



NEOE -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
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June, 2016

Hank Haynes, Editor

OEA-R Advisory Council Elections

The **OEA-Retired Advisory Council** ballots were counted on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Election results are as follows:

OEA-Retired Advisory Council – OEA Board of Directors Representative:

Term: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019
Number of Ballots Cast: 2071; Voided Ballots: 5
1255 Votes: - **Carol Kinsey** – ELECTED
422 Votes: - Kathleen Purdy
389 Votes: - R. Joyce Skocic

OEA Retired Advisory Council – NEOEA Representative:

Term: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019
Number of Ballots Cast: 705; Voided Ballots: 2
459 Votes: - **Marsh Buckley** – ELECTED
244 Votes: - Donna Smoot-Walters

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representatives – Elected by Acclamation

Term: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019
Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R – ESP
Bonnie Harris, YSU-R – Higher Ed

The election of **Carol Kinsey** to the **OEA Board of Directors** resulted in a vacancy in the **OEA-R Advisory Council Vice-Chair** position. The election to fill that vacancy will be in October. Two NEOEA-R members are running for the OEA-R Vice-Chair position:

- **Lyn Curry-Huston**, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- **Gary Hollow**, Bristol EA-R,

infoOEA Contact Center

Got a Question? Call **infoOEA**

OEA has set up **infoOEA**--a one-stop contact center--to provide assistance to our members with questions they may have. **OEA-Retired** members who have changes to their mail or email addresses, telephone numbers, or other information now have a one-stop place to report those changes.

All members are welcome to contact OEA at:
1-844-OEA-info (1 844 632 4636) or membership@ohea.org

OEA Membership Specialists are available to assist or connect the member to the appropriate staff person. The contact center hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 during normal OEA business hours.

NEOE Names Next Executive Director

NEOE has selected East Cleveland teacher **Mary Alice Conkey** as its next Executive Director. Ms. Conkey, who served as NEOEA's 2012-14 president, will take over as executive director of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association on September 1.

A graduate of Notre Dame College with a master's degree from John Carroll University, the 31-year teacher is an intervention specialist at Mayfair Elementary School in the East Cleveland City School District and has been president of the East Cleveland Education Association since 1999. Long known within the education community as a strong union advocate, she chairs the Organizing Strategies Committee of the Ohio Education Association.

Ms. Conkey will be NEOEA's twelfth executive director since 1910, the third to serve full-time, and the first female to hold the position. She will succeed former Warrensville Heights and Aurora teacher **Bill Lavezzi**, who has been executive director since 2000.

Meeting at Tri-C Corporate College East following NEOEA's annual Megaconference, NEOEA's Board of Directors voted to hire Ms. Conkey following a six-month search that began in summer 2015 and included interviews in the fall. Under a transition plan developed by the board's Personnel and Office Operations Committee, she will work part-time during the 2016-17 school year while Mr. Lavezzi continues to maintain office operations.

2016 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

NEOE-R held its seventh **NEOE-Retired Spring Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on April 27, 2016, 9:30—1:15.

Thank you to **Frances Strickland**, former Ohio First Lady, who meet with the group for a dialog regarding major issues affecting public education in Ohio. As a former educator, and the wife of the former Governor (and current candidate for the Senate), she gave us a unique perspective.

Attendees enjoyed both a continental breakfast and lunch followed by an NEA Member Benefits-sponsored Ice Cream Social. Attendees attended two of four breakout sessions:

- Legislative Update—Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice-President
- STRS/SERS Pension & Healthcare Update—Tamla Cole, STRS & Matt Slain, financial advisor
- What I Want My Loved Ones to Know—Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits
- Resources for Travel, Online Tools for Your Travel Toolbox (Bring Your Own Device)—Deb Bakos

Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

The **NEA-Retired Delegate** ballots were counted on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Number of Ballots Cast: 2101; Voided Ballots: 27. Election results are as follows:

Delegates:

- By Virtue of Office—John Hoyes, Chair
- 960—**William A. Dorsey, NEOEA**
- 719—Carol Kinsey, ECOEA
- 659—Donald L. Traxler, NWOEA
- 638—**Homer O. Adams, NEOEA**
- 633—Bill Sears, SWOEA
- 571—**Marsh Buckley, NEOEA**
- 546—Marilyn Allen, CAPITAL
- 469—Marti Huss, SWOEA

Alternates:

