



NEOEAA -- Retired

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

NEOEAA Summer Leadership Conference

This year's NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference has returned to its previous date and location with 27 sessions on July 26-27 at The Bertram Inn in Aurora. Retirees will find topics of interest to help stay up to date with legislative, political, and professional issues affecting public education.

The conference begins with a special session for retirees at 2:30 PM Wednesday. Over 10,000 new educators are expected in Ohio in the next five years and OEA needs your help with a new outreach program—**Ohio's New Educators** program. After the session, enjoy dinner and keynote speaker, Eric Brown, a member of the NEA Executive Committee. Follow dinner with a reception with legislators and educators from all over northeastern Ohio. Free registration at <http://neoea.org/RetiredONE.pdf>

Those wishing to attend the entire two-day conference can find details on the "All Things Summer Leadership" page at <http://neoea.org/SLC/>. Early registration with a discounted price ends June 9, so sign up today, otherwise by July 17.

NEA-R Delegate and OEA-R Advisory Council Elections Report

OEA conducted the OEA-Retired elections online during the month of March using Election-America.com as the service provider. All OEA-R members should have received a letter and/or email with instructions for online voting or requesting a paper ballot. Balloting deadline was March 31. A total of 1,174 ballots were cast (100 paper ballots).

NEA Retired Delegates: John Hoyes, OEA-R Chair (by virtue of office); William A. Dorsey 560; Bill Sears 359; Marilyn Allen 346; Donald L. Traxler 326; Carol Kinsey 320; Homer O. Adams 304; Becky Mayer 269; Christina Wall Swank 263.

NEA Retired Alternates: Nancy Wonson 251; Mary Binegar 250; Willie A. Terrell, Jr. 249; Peg Ham 246; Kathleen Purdy 240; Phil A. Long 235; Deloris Rome Hudson 233; Jane A. Rahn 225; Marti Franks 223; Jeff Corbin 221; Donna Smoot Walters 212; Joyce M. Hives 206; Barbara Catalano 197; Judy Buschle 191; Adele Matias 174; Barry Alcock 165; Judy Novak 156; Sue Chaney 155; Wil Vickery 155; R. Joyce Skocic 130; Perry C. Brokaw 128; Warlita Duvall 116.

OEA-Retired Advisory Council At-Large: Jane A. Rahn 232; Becky Mayer 201; Kathleen Purdy 198; Donna Smoot Walters 190; Christina Wall Swank 187; R. Joyce Skocic 94.

OEA Advisory Council SEOEA Rep: Jane M. Miller 25; S. Jefferson Slattery 18.

OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly

OEA-R delegates met on May 11 at the STRS Building prior to the OEA Representative Assembly. Forty-two delegates were in attendance and thirty-nine contributed a total of \$2072 to OEA-FCPE. In addition to the typical reports and endorsements, the delegates discussed a report on the OEA-R online elections. Voting participation was up from the fall election 33% of historical turnout to 56% for the election this spring. This is still only 13% of all OEA-R members participating. Delegates continued their concern for the low numbers and again recommended combining the fall and spring elections into one mailing ballot.

OEA-R leadership is now posting meeting summaries and minutes of the OEA-R Advisory Council, OEA-R Delegate Assembly, and the OEA Board of Directors on the Documents/Reports page of the OEA-R website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

NEOEAA Retired Spring Conference Report

This year forty-six members attended this popular annual update of Association issues by NEOEA-Retired. The conference was held at the NEOEA Conference Center. Cost was only \$20 with free parking. Participants attended two of four breakout sessions:

- **STRS by Tamla Cole:** overview of 2017 STRS Pension Reform changes and the status of the pension and health care funding.
- **NEA MBingo! by Guy Kendall-Freas:** BINGO prizes, the newest NEA Member Benefits, and the many ways members save money.
- **Legislative Update by Scott DiMauro:** 132nd General Assembly and other current issues.
- **Tech Tips by Bill Lavezzi:** social media (Facebook and Twitter), photo sharing, and video calling.

Need to Update Your Contact Information?

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.

infoOEA Contact Center

OEA has set up infoOEA--a one-stop contact center--to provide assistance to our members with questions they may have.

Update your contact information with OEA at:
1-844-OEA-info (1 844 632 4636) or membership@ohea.org.

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee Report

By Nancy Wonson, Chairperson

Our subcommittees have been busy.

