brooks, East Cleveland EA-R
- Hazel Haffner, Willoughby-Eastlake TA-R
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Richard Javorek, Brunswick EA-R
- Dale Kain, Mayfield EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

Address Service Requested

NEOEA Calendar

- September 10** OEA-Retired Fall Membership Conference, STRS 7th floor, Columbus
- September 16** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office, Garfield Heights
- September 20** OEA-R Delegate Candidate Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- October 6-7** Voter Registration Ends & Early Voting Begins, Support Pro-Education Candidates, Your Board of Elections or vote by mail
- October 16-19** NEOEA New York City Tour and Broadway Show, Bus Tour to New York City
- October 17-19** Niagara Wine Country Tours, Bus Tour to Niagara Falls and Niagara-On-The-Lake, NY
- October 17** NEOEA Day Professional Workshops, Various Locations
- November 4** Election Day, Support Pro-Education Candidates, Your local polling place or vote by mail

- November 8** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Highland HS
- December 5** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS Building, Columbus
- December 6** OEA Representative Assembly, Battelle Hall, Columbus Convention Center, Columbus

So Called "Right to Work" is Wrong
<http://www.ohea.org/right-to-work>

Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved and this newsletter stopped at your old address first? Make sure that we have your correct contact information; update your address and email on our "Contact Us" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/contact-us/>. Don't have internet access? Just call the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200.



Member Only Comment Page

The NEOEA-Retired website now offers NEOEA Retirees their own comment page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/member-only-area/>.

NEOEA Retirees who are also OEA-R/NEA-R members can now request login credentials to post comments and receive notification when others reply. Everyone has an opinion; get it out there and see what other members have to say.

Looking for more NEOEA Information?

Go to the NEOEA website <http://www.neoea.org/>, click on one of the yellow links at the top-right to register or login.

There you will find current and past issues of *NEOEA News & Views*, the list of OEA endorsed candidates and their campaign contact information, the NEOEA Government Guide, and a link to the NEOEA Presidents' Page listing all downloadable NEOEA resources.