- 455—Kathleen Purdy, ECOEA
- 451—Christina Wall Swank, NCOEA
- 436—Jeff Corbin, CAPITAL
- 432—**Donna Smoot-Walters, NEOEA**
- 404—Willie A. Terrell, Jr., WOEAA
- 393—**Peg Ham, NEOEA**
- 382—**Beryl M. Burkle, NEOEA**
- 377—**Nancy Wonson, NEOEA**
- 373—Judy Buschle, SWOEA
- 347—**Joyce Hives, NEOEA**
- 338—Mary Binegar, CENTRAL
- 316—Judy Novak, NCOEA
- 308—**Lynnette R. Harris, NEOEA**
- 303—**Marti Franks, NEOEA**
- 300—Jane A. Rahn, WOEAA
- 284—**Barbara Catalano, NEOEA**
- 283—Paula J. Garfield, CAPITAL
- 280—**Gail Gentile, NEOEA**
- 278—R. Joyce Skocic, NCOEA
- 278—Sue Christian, CENTRAL
- 228—Claudia Miller, SWOEA
- 224—Wil Vickery, CENTRAL
- 217—Perry C. Brokaw, NCOEA
- 203—Susie Crawford, CENTRAL
- 181—Jim Wilhelm, SEOEA
- 158—Warlita S. Duvall, WOEAA
- 135—Steve Lykins, SWOEA

The **2016 NEA Representative Assembly** will be held in Washington, DC. on July 2 – July 7, with the **NEA-Retired Annual Conference** on June 27-July 1. OEA-Retired is entitled to nine (9) NEA RA delegates for the 2016 NEA RA.

2016 OEA-Retired Fall Conference

Save the Date!

OEA-R will hold its **2016 OEA-Retired Fall Conference** at the STRS Building 7th Floor on September 4, 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.

Download a registration form at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2016/04/2016-OEA-FallConference-Save-the-Date.docx> .

Check the OEA-R website <http://oea-r.ohea.us/> .

Hats off to NEOEA-Retired

Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

“THANK YOU” for our successes, March 2016 with **NEA’S “Read Across America”**. We did go and read in classrooms and libraries across North Eastern Ohio. We took new books and gently used books to donate to the places we read. Join us in March 2017. It is a great way to show students that reading is fun.

Mary Keefe (Maple Hts TA-R) brought a large donation of gently used books for the March RAA from the Lander Circle Kiwanis. All books were distributed to students.

Joyce Hives (East Cleveland EA-R) took some of the gently used books to the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center where retired volunteers tutor students in reading. All the books were used and given to students to take home and enjoy.

Sherri Koncilja (Painesville City TA-R) has a group of retired members that have been trained by The Cleveland Sight Center to go to preschools. They are trained to give visual screening tests and to provide early intervention for young children with eye problems. Early detection and correction can save a child from a lifetime of visual impairment.

Pat Sharkey (North Ridgeville EA-R) serves on the Social and Human Concerns Committee of NEOEA. Pat works on this committee and delivers toiletries to the Homeless and other shelters across North Eastern Ohio.

Deb Bakos (Cardinal EA-R) and her committee planned the Retired Spring Conference for April 27th. The attendance at the conference was well attended by our members. The program was planned and the sessions were on STRS/SERS/ Social Security, Guy Kendall-Freas/Legislative Updates/Resources for Travel.

Marti Franks (Twinsburg EA-R) has been serving as NEOEA’s Labor Liaison. In that capacity, she attends union meetings, rallies, workshops, and other functions behalf of NEOEA and facilitates communication between NEOEA and unions outside OEA.

Debbie Bernauer (Brecksville-Broadview Heights EA-R) has been serving as NEOEA’s Legislative Liaison. She represents NEOEA at various political events and contacts legislators to arrange meetings with them for Lobby Days and verify their attendance at Legislative Receptions.

The **Intergenerational Mentoring Program at Kent State University and Youngstown State University** student organizations have grown in membership this year. **KSEA** is in its eight year and **YSEA** just finished its second year. Co-Facilitators at **KSU** are **Nanci DiBianca** and **Beryl Burkle**. Co-Facilitators at **YSU** are **Harold Wilson** and **Bonnie Harris**. If you live about fifty miles from these campuses we are always looking for retired members to become MENTORS. We retire from our job but not our profession. We still have much to give young people in education. It is FUN.



YSEA Read Across America





KSEA Read Across America



KSEA Mentors

If you are interested in being a Mentor, Reader or Screener please call Linda Grunden at the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200 and she will give you guidance to volunteer. We want all our retired to join in these interesting volunteer programs.

Candidate for State Board of Education

NEOEA Executive Director, Bill Lavezzi announced his candidacy for the District 11 seat on the Ohio State Board of Education. The seat is currently held by Mary Rose Oakar.