- The **Conference Committee** conducted the Spring Conference with four well-attended break-out sessions on April 19.
- The **Outreach Committee** coordinated Read Across America read-ins during March. Each reader had a new book and several recycled books to take with them to present to the school or group to whom they read.
- The **Political Action Committee** has many members serving on OEA-FCPE Screening Committees and maintains contact with legislators.
- The **Membership Committee** is responsible for our raffle table at all NEOEA events and encouraging active members to join the OEA-R/NEA-R as a pre-retired member.
- The **Retirement Committee** is working with the NEOEA Personal Welfare and Finance Committee to review and update a retirement brochure which would be distributed at NEOEA events.
- The **OEA-R Intergenerational Mentoring Program** continues at two colleges here in Northeast—Kent State and Youngstown State. Retired members who want to give back by mentoring young educators are welcome.
- **County Luncheons:** Committee members are organizing luncheons in their home counties. Any retired educator is invited. Meet retired educators in your area and get updates on retirement and legislative issues.
- **NEOEA-R Facebook page:** Keep up-to-date on information from OEA, OEA-R, and NEOEA-R. Join our Facebook page. Search NEOEA RETIRED, then ask to “join” and you will be approved quickly. You will see both state and national issues as well as fun local activities involving our members.
- **Are You a Volunteer? Does Your Organization Need Help?** NEOEA-R is looking to connect NEOEA retirees with your organization. Submit the details on the NEOEA-R website, <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/volunteers/> and we will post them on our Volunteer page.

Baseball, Fireworks, and Farewell – NEOEA Night at the Lake County Captains

Join NEOEA members and guests for NEOEA Night at the Lake County Captains as we say happy retirement to **Bill Lavezzi**, our Executive Director for the past 17 years. With lots of prizes and surprises, fireworks and food, you’ll want to be there! So come join us at 6:00 PM on Friday, July 21, 2017, at Classic Park in Eastlake. Download a registration form at <http://www.neoea.org/captains.pdf>.

NEOEA Members at OEA Lobby Day and Statehouse Reception

By Sue Messinger, NEOEA Unit 2 Director

It isn’t every day that educators get to lobby at Ohio’s Statehouse, but that is exactly what thirty-three NEOEA members did on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. NEOEA sent a busload of educators to Columbus for a full day of speaking with legislators about issues such as teacher evaluations, testing, and vouchers.

Members first attended a briefing by Government Relations staff at OEA headquarters, and then spent the day advocating on behalf of students and public education. Once the appointments were complete, an early evening reception was held at the statehouse for legislators and lobbying members alike.

Attendees worked to build relationships with legislators from both houses including Representatives Dan Ramos (D-56), Dave Greenspan (R-16), and Kristina Roegner (R-37), and Senators Mike Skindell (D-23), Kenny Yuko (D- 25), and Gayle Manning (R-13).

Bay Teachers’ Association President Lauren Stanislaw had this to say about her experience, “As a first-time Lobby Day participant, I was impressed to see the great turnout of OEA members. It was very informational to meet with the legislators, and I feel like I really got an inside look into the process of government. It was an inspiring day.” Numerous attendees reported it was a successful day working to further the goals of public education.

Congratulations to three retirees who attended Lobby Day: Lynn Aring from Bay TA-R; Joyce Cyrus from East Cleveland EA-R; and Hank Haynes from ACCESS-R.

NEOEA Legislative Receptions

Local leaders and Statehouse legislators from all over northeastern Ohio met on February 13 in simultaneous receptions held at four locations in northeastern Ohio.

The annual Legislative Reception is one of NEOEA’s longest-running events, having started years ago as the NEOEA Legislative Dinner. Sponsored by NEOEA’s Legislative Committee, this event’s purpose remains to educate members about the impact that legislation has on us and our work, and to provide an opportunity for local leaders to educate legislators about our issues.

Eighteen legislators from both political parties accepted invitations this year, and the dialogue was substantive at each location.

Next year’s event is scheduled for early March. Contact your local president if interested.

NEOEA / OEA / NEA Read Across America

By Beryl Burkle, NEOEA-R Outreach Com.

We celebrated Read Across America, March 1-31 all across north eastern Ohio spreading the message that reading is FUN! Fun for students and fun for adults. We read books and traveled to many schools, libraries, and other events that had students to read to.

- THANK YOU to the retired teachers and Kent Student Education Association students that with enthusiasm read to large and small groups. We are a growing group of the retired that pick a time and a place to read. Please join us next March for the fun.
- THANK YOU to teachers that invite and welcome us into their classrooms.
- THANK YOU to the students in education at Kent State University that planned and arranged a program at Ravenna High School for local children and their parents.

- **THANK YOU** to the NEOEA Board of Directors that gave us a grant so we could buy new books to gift where we read. This March 2017 was very successful in helping to celebrate Read Across America, Dr. Seuss Style.

NEOEA Day – Friday, October 13

Mark your calendars. Retirees will find many interesting trips and site visits in addition to the annual favorites.

NEOEA Day Weekend — Two Different Tours Available!

NEW YORK CITY — OCTOBER 12-15, 2017! NEOEA Day will be here before you know it, and now is the time to make your reservation. New York City tour includes lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights lodging in New York City, a guided city tour, and dinner on the way home. A ticket for one Broadway Show, the 911 Memorial Museum, and dinner at Carmine's in NYC are optional. More details are available at <http://www.neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf>.

WINERIES, CASTLES, AND CRUISING IN THE 1000 ISLANDS, NEW YORK — OCTOBER 13-15, 2017! Our deluxe motor coach will depart to the 1000 Islands. At our first stop we will watch as a chef creates our 3-course wine pairing lunch. After lunch we will continue to the 1000 Islands and check into the Bonnie Castle Hotel. On Saturday, we will board Clayton Island Tours boat for a Boldt Castle and Two-Nation Tour. We will continue to Coyote Moon Vineyard for lunch and wine tasting. Following lunch we will have a wine tasting at Northern Flow Winery, Otter Creek Winery for a wine tasting with chocolate pairing, and then to the St. Lawrence Spirits Distillery. On Sunday, our first stop of the day is at Thousand Island Winery for a tour and tasting. After our tasting we will visit Tibbett's Point Lighthouse in Cape Vincent. Our last stop before heading home is Cape Winery for a 5-course wine pairing lunch in an historic barn. After lunch enjoy a wine tasting. Dinner is on your own, and approximate arrival time in Austintown will be around 9:30 p.m. More details are available at <http://www.neoea.org/WineTour2017.pdf>.

OEA-Retired Fall Conference

OEA-R will hold its 2017 OEA-Retired Fall Conference at the STRS Building 7th Floor on September 14, 2016, 9:30—3:00. Registration is \$15 and due September 2. All OEA-R members are invited. Bring a friend! Parking is free at the STRS Building. Check the OEA-R website <http://oea-r.ohea.us/> for a registration form.

NEOEA Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts visit <http://neoea.org/resources/member-benefits/>.

- **Best Benefits Club:** 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. Each member must register individually with the website in order to have access to the discounts. On the website, click on the Login tab near the top of the page. Click on the words REGISTER HERE, and use the activation code NEOEA0613 when filling out the small form that comes up. Users will now be required to make up their own username and password. For answers to BBC questions, you can call BBC at 330-273-5756. The office in Brunswick is open Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 4:00. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** has been involved in the union community for nearly 40 years and is pleased to be providing the NEOEA an exclusive discount on general and specialty dental care. Whether you have dental benefits or not, you will experience cost savings of up to 35% on general dentistry and 30% on specialty dentistry. This is not an insurance plan. There is no cost to participate and no restrictions. Your choice to receive dental care at one of their offices is voluntary. There are 7 locations in Cleveland making access to one of their offices convenient. Evening and weekend hours are also available. <https://www.brightnow.com/>.

- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>.
- **Energy Price Choice:** Confused about how and where to get the lowest prices for your natural gas and electricity? <https://energypricechoice.com/NEOEA> is an unbiased energy marketplace that compares energy prices automatically for you. It takes less than 5 minutes to get the best possible price without hours of confusing research and hidden catches.
- **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>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **Playhouse Square:** Tickets at a discounted rate with a flat \$7 handling fee. Use the promotional code FAMTIX; then select NEOEA. <http://www.playhousesquare.org/ceo>.
- **OEA Attorney Referral Program:** login at the OEA Member Services page <https://www.ohea.org/legal-services> or download <http://www.neoea.org/ARP.pdf>.

Miss Your News and Views?

NEOEA's newsletter *News and Views* is aimed at active members, but many retired members tell us that they would like to continue receiving it after retirement. Fortunately, there's an easy way to do so: each issue of *News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. First register at <http://neoea.org/register/> -- it's easy and free. Once registered, you'll have access to the Members-Only page, which has recent issues for download.





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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

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Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Past Chair
Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R, OEA-R Secretary
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OEA-R ESP Representative
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OEA-R NEOEA Representative
Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
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Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R

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NEOEA Calendar

June 9 NEOEA Emerging Leaders
Cookout, NEOEA Conference
Center Office, Garfield
Heights

June 19-21 OEA Summer Academy,
Columbus Hilton Downtown ,
Columbus, OH

June 20 OEA-Retired Summer
Academy, OEA Building,
Columbus, OH

June 27-28 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting,
Boston, MA

July 2-5 NEA Representative
Assembly, Boston, MA

July 26-27 NEOEA Summer Leadership
Conference, The Bertram Inn,
Aurora, OH

September 19 NEOEA-R Organizing
Committee, NEOEA
Conference Center Office,
Garfield Heights

Looking for More Information?

- NEOEA-Retired – <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
- NEOEA Retired on Facebook
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- NEA Today on Facebook

NEOEA Special Interest Groups

NEOEA maintains eighteen email lists for members who want to receive news and updates from NEOEA on a particular topic. Members can sign up for as many topics as they want. Download a sign up form at <http://www.neoea.org/EmailListSignUp.pdf> or Scan the QR Code to see the lists and sign up.

