



NEOE -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330 -- Phone: 216-518-0200, 800-354-6794, Fax: 216-518-0202

Volume 18, Number 3

March 2018

Hank Haynes, Editor

OEA-Retired Advisory Council and NEA-Retired Delegate Elections

The OEA-Retired election for Spring 2018 is being conducted by Election America. Online voting opens on March 2, 2018, and closes on March 30, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. (eastern).

Election notices will be mailed on February 28 (and emailed, if on file) to OEA-Retired members with an individual Election Code and Voting PIN (you will need these to vote). If you have not received the notice by March 7, please contact Election-America at Help+OEAR@election-america.com or call (855) 306-0501.

The deadline to request a paper ballot is March 14, 2018. If you would like to request a paper ballot, please contact Election-America by calling (855) 306-0501 or email at Help+OEAR@election-america.com.

The Ohio NEA-R delegation consists of nine delegate seats, the Chair is a delegate by virtue of office. There are 33 candidates running for the remaining 8 seats. Eleven candidates are from NEOEA; two from Capital; five from Central; two from ECOEA; four from NCOEA; one from NWOEA; three from SWOEA; and five from WOE.

The candidates for NEA-R Delegate from NEOEA are (in alpha order): Homer O. Adams; Barbara Catalano; William Dorsey; Martha Franks; Peg Ham; Lynnette Harris; Norman Hillstrom; Joyce Hives; Adele Matias; Donna Smoot Walters; and Beverly A. Woolridge. Names will be randomly drawn for order on the ballot.

Two candidates are running for OEA-R Vice-Chair: Donna Smoot Walters, Copley (NEOE) and Mary Binegar, Springfield (Central).

Go to the OEA-Retired website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/oea-r-elections/> to review the biographical information for the 2018 NEA RA Retired Delegate Candidates and the OEA-Retired Advisory Council Vice-Chair Candidates.

It is not necessary to conduct an election for the following OEA-Retired Advisory Council positions as they were all elected by acclamation (Terms: 9/1/18 – 7/14/21): Chair - Bill Sears (SWOEA); Secretary - Peg Ham (NEOE); Capital Rep. - Jeff Corbin; NCOEA Rep. - Judy Novak; and NWOEA Rep. - Sue Cramer.

EOEA - No candidate filed, now vacant;
ECOEA - No candidate filed, now vacant (term ending 7/14/20)

Click Here to Vote! <https://vote.election-america.com/oea>

NEOE-Retired Spring Conference

The popular NEOEA Retired Spring Conference will be held on April 10, 2018, at the NEOEA Conference Center from 9:30 am to 1:15 pm. Gather some friends and join us!

SCHEDULE

- 9:30 - 10:00: Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 - 10:20: Introduction/Welcome
- 10:30 - 11:25: Breakout Session 1
- 11:35 - 12:30: Breakout Session 2
- 12:30 - 1:15: Lunch and Ice Cream Social provided by NEA Member Benefits

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS

- Retirement Update—STRS and SERS:** A brief overview of 2018 Pension Reform changes and the status of the pension and health care funding. Sessions for STRS members by Tamla Cole and SERS members by Barbara Catalano (please note STRS or SERS on registration form).
- NEA Member Benefits by Guy Kendall-Freas:** NEA Member Benefits works hard to help members increase their economic security through financial services, insurance programs and investment advice as well as providing consumer discounts and special travel and leisure offers.
- Legislative Update by Robert Davis, OEA Lobbyist:** 132nd General Assembly and other current issues.
- OverDrive by Sydney Kalnay:** Learn how easy it is to borrow free eBooks and audiobooks from your library. Please bring your library card number and, if possible, a device with a working Internet browser.

Send the enclosed registration form along with your check for \$20 (made payable to NEOEA by Friday, March 30, to: NEOEA, 5422 East 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Hts., OH 44125. Forms are also available on the website: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2017/03/NEOE-R-2018-Spring-Conference.pdf>.

OEA-Retired Spring Conference

SWOEA and WOE will present the OEA-R Spring Conference on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 9:40 a.m. – 2:15 p.m., at the Carillon Historical Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409. \$25.00 per person. All OEA-R members in are invited. Bring a friend! Download a registration form from the OEA-R website: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2017/09/2018-OEA-R-SPRING-CONFERENCE.pdf>. For hotel accommodations contact Marriott Courtyard.

NEOEA / OEA / NEA Read Across America

NEOEA-Retired will be celebrating NEA's Read Across America starting on March 1 and continuing through 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 2018."

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 <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/read-across-america/> 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=IJAjn6ivFk>

2014: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8OvyLx0ln8>

NEOEA Representative Assembly

The Fall 2017 NEOEA Representative Assembly was at Warren G. Harding High School, Warren, OH on November 11, 2017: A summary is available on the NEOEA website at <http://www.neoea.org/SummaryFall2017RA.pdf>.

Thank you to the NEOEA-Retired delegates and alternates that attended: Lynn Aring, Beryl Burkle, Lyn Curry-Huston, Nanci DiBianca, Marti Franks, Margaret Ham, Lynnette Harris, Hank Haynes, Warren Hershberger, Norman Hillstrom, Joyce Hives, Gary Hollow, Donna Smoot-Walters; and John Veverka.

OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly

The OEA-R Fall Delegate Assembly was held at the STRS Building on December 1, 2017 prior to the OEA Representative Assembly. Forty-four delegates were in attendance. OEA Officers and various OEA-R committees provided their reports. FCPE contributions from 41 delegates totaled of \$2326. A full summary is available on the OEA-R website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2017/12/OEA-RDelegateAssem.pdf>.

OEA Special Education Work Group

At the OEA Representative Assembly on December 1, 2017, the delegates overwhelmingly passed a new business item establishing an OEA Special Education Work Group to develop recommendations for professional development programs, sample contract language, OEA Resolutions, and OEA Legislative Policies that would address the needs of OEA members involved in or supporting education programs for students with special needs.

If you are interested in serving on the new OEA Special Education Work Group, please contact OEA President Becky Higgins directly with your qualifications. She will appoint members and set up the first meeting.

SERS Board Retreat

By Barb Catalano, OEA-R ESP Representative

February's SERS Board of Directors meeting was followed by their board retreat the next day. I was invited to attend and did so. It cleared up many questions I had about the investment process and reassured my faith in this Board of Directors. They are making the best decisions for us based on the rules the legislators have imposed on us. The actuaries have given them a rating above "Best Practice". If you have questions please go to the website <http://www.ohsers.org/> or call to get answers.

Retired Dues Increase Nears

It has been at least 15 years since OEA has raised the OEA-R dues. At the most recent OEA Board of Directors meeting, a motion was made by OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers, during his budget report, to increase the OEA-R membership dues. The OEA-R annual dues would be set at \$25 (\$10 increase) and the OEA-R Life Dues would become \$150 (a \$50 increase). The new budget will be presented to the delegates at the Spring OEA RA. If accepted by the delegates, it would become effective by September 1, 2018.

It is also rumored that NEA may also increase the NEA-R Life dues by \$50 this September. That could cause an increase of \$100 for a combined OEA-R/NEA-R Life membership. Although it is not clear that NEA-R dues will increase, the OEA-R dues are very likely to increase.

To lock in the \$350 current rate for the combined OEA-R/NEA-R Life Membership and avoid the dues increase to \$450, we strongly encourage you to inform all active teachers to join as a Pre-Retired Life Member between now and September. Their membership will convert seamlessly when they retire. Of course, if you are a currently retired teacher, but have not yet joined OEA-R and NEA-R, please take advantage of this opportunity now.

All forms and information are on the OEA-R website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/>. Or you can join both OEA-R and NEA-R with a credit card at <https://ims.nea.org/JoinNea/>.

The \$350 combined OEA-R and NEA-R Life Membership pays for itself in eight years compared to paying annual dues of \$45. In addition, if you take advantage of even a few of the NEA Member Benefits discounts you can be receiving over \$350 in discounts each year. Go to NEA Member Benefits at <https://www.neamb.com/> to see your benefits. Unified membership in both OEA-R and NEA-R is a requirement to maintain all NEA Member Benefits products (NEAMB).



Retired Lunch Leaders Needed

If you'd be willing to organize a luncheon, please send an email to desk@neoea.org so that you can be put on our luncheon leaders list. Current luncheon leaders include Debbie Bernauer, Barb Catalano, Carol Dolgosh, Marti Franks, Peg Ham, and Dennis Lewis.

2018 OEA-FCPE Candidate Screening Committees

OEA-FCPE Candidate Screening Committees began forming this fall. In the late spring, the committees will screen and endorse candidates for the Ohio General Assembly based on OEA legislative and educational priorities. Several positions are still vacant. If interested, please contact NEOEA President Jeff Wensing or NEOEA Executive Director Mary Alice Conkey.

Cleveland Play House

Come join us at Cleveland Play House on April 14, for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Details and deadlines at <https://neoea.org/announce/great-discounts-great-shows-cleveland-play-house/>.

OEA Higher Education Member Benefit

OEA, in partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College, has created a Higher Education Benefit enabling you and your family members to earn an associate degree online from a public, accredited community college – with no out-of-pocket costs to you.

For more information: <https://freecollege.ohea.org/> or <https://ohea.org/resources/professional-resources/higher-education-benefits/>.

infoOEA Contact Center

OEA has set up infoOEA--a one-stop contact center--to provide assistance to our members with questions they may have. Call 1-844-OEA-info (1 844 632 4636).

NEA & OEA Discounts

Enjoy financial programs and discounts offered by **NEA Member Benefits**:

- Savings & investment programs
- Credit, home financing and loan programs
- Special member-only discounts through the NEA Click & Save program

For questions call 1.800.637.4636 (toll free); <https://www.neamb.com/>.

NEA Click & Save, the online discount buying service for NEA members, highlights select retailers and merchants each month. Stop by <http://www.neamb.com/clickandsave> every month to see the featured "Buy-lights" for that month.

Save even more with your OEA membership and the **OEA ACCESS** program:

- A wide range of professional services and benefits
- Professional liability coverage
- OEA/NEA periodicals and publications
- Member-only discounts and services at many local and national businesses

For questions, call 1-866-203-5167. Login with the 10-digit number on your OEA membership card.

The Savings Really Add Up! Log in today and discover: <https://ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>.

Need to Update Your Contact Information?

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

For NEOEA-R only, use 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.

Miss Your News and Views?

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.

NEOEA Discounts

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

- **Best Benefits Club:** Best Benefits Club offers 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. <http://www.bbcmember.com/> use the activation code NEOEA0613. For more information call BBC at 330-273-5756.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** NEOEA has an exclusive discount on general and specialty dental care. You will experience cost savings of up to 35% on general dentistry and 30% on specialty dentistry. There are 7 locations in Cleveland. Evening and weekend hours. <https://www.brightnow.com/>.
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>.
- **Energy Price Choice:** An unbiased energy marketplace that compares energy prices automatically for you. <https://neoea.org/announce/energy-price-choice/>.
- **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>.
- **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>.
- **OEA Attorney Referral Program:** login at the OEA Member Services page for free half hour and 30% discount. <https://www.ohea.org/legal-services>.



North Eastern Ohio Education Association
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330

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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

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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
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Pat Czech, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA-R
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Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
Bill Lavezzi, Aurora EA-R
Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R

Address Service Requested

NEOEA Calendar

March OEA/NEA Read Across America, various locations
March 5 NEOEA Legislative Receptions (north, south, east, west locations)
March 18-19 NEA-Retired Conference, Hyatt Regency, Chicago
April 10 NEOEA Retired Spring Conference, NEOEA Conference Center
April 10 NEOEA Retired Organizing Committee, NEOEA Conference Center
April 18 OEA Retired/SWOEA/WOEA Spring Conference, Carillon Historical Park, Dayton, OH
April 21 NEOEA Representative Assembly, Normandy HS, Parma, OH
May 5 NEOEA All Committee Conference, NEOEA Conference Center
May 10 OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly, STRS Building, Columbus

May 11-12 OEA Representative Assembly, Ohio Expo, Voinovich Center, 717 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH
June 8 NEOEA Emerging Leaders Cookout, NEOEA Conference Center
June 19-21 OEA Summer Academy, Columbus, OH
June 30-July 5 NEA Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
July 25-26 NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Bertram Inn, Aurora, OH

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>.

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



Looking for More Information?

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