SBE District 11 includes Ohio Senate Districts 21, 23, and 25 encompassing three-quarters of Cuyahoga County and half of Lake County

Mr. Lavezzi updates a weekly blog covering issues affecting education at <http://bill4board.us/>. People may sign up online to receive his weekly newsletter. Contributions can be sent to: Bill4Board, 256 Columbus Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146 .

Retirement System Reports

Get the current OEA report on the three retirement systems at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates> .

Adele Matias SERS Reports are at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>.

NEOEA Discounts

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

- **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>
- **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/>
- **Honeybaked Ham:** Order on the Best Benefits Club website (password: NEOEA0613e) to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at <http://www.honeybaked.com/>
- **Playhouse Square:** Tickets at a discounted rate with a flat \$7 handling fee. Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://www.playhousesquare.org/ceo>
- **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>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>
- **Long-term Care—Acsia Partners:** Ensure your independence. You can also receive a free *Dignity for Life* book. <http://neoealongtermcare.com/>

Vintage Ohio and a Little Brew, Too

Colorful tents, rolling hills, picnic tables, and groves of tall oaks provide a tranquil setting for the **Vintage Ohio Wine Festival**, the premier food and wine event of the year.

Sample wines from Ohio wineries offering regional wines ranging from world-class wines like Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc or Riesling to fun-to-drink fruit wines made from fresh strawberries, blackberries, peaches and raspberries.

Whether one enjoys red, white, blush, dry, sweet or something in-between, there will be an opportunity to find a favorite "Vintage Experience." There is also plenty of scrumptious food, cooking school demonstrations, three stages of live music entertainment, artisans, shopping, and spectacular Friday fireworks. <http://www.neoea.org/VintageOhio.pdf>

New York, New York

Mark your calendars! Come join us on NEOEA Day weekend (October 13-16, 2016) in New York City! See a Broadway show, visit the 911 Museum, or dinner at Carmine's: travel in a deluxe motor coach with a guide from 20th Century Tours. <http://www.neoea.org/NYC2016.pdf> .

Fall Foliage in the Finger Lakes

Join us for a wine, waterfalls, and picturesque small town tour in New York's Finger Lakes Region over NEOEA Day, October 14-16, 2016. Ride in a deluxe motor coach, enjoy tours and wine tastings, shop at the Ithaca Farmers' Market, and delight in the autumn scenery at the "Fabulous Falls above Cayuga Tour." <http://www.neoea.org/WineTour2016.pdf>

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.



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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R, Vice Chair
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R, Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Past Chair
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R,
OEA-R Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R, NEOEA Liaison &
OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R,
OEA-R ESP Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Deb Bakos, Cardinal EA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R
- Pat Cohen, LEADD-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- Pat Czech, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA-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
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
- Richard Javorek, Brunswick EA-R
- Dale Kain, Mayfield EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Sherri Koncija, Painesville City TA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R

Address Service Requested

OEA Spring 2016 Representative Assembly

Thank you to **OEA-Retired Delegates** from **NEOEA-R** that attended the **OEA RA**:
Homer Adams, Lynn Aring, Debbie Bernauer, Marsh Buckley, Beryl Burkle, Lyn Curry-Huston, Nanci DiBianca, Bill Dorsey, Marti Franks, Gail Gentile, Hazel Haffner, Peg Ham, Bonnie Harris, Lynnette Harris, Hank Haynes, Warren Hershberger, Norm Hillstrom, Joyce Hives, Gary Hollow, Adele Matias, Donna Smoot-Walters, John Ververka, Nancy Wonson,

Looking for More Information?

- NEOEA-Retired – <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
- “NEOEA Retired” on Facebook
- NEOEA – <http://www.neoea.org/>
- “NEOEA” on Facebook
- OEA-Retired – <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>
- “OEA – Retired” on Facebook
- OEA – <http://www.ohea.org/>
- “OhioEA” on Facebook
- NEA – <http://www.nea.org/>
- “NEA Today” on Facebook

NEOEA Calendar

- June 22-23** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn, Independence, OH. <http://neoea.org/slc/>
- June 29-30** NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. <http://ra.nea.org/>
- July 2-7** NEA Representative Assembly, Washington, DC. <http://ra.nea.org/>
- August 1-3** OEA Summer Academy, Hilton Columbus Downtown, OH. <http://www.ohea.org/oea-summer-academy>
- Sept 20** NEOEA –Retired Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office, Garfield Hts., OH

New NEOEA Website

Visit the new NEOEA website at <http://www.neoea.org/>.

Be sure to register on the site to take advantage of all of the information that is available. After you complete the registration process, you will receive an email with a temporary password. Then log in and enjoy the new site and your *NEOEA News & Views*. Download forms and reports from the Presidents page, complete access to everything available to Local Presidents.

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. Scan the QR Code to see the lists and sign up.

