



NEOEAFUND -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <https://www.neoea.org/> -- <https://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D, Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124-4190 -- 216-518-0200 - retired @ neoea.org

Volume 24, Number 2

October 2023

Hank Haynes, Editor

OEA-Retired Delegate Election Vote During October Please Support Candidates from NEOEA

OEA-R delegates will be elected during October by online and mail-in ballot. In October, look for election information by email and US mail. Please support candidates from NEOEA-R.

OEA-R members should look for an email and/or a postcard "**Vote now in the OEA 2023 Elections**" from "**Ohio Education Association <help@yeselections.com>**". Everyone will get a postcard or an email with an explanation and instructions for requesting a paper ballot by October 15. The email and the postcard provide an "Election Code" and a "Voting PIN" along with a link to the voting page. Please vote online no later than 5:00 PM Friday, October 31, 2023.

OEA-R members will elect 19 Delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly from a field of 26 candidates. The 18 OEA-Retired Advisory Council members are automatic delegates by virtue of office, for a delegation of 37 delegates and 7 alternates by order of votes.

Please support the 11 candidates from NEOEA. Here are the candidates: **Marti Franks, Peg Ham, Hank Haynes, Cheryl W. Hill, Norm Hillstrom, Bill Lavezzi, Steven Mitchell, John Ververk, Valenta G. Ward-Gravely, Jené Wilson, Nancy Wonson.**

Also on the ballot are candidates from other OEA Districts: 2—Capital, 2—Central, 2—ECOEA, 2—NCOEA, 2—SWOEA, 5—WOEA.

For candidate biographies go to <https://www.ohea.org/cms/assets/uploads/2023/09/2023-OEA-RA-Retired-Delegate-Candidate-Bios-for-Election-Sept27.pdf>.

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring OEA Representative Assemblies. On the day before, the OEA-R Delegate Assembