



NEOE -- 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

OEA-R Delegate Assembly

The first OEA-R Delegate Assembly under the new OEA-R Guidelines was held December 2, 2016, at the STRS Building in Columbus. Previously, the guidelines provided for a simple Delegate Caucus to consider positions on items and candidates to be voted on at the OEA Representative Assembly. The new Delegate Assembly is designed to function more like a District Representative Assembly where delegates can introduce new business, establish policy and objectives and otherwise be the "supreme governing body of OEA-R." The OEA-R Advisory Council, which previously held all those powers, will now function similar to a District Board of Directors.

Speakers at the Delegate Assembly included the OEA Officers: Becky Higgins, Scott DiMauro, and Tim Myers; OEA Executive Director Sheryl Mathis; Todd Jaeck, OEA Membership Consultant; and STRS Deputy Executive Director/Member Benefits, Gary Russell.

The delegates adopted Standing Rules for the Delegate Assembly, heard OEA-R Advisory Council Committee reports, reviewed the OEA-R budget, and voted to endorse Tamika Moss for the position of OEA Board of Directors At-Large. The 41 Delegates contributed \$1665 to OEA-FCPE.

Online Voting:

The delegates discussed the Advisory Council report on the poor participation under the new online voting procedures. The OEA Board of Directors had made the decision to go with Election-America.com for online voting of OEA-R Delegates and the OEA-R Vice President. Previously, ballots and candidate profiles were sent to every OEA-R member, and about 23-25% of the ballots were returned each year. This year, only 7.8% of OEA-R members participated in the election. Delegates called for a critical review of the procedures and that ballots be mailed to each OEA-R member.

Thank you to the newly-elected delegates and alternates from NEOEA who were able to attend the OEA Representative Assembly on December 3: **Homer O. Adams, Lynn Aring, Debbie Bernauer, Marsh Buckley, Beryl Burkle, Barb Catalano, Lyn Curry-Huston; William A. Dorsey, Marti Franks, Peg Ham, Bonita Harris, Hank Haynes, Norm Hillstrom, Joyce M. Hives; Adele Matias, Donna Smoot-Walters, John Veverka, and Nancy Wonson.** The following delegates were unable to attend: **Nanci DiBianca, Lynnette R. Harris, Warren Hershberger, and Pat Wagar.**

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring OEA Representative Assemblies and, on the day before, a delegate briefing with the OEA officers and reports from the OEA-R Advisory Council. Delegates from NEOEA also attend the Fall and Spring NEOEA RAs.

Congratulations to **Bill Sears** who was elected to fill the vacancy of **OEA-R Advisory Council Vice-Chair.**

OEA-R Advisory Council Elections

The position of **OEA-R Advisory Council At-Large** is open to NEOEA Retired members and will be elected in March. The filing deadline is February 15, 2017. The term of office begins September 1, 2017, and ends August 31, 2020. This position serves as an automatic delegate to the OEA Representative Assembly by virtue of office.

Download a Declaration of Candidacy Form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>. Forms are to be submitted to OEA Secretary/Treasurer. Contact Carol Price at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information.

Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

The **2017 NEA Representative Assembly** will be held in Boston, MA, on June 30 – July 5, with the NEA-Retired Annual Conference on June 25-June 29. OEA-Retired is entitled to eight (8) NEA RA delegates for the 2016 NEA RA. The OEA-Retired Chairperson serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office; therefore, retired members will vote for no more than seven (7) candidates.

Download a Declaration of Candidacy Form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>. Forms are to be submitted to OEA Secretary/Treasurer. Contact Carol Price at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information.

NEOE Legislative Receptions, February 13

NEOE's Legislative Committee will be holding its annual Legislative Receptions on Monday, February 13, 2017. We have divided northeastern Ohio House and Senate Districts into four zones, with a separate reception in each zone.

This is not an all-member event. Retired members of NEOEA's Legislative Committee, District Screening Councils, and retired house district screeners will receive an invitation. Other retired members who are interested in attending should contact their local presidents.

infoOEA Contact Center

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.

NEOEA / OEA / NEA Read Across America

NEOEA-Retired will be celebrating NEA's Read Across America starting on March 1 and continuing into the month. We will read to students across NEOEA. Retired readers are needed to read in classrooms, libraries, or at other events. If you can spend some time reading to children, please contact Beryl Burkle, NEOEA-R Read Across America Chairperson, at berylburkle@gmail.com or 330-659-3928.

We will leave new and used books where we read. The bookplate inside the front cover will say, "Shared by North Eastern Ohio Education Association Retired Members 2017."

Remember — "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child." — Dr. Seuss.

OEA and NEA have great resources for planning a Read Across America event in your area, go to <http://www.ohea.org/raa> and <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>.

To see our past adventures for Read Across America, find us on YouTube:

2015: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJlAjn6ivFk>

2014: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8Ovylx0ln8>

NEOEA Megaconference

On March 4, NEOEA will sponsor its popular Megaconference: Detailed information and registration form at: <http://neoea.org/mega/> This year's Megaconference has several sessions that will be of interest to retired members, including "On My Own," a track specifically aimed at addressing the legal, financial, and medical concerns of singles. In addition, the NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee is again sponsoring a State School Board Panel, with northeastern Ohio's four State School Board members, two of

whom are new this year. Other committees will sponsor sessions relevant to their work.

The NEOEA annual Megaconference features twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots and is held at Corporate College East, located in Warrensville Heights. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m., and workshops begin at 9:00. The \$15 registration fee (\$25 for nonmembers) covers a continental breakfast, lunch, and parking.

Do you have friends still working and nearing retirement? For the third year, we'll again offer an optional pre-retired workshop after lunch. Understand the advantages of completing an OEA-R pre-retirement membership prior to retirement. The registration form has a place to reserve your spot. Information is available at <http://neoea.org/PreRetiredWorkshop.pdf>

NEOEA Retired Spring Conference April 19, 2017

Mark your calendars for this popular NEOEA-Retired annual update of Association issues. Download the Registration Flyer at: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2016/04/RetiredSpringConf2017.pdf>. Cost is only \$20; free parking. The conference will be held at the NEOEA Conference Center,

SCHEDULE

- 9:30 Check in & Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 Introductions and Welcome
- 10:30 Breakout Session 1
- 11:35 Breakout Session 2
- 12:30 Lunch
- Ice Cream Social provided by NEA Member Benefits

Breakout session topics (pick two)

- STRS by Tamla Cole: Tamla will present a brief overview of 2017 STRS Pension Reform changes and the status of the pension and health care funding.
- NEA MBingo! by Guy Kendall-Freas: This session will highlight the newest NEA Member Benefits and provide an overview of the many ways members are saving money and will be presented in a BINGO format where members not only learn but will win lots of prizes, too!
- Legislative Update by Scott DiMauro: 132nd General Assembly and other current issues.

- Tech Tips by Bill Lavezzi: An interactive look at how retirees use technology: social media (Facebook and Twitter), photo sharing, and video calling.

NEOEA-Retired Outreach Committee News

- **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.

- **Cleveland Kids' Book Bank**

In the fall, NEOEA-R introduced members to the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank (<http://www.kidsbookbank.org/>) and their need for volunteers to sort and catalog donated books, over 300,000 of which have been distributed.

Now the Kids' Book Bank is having its 1st birthday party on February 10, 2017, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Around the Corner Saloon & Café, 18616 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44107. The price is \$25 (plus processing fees) for all you can eat and all you can drink (beer + wine). There will be a raffle with many great prizes and entertainment. Please spread the word and invite your friends! Please email youngprofessionals@kidsbookbank.org with questions.

- **Intergenerational Mentoring**

The Intergenerational Mentoring Programs at Kent State University and Youngstown State University are looking for additional MENTORS. You will work with education students who will graduate as teachers. Mentors have retired from their jobs, but not from their profession. Leave your name, address, telephone number and email address with Linda Grunden at the NEOEA office (800-354-6794). Nanci DiBianca and Beryl Burkle will return your call for KSU and Harold Wilson and Bonnie Harris will return your call from YSU. We want you to live within 50 miles of these universities. Mentors must be OEA-R/NEA-R members.

We need you! We will answer all questions

ASAP. This is fun and a very worthwhile endeavor for retired members and students.

2017 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference – Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It

March 21-23, 2017, Renaissance Hotel
2222 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas,
Texas 75207.

Registration for the 2017 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference is now open. Please go to <http://www.nea.org/grants/19458.htm> to register for the conference and make your hotel reservation.

If you have any questions, please contact Willie Cook at wcook@nea.org

OEA-R Spring Conference

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at Kingwood Center, Mansfield. Sponsored by NWOEA and NCOEA. STRS update and tours of the manor, greenhouse, and grounds. Download registration form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/events/spring-conference/>.

Ales, Rails, and Environment

Join the NEOEA Environmental Concerns Committee on Saturday, January 28, at 6:00 PM to meet Peter Chakerian, co-author of *Cleveland Beer: History and Revival in the Rust Belt*, and then enjoy the ales and appetizers on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway.

Reserve your space for our book talk by filling out the form at <http://www.neoea.org/AlesRails.pdf>. There's no charge for the book talk.

Get your "Ales on Rails" tickets from CVSR. Hurry, space is limited. For full information, go to <https://www.cvsr.com/take-the-train/grape-escape-ales-on-rails/>.

Come Join Us in the Big Apple

Although NEOEA Day (October 13, 2017) seems like a long way off, it will be here before you know it. If you want to be guaranteed a seat on the bus for our annual tour to New York City, now is the time to make your reservation.

Call a friend and join the fun on NEOEA Day weekend, October 12-15, 2017 in New York City for our annual tour. Lodging, transportation, and some meals are included. A Broadway show and a visit to the 911 Memorial Museum are optional.

New York City Tour includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights at The Manhattan at Times Square Hotel in New York City, baggage handling for one bag per person in New York City, a guided city tour, an optional visit to the 911 Memorial Site at Ground Zero, dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania, and an escort from 20th Century Tours.

Optional Additions: (a) A ticket to a Broadway Show (TBA), (b) ticket to the 911 Memorial Museum, and (c) dinner at Carmine's in NYC. Details are available at <http://www.neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf>.

NEOEA Discounts

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

- **Great Big Home and Garden Show**, February 3-12 at the I-X Center. NEOEA members save \$5 per ticket. Use promo code **NEOEA17** to order tickets at <http://www.greatbighomeandgarden.com/>. Download the information flyer: <http://www.neoea.org/GBHGS-NEOEA.pdf>.
- **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.
- **Dollar Bank**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>

- **Liberty Mutual**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>
- **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>.
- **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 NEOEA0613e 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/>
- **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>
- **Park Place**: Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **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>





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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R, Vice Chair
- Sherri Koncilja, Painesville City TA-R, Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Past Chair
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R, OEA-R Secretary
- Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R,
OEA-R ESP Representative
- Marsh Buckley, NEOEA Liaison &
OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-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
- Martha Harper, Mentor 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
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R

Address Service Requested

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.

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

- February 7** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Conference Center Office, Garfield Hts
- February 13** NEOEA Legislative Receptions, four locations in northeastern Ohio
- February 15** NEA-R Delegates Declaration of Candidacy Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- February 15** OEA-R Advisory Council Representatives Declaration of Candidacy Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer Various Locations
- February 24-26** NEA Leadership Summit, Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL
- March** NEA/OEA Read Across America, various locations throughout the week before and after
- March 4** NEOEA Megaconference, Corporate College East
- March 25** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Nordoniah High School

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.

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.

