



NEOEER -- Retired

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

OEA-Retired Delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly

If you wish to be a candidate for OEA-Retired delegate to the OEA Representative Assembly, you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by September 20, 2022. Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information. You may download the form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>.

OEA-R Delegates also attend the OEA-R Delegate Assembly prior to each OEA Representative assembly. OEA-R Delegates from NEOEA also attend the NEOEA Representative Assemblies.

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the OEA-R Advisory Council that are open to NEOEA-R members:

- **Educational Support Professional** – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative; (Term ending July 14, 2025)
- **Higher Education** – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative; (Term ending July 14, 2023)

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OEA-Retired Fall Conference

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:30 AM—2:45 PM at OEA Headquarters, Columbus. The Theme for 2022-2023: Relevance, Engagement, and Visibility (R.E.V.). Pick three of four sessions:

- **Mental Wellbeing by Building Resilience**—De Lena P. Scales MPA, TRCC II, Neighborhood Program Specialist, Department of Neighborhoods, Columbus Public Health and Kristen Hicks, LISW, TRCC, CTRP-C, Owner of Seasons Counseling & Consulting, LLC;
- **OEA-R Opportunities for an Active Retirement**—Mary Binegar, OEA-R Chair and Makia Burns, OEA Organizer;
- **Physical Wellbeing Through Movement**—Janine Harris, Degitz M.S., TRCC – II
- **What I Want My Loved Ones to Know**—Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits.

Register by August 30 with Cvent: <https://web.cvent.com/event/4ec6ccdc-6243-44fd-8f70-978972d9e746/summary>.

NEOEER Day

This year's NEOEA Day is Friday, October 14, 2022. NEOEA Day represents your dues dollars at work. Attending NEOEA Day programs, most of which provide growth opportunities at lower-than-usual prices, is an excellent way to get some of your NEOEA dues dollars back!

Choose from twenty-six programs, some in-person, some virtual, most with no cost: Museums and The Arts; Business Education; Early Childhood Education; Special Needs; Environmental/Outdoor Education; World Language; Social and Emotional Learning; Walking Tour; Trauma, Violence & Mental Health; Physical Education; Playhouse Square; Library/Media; Mathematics & Engineering; Hispanic Community Support; Music; Hale Farm; League of Women Voters; Cleveland Sights Bus Tour.

Check out two sessions conducted by NEOEA-R Members:

- Program #24 - **Books Change Lives at the Kids' Book Bank!**
Place: Cleveland Kids' Book Bank; Time: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Chairperson: Jené Wilson, NEOEA-R Organizing Committee
- Program #25 - **I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me... Fundamentals of Financial Planning**
Place: Will only be held by videoconference; Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Chairperson: Dennis Lewis, NEOEA Personal Welfare & Financial Planning Committee Chairperson

The 2022 NEOEA Day Catalog is available at <http://www.neoea.org/files/ND2022.pdf>.

Graduate credit is available through Lake Erie College (one semester hour for \$180). <https://neoea.org/files/GraduateCredit.pdf>

Chat with Our Candidates

Join us on Monday, September 19, 5:00-7:30 PM to "Chat with Our Candidates" at the Woodside Event Center, 5025 Mill Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147.

NEOEER invites you and two other members of your local association to attend the candidate event. We have invited all OEA-endorsed candidates from northeastern Ohio to attend.

November's election will impact all of our members! We are offering you an opportunity to share your experiences with public education and ask the challenging questions to the candidates.

We'll have a buffet dinner and a cash bar for your enjoyment. Our Legislative Committee has planned the informal event for you to "chat with our candidates" at the Woodside Event Center.

Please register by Friday, September 9, 2022. To register, go to <https://vireopay.net/transact/NEOEA/Chat2022>. You will be asked for your name, local association, non-work email address, and cell phone. You will receive an email from the registration system, and another email from us at the office confirming your registration. The week of September 12 you will receive a reminder confirmation email. Questions: Please email us at desk@neoea.org.

New Ohio House and Senate District Maps

New Maps are on the NEOEA-R Political Maps page - <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/political-maps/>. Look up your new Ohio House and Senate District by checking your address at the Secretary of State website: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/ohio-candidates/district-maps/>.

NEOEA-R Members on OEA House and Senate District Screening Committees

NEOEA retirees are eligible to serve on OEA-House District Screening Committees along with representatives from Local Associations within the House District. Retirees must be current OEA-Fund contributors and can serve on the House District Committee in which they live or a neighboring House District.

The committees screen and endorse candidates for the Ohio General Assembly based on OEA legislative and educational priorities. If interested, please contact NEOEA President Melanie Hameed or NEOEA Executive Director Mary Alice Conkey. For more information visit; <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/oea-fcpe/>.

In addition, there are three NEOEA District Screening Committees that help conduct the screenings in OEA House and Senate Screening Committees. NEOEA-R members are appointed as alternates.

OEA Endorsed Candidates

General Election Day is upon us, and it is more important now than ever that educators across Ohio turn out to the polls to make their voices heard and ensure pro-public education candidates are elected. **Please make a plan to vote on or before November 8th.** If you don't know where your polling location is, you can look it up at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>. Look up your current legislative district under the latest state maps at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/ohio-candidates/district-maps/>.

As part of your voting plan, we urge all OEA members to check out the preliminary list of candidates recommended by the OEA members who sit on the OEA Fund Screening Committee: **OEA Candidate Endorsements:** <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-candidate-endorsements/> Many more candidate recommendations will be made as we approach the General Election, so please continue to check for updates.

It is important to note that OEA members across the state—not OEA staff—make all the endorsement decisions. In each race, candidates from both parties are asked to fill out questionnaires describing their positions on education issues, and those who are state officeholders are also rated on their education votes in the General Assembly. Candidates are then interviewed by OEA members who work in the district or area in which candidates are seeking office. Based on the candidate's views on public education issues—and only on public education issues—the OEA Fund State Council and District Screening Committees vote on whether to endorse specific candidates.

You can learn more about the OEA Fund and the screening process at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/ohio-fund-faq/>.

Please support OEA Endorsed Candidates.

- Contribute to the OEA Fund
- Find the candidate's website and contribute directly and/or volunteer
- Urge friends and family to support candidates that support public education.

NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

- Military & Overseas Absentee Voting: Begins September 23
- Deadline to Register to Vote: October 11
- Early In-Person Voting: Begins October 12 and includes the two Saturdays, the Sunday and the Monday before Election Day
- Absentee Voting By Mail: Begins October 12
- Election Day: November 8 (Polls Open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

OEA Legislative Watch

OEA Legislative Watch is the association's newsletter covering the legislation and policies that affect public education employees. <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/legislative-watch/>. Open an article and click on the "OEA Action Alert" link to send a message to your legislator.

- June 3—Updates on House Bill 99, House Bill 687, House Bill 497, House Bill 616, House Bill 583, and House Bill 151.
- May 27—HB 616 Scheduled for First Hearing Testimony from Bill Sponsors: State Censorship Bill Prohibits "Divisive Concepts," Includes "Don't Say Gay" Restrictions.

OEA Retirement Systems Update

Full June 2022 OEA Retirement Systems Update at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/june-2022-oea-retirement-systems-update/>.

Past reports at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/>

Retirement System Links

- STRS <https://www.strsoh.org/>
- SERS <https://www.ohsers.org/>
- PERS <https://www.opers.org/>

OEA Retirement Systems Updates can be found at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/>



Join us at Playhouse Square with NEOEA Discounts

NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows in the 2021-2022 KeyBank Broadway Series. Use promo code NEOEA and save up to 65% off select performances and seating locations with reduced handling fees! GET TICKETS: <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>

Please check their website for COVID protocols: <https://www.playhousesquare.org/plan-your-visit-main/health-safety>

OEA-Retired OEA Board of Directors Report

by Deloris Rome Hudson, OEA-R Representative to the OEA Board of Directors

July 25 and 26 OEA Board Meeting Report

I'm honored to serve as the OEA-R Representative & excited to start my term. I've served on the Board in the past as well as on other OEA & SWOEA committees. Serving as the OEA-R Representative will allow me to stay abreast of OEA matters and to share information with the OEA-R members. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at: hudsond@ohea.org or 513-265-1522.

- July 25th - The Board approved board committee and committee liaisons assignments.
- July 26th - The board approved a list of persons to be seated as alternates at the meeting. The President's recommendations were also approved.

Please consider joining us for the upcoming OEA-R Fall Conference in September. Save this date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022. Help us kick-off the 2022-2023 Theme: Relevant, Engaged, and Visible (R.E.V.)

Remember the newly elected STRS Board members will begin their terms on September 1st. It was wonderful to attend the OEA retreat. It gave me the opportunity to network with the board members. I attended the new members orientation. The information I obtained will assist me with my duties as an

OEA Board member. I was placed on the Business/Support/Administration committee and the Minority Leadership Training Program committee. On August 25th, I will be attending the OEA-R orientation and other meetings dealing with OEA-R.

OEA Action Alerts

Take Action! Every day OEA works to improve public education for our students and our members. Our strength lies in collective action. With over 122,000 members, we can affect policy to improve public education for students and the educators who serve them.

Letters, emails, petitions, and phone calls from you often make the crucial difference.

Go to the OEA website to view sample letters you can edit as you wish before sending to your legislator. <https://www.ohea.org/action/>

OEA-R – Read Across America

To celebrate Read Across America, OEA-R members have recorded themselves reading books for school kids. Enjoy! <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>

If you are interested in recording a reading, please contact OEA-R Vice Chairperson – Phil A. Long, palcisv13@roadrunner.com.

More information and ideas at: <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/read-across-america/> and <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>.

OEA-Retired on the Web

OEA-R has a new presence on the OEA website at: <https://www.ohea.org/retired/>. If you get lost, pull down the “MEMBER CENTER” tab and click on “OEA Divisions, Affiliated Departments and Associate Organizations”, then “Divisions”, then “OEA-Retired”.

On the page is a link to the original OEA-R website containing all the essential OEA-R information <http://oear.ohea.us/>.

Need to Update Your Contact Information?

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

Also online: <https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/>.

OEA FCPE is Now The OEA Fund

The name is changing. “The OEA Fund for Children and Public Education” will be simplified to “The OEA Fund”. Some will remember when it started as “Educators Political Action Committee (EPAC)”.

Help raise money to elect pro-senior, pro-union, pro-education candidates. It's quick and easy to donate electronically. Go to: <https://www.ohea.org/> and click on the DONATE button at the top of the page or click here: <https://www.ohea.org/donate/>.

NEA & OEA Discounts

- **NEA Member Benefits:** For questions call 1.800.637.4636 (toll free); <https://www.neamb.com/>.
- **NEA Student Debt Navigator:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-student-debt-navigator>.
- **NEA Travel Dollars**—Enroll in NEA Travel and receive \$500 Travel Dollars to use like cash when you book a vacation. <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-travel-dollars>.
- **NEA Discount Marketplace:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-discount-marketplace>.
- **OEA ACCESS:** <https://ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>.
- **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral and Discount Information:** <https://neoea.org/files/ARP.pdf>.
- **NEOEA Member Benefits:** <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>.





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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R; Chairperson
Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R; Vice Chair
Sherri Koncilia, Painesville City TA-R; Secretary
Gary Hollow, Bristol-R; Past Chair
Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R; NEOEA
Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative
Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R; OEA-R ESP
Representative
Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R; web/newsletter editor
Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
Marsh Buckley, Mentor TA-R
Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R
Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
Sue Fatica, Painesville City TA-R
Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R
Patricia Frost-Brooks, East Cleveland EA-R
Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
Martha Harper, Ashtabula ACSE-R
Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
Teri Mackey, Wadsworth EA-R
Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
Jenè Wilson, ACCESS-R
Beverly Woolridge, Akron ACP-R

NEOEA Discounts

Visit <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>.

- **Bedrooms Today:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/2019-01-BedroomsToday.pdf>.
- **Best Benefits Club:** <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/>. Use activation code **NEOEA0613** and company name **NEOEA**. Benefit flyer <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/e-news6.3.pdf>.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** <http://www.brightnowdental.com/>. <https://neoea.org/files/BrightNowFlyer.pdf>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea?src=aff_4wpb_m_0006967_neoea.
- **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ohecu-loan.pdf>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking: <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **PlayhouseSquare:** <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp> (promo code NEOEA).
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>.

Miss Your News and Views?

Each issue of the *NEOEA News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. First register at <https://neoea.org/joinreq> -- it's easy and free. Once registered, you'll have access to Members-Only information.

For "News & Views" pull down "About Us" at the top of the page and click on "News & Views." Feel free to explore the other features of the site.

OEA Educational Foundation

The work of the Ohio Educational Foundation is to fund initiatives that enhance student learning, student achievement, and well-being, as well as promote social justice. Its Board of Directors provides four funding opportunities annually:

- Diversity Grants — To develop and pursue instructional classroom programs or curriculum that promote diversity, tolerance, and respect for humankind.
- Innovation Grants — For the pursuit of innovative and creative practices where learning is enriched by experiences or projects.

- Whisper Grant for Students in Need — Funds provided directly to an OEA member to assist a student or group of students with an identified hardship in meeting an educational or personal need.
- Make-A-Wish — In collaboration with Make-A-Wish®, the Foundation provides seed money for OEA Locals seeking to make a child's wish come true. https://www.ohea.org/oea_foundation/

NEOEA Calendar

<http://neoea-r.ohea.us/calendar/>

- September 6** OEA-R Fall Conference
- September 13** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee
- September 20** OEA-R Delegates Declaration of Candidacy Forms due
- October 11** Deadline to Register to Vote
- October 12** Absentee Voting By Mail & Early In-Person Voting begins
- October 14** NEOEA Day Programs
- November 8** General Election Day
- November 12** NEOEA Representative Assembly
- December 2** OEA-R Delegate Assembly
- December 3** OEA Representative Assembly