



OEA-R Delegate Election Results

During October, OEA-R members elected 20 Delegates and 9 Alternates to the OEA Representative Assembly from a field of 29 candidates. The OEA-Retired Advisory Council members are automatic delegates by virtue of office, for a delegation of 36 delegates and 9 alternates.

The 2022-2023 OEA-R Delegates and Alternates from NEOEA-R are listed here: There were a total of 1430 votes cast.

- **Delegates by virtue of office on OEA-R Advisory Council:**
 - **Donna Smoot-Walters**, NEOEA Representative;
 - **Beverly Woolridge**, At-Large Representative.
- **Delegates (by order of votes):** William A. Dorsey; Marsh Buckley; Peg Ham; Marti Franks; Nancy Wonson; William S. Lavezzi; Jené Wilson; Hank Haynes; Steven Mitchell; Cheryl Hill. **Alternates:** Norm Hillstrom.

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring OEA Representative Assemblies. On the day before, the OEA-R Delegate Assembly meets at the STRS Building to carry out the business of OEA Retired and for a briefing with the OEA officers and reports from the OEA-R Advisory Council. Delegates from NEOEA also attend the Fall and Spring NEOEA RAs.

Thank you to the Delegates and alternates that were able to attend the NEOEA and OEA Fall RAs:

- **NEOEER Fall RA at Lorain High School, November 12, 2022:** William Dorsey; Martha Franks; Margaret Ham; Hank Haynes; Cheryl Hill; Bill Lavezzi; Steven Mitchell; Jené Wilson; Nancy Wonson. Download NEOEA RA Summary at <https://neoea.org/files/SummaryFall2022RA.pdf>.
- **OEA Fall RA 2022:** Bill Dorsey; Marti Franks; Hank Haynes; Cheryl Hill; Norm Hillstrom; Bill Lavezzi; Steven Mitchell. OEA RA information at <https://www.ohea.org/Fall-RA/>.

NEA-Retired Delegate Election

If you wish to be a candidate for NEA-Retired delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly on July 3 - 6, 2023 in Orlando, FL you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by February 15, 2023. Download form at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2023/01/NEA-Retired-Delegate-Declaration-of-Candidacy-2023.pdf>.

Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information. Additional information on the OEA website: <https://www.ohea.org/NEA-RA/>.

OEA-R Advisory Council Elections

The following positions are up for election during March: ESP and High Education vacancies; At-Large; Central; ECOEA; SEOEER; Higher Education (full term). If interested you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by February 15, 2023. Download form at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2023/01/OEA-Retired-Advisory-Council-Declaration-of-Candidacy-Spring-2023.pdf>. Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information.

Note: Terms for the above non-vacancy seats are effective starting July 15, 2023 and ending on July 14, 2026. The vacancy for ESP will fulfill a term ending July 14, 2025. The vacancy for HE will fulfill a term ending July 14, 2023.

The above offices serve as an automatic delegate to the OEA Representative Assembly and Respective District Representative Assembly by virtue of office. The OEA-Retired Chair serves as an automatic delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly by virtue of office.

NEOEER Megaconference

The 2023 NEOEA Megaconference will be Saturday, March 4 at Corporate College East, located in Warrensville Heights at 4400 Richmond Road. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 am, and three timeslots of workshops begin at 9, 10, and 11. Lunch will be 12 to 1 and the Pre-Retired Workshop from 1 to 2. The \$25 registration fee covers all sessions, continental breakfast, and lunch. Check with your local president for a free coupon. Download the Megaconference Flyer and Registration links at <https://neoea.org/files/Megaconference.pdf>

With twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots, there's something for everyone! Several sessions are of special interest to retirees — from pension and finance, to health care, life planning, and dealing with technology. For the latest information about Megaconference, including graduate credit, go to <https://neoea.org/files/Mega.pdf>. One semester graduate credit is available for Megaconference 2023 through Lake Erie College. More information is available at <https://neoea.org/files/GraduateCredit.pdf>.

We'll again offer an optional pre-retired workshop after lunch.

Current and prospective retirees are welcome. In today's environment, we need to plan for our own future retirement. To help keep you informed of the retirement benefits that you can expect at retirement and to help you explore other vehicles to be financially secure and to consider other obligations you may encounter in retirement, NEOEA is helping to fund a special program for pre-retired members.

Retired Spring Conference 2023

Save The Date—Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. More information next month.

Join us for our virtual and interactive format — your opportunity to participate in a variety of topics. Plus you'll have a chance to win door prizes! Sponsored by the NEOEA Retired Organizing Committee.

Cleveland Cavaliers Ohio Educator Appreciation Night

Join us at the Cleveland Cavaliers for Ohio Educator Appreciation Night on February 11 vs. the Bulls. Every educator that purchases a ticket for the game on February 11 will have the opportunity to participate in our post-game layups on the court after the conclusion of the game. All who attended will be entered to win a Cavaliers signed item, as well as exclusive fan experiences such as participating in the players cheer tunnel, watching pregame warmups, and photo on the court. Download the Flyer at <https://neoea.org/files/OEAnight2023-02-11.pdf>

The National Teacher of the year Kurt Russell will also be recognized during the game.

Join us at Playhouse Square with NEOEA Discounts

NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows:

- **Disney's Aladdin**, March 8-12, 2023 at Connor Palace;
- **Hamilton**, Dec. 6, 2022 - Jan. 15, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre;
- **Riverdance**, March 3 - 5, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre;
- **Beetlejuice**, January 10-29, 2023 at Connor Palace;
- **Hadestown**, Jan. 31 - Feb. 19, 2023 at Connor Palace.

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/q04/Online/default.asp>

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.

- December 16 — HJR 6 Does Not Advance in Lane Duck; Anti-Honesty in Education Censorship Bills Fail to Pass in 134th Ohio General Assembly; Efforts to Gut State Board of Education Fails on House Floor; Ohio General Assembly Approves Spending Bill; House Bill 554; Legislature Passes Bill that Limits Voting Rights; Bill to Repeal Retention Under TGRG Not Enacted; House Bill 509.
- December 9 — OEA Testifies Against HJR 6; Senate Passes Bill Shifting Education to Governor; Ohio Senate Committee Replaces Trans Sports Gender Exam with Birth Certificate Requirement.
- December 2 — OEA Opposes Proposal to Require Supermajority for Citizen-Led Initiatives; OEA Cautions Against Rush to Restructure Education Governance in Lane Duck Session.
- November 18 — Proposed Changes to the State Board of Education; Proposed changes to elections and voting rights; HB 554 and HB 748.
- October 14 — Advocacy Continues to Repeal Mandatory Student Retention, Senate Bill 361 Introduced — Allows Military Veterans to Teach Without Educator License.

OEA FCPE is Now The OEA Fund

The name has changed. "The OEA Fund for Children and Public Education" is 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/>.

OEA Retirement Systems Update

OEA Retirement Systems Updates at <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/>

- December 2022 — SERS Reports Results of Actuarial Valuation; Reports Examine Pension System Recovery, Impact on Rural Communities.
- October 2022 — NEA, Tim Ryan Working to Repeal GPO-WEP; STRS Makes Major Improvements to Retiree Health Care Plan; Medicare Announces Lower Part B Premiums; Actuarial Valuation of STRS Pension Plan Shows Improvement and Warning Signs.
- September 2022 — SERS Approves 2.5% COLA; STRS Boards Reviews Fiduciary Audit; OPERS Health Care Fund Increases Solvency Period.

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/>

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/>

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/>.

NEOEA-Retired Mentoring

By Beryl Burkle

The Mentoring Program at KSEA is up and running with students and retired teachers matched since October 2022. We are in our 14th year at Kent. The new KSEA President is Eleni Karakostas, she has been in our Mentoring Program as a Mentee since her freshman year. Eleni has been a great advocate for this program with students. We continue to work virtually with students.

I am sure next year if the Mentors want to continue working virtually that will be possible. If Mentors decide to meet students at Kent that will also be possible. The students are very pleased with all the retired teachers interest in them and helping with all problems in the field of education on campus. Mentors continue to be their professional friends.

Hats off to the retired of NEOEA-R. We are the only surviving Mentoring Program in OEA-Retired. Next year plan to join us in September 2023. Believe it or not it is a fun program to work with these students. When you were in college did you have a good friend to ask some questions (no grades attached)? You have a great deal of experience to share.

OEA-Retired on the Web

OEA-R has a 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://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

Miss Your News and Views?

Each issue of the *NEOEA News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. 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. First register at <https://neoea.org/joinreq> — it's easy and free.

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>.

NEA & OEA Discounts

<https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>

- **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.accessdevelopment.com/>.
- **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral and Discount Information:** <https://neoea.org/files/ARP.pdf>.
- **NEOEA Member Benefits:** <https://neoea.org/education-union/member-benefits>.

OEA Educational Foundation https://www.ohea.org/oea_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.
- **Donate to the OEA Educational Foundation** — <https://oea-educational-foundation.square.site/>

Cleveland International Film Festival

The Cleveland International Film Festival promotes artistically and culturally significant film arts through education and exhibition to enrich the life of the community.

Dates of CIFF47
March 22 – April 1, 2023

FilmSlam® is the Cleveland International Film Festival's (CIFF) media literacy program and mini-festival of films for students in grades 5-12. FilmSlam® provides outstanding examples of the filmmaking art, introducing students to other cultures and fostering awareness of people different from themselves.

Retired members will be able to attend all day for \$20 – reimbursed at Playhouse if they register and attend our Spring Conference on March 28.



North Eastern Ohio Education Association
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Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124-4190

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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 Calendar

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

January 24 NEOEA Leadership Summit,
Virtual
February 4 NEOEA – ESP Conference,
Virtual
February 7 NEOEA-R Organizing
Committee, NEOEA Office
February 15 NEA-R Delegates Declaration
of Candidacy Forms due
February 15 OEA-R Advisory Council
Declaration of Candidacy
Forms due
March Read Across America,
Various locations throughout
the month
March 4 NEOEA Megaconference,
CCC Corporate College East
March 20 NEOEA Legislative
Receptions, Four Locations in
Northeastern Ohio
March 28 NEOEA-R Spring
Conference, NEOEA Office
March 28 NEOEA-R Organizing
Committee, NEOEA Office
April 22 NEOEA Representative
Assembly, Mayfield HS

STRS Ohio's eUPDATE

Does STRS Ohio have your email address?
If not you are missing eUPDATES. Just last
month STRS Ohio sent:

- December 29 —
 - Auditor of State Completes Special
Audit of STRS Ohio
- December 16 —
 - Independent Audit Results in Clean
Opinion on STRS Ohio Financial
Statements;
 - CEM Benchmarking Report Shows
STRS Ohio Investment Costs Among
the Lowest Compared to Peer
Funds, While Returns Rank High;
 - Investment Performance Review
Shows STRS Ohio Returns Near the
Top of Callan Public Fund Sponsor
Database;
 - Callan Reviews STRS Ohio's
Investment Benchmarks;
 - Investment Committee Discusses
Active Management of Investment
Assets;
 - Board Recognizes Chief Benefits
Officer for Outstanding Service

Register for eUPDATES: <https://www.strsoh.org/resources/personal-acct/email-registration.html>

Read Across America 2023
"READ LOCALLY, READ GLOBALLY"

You can access the OEA-Retired Read
Across America library of educators reading
books for school kids on OEA's website:
<https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>. Download OEA-R RAA
Flyer at <http://oear-r.ohea.us/files/2022/12/RAA.jpg>.

If you would like to record your reading or you
know of an educator author, please send the
name, title of the book, and contact
information to Phil A. Long —
palcisvl3@gmail.com by January 15, 2023.

Lets get ready to motivate children to read
and generate new enthusiasm for reading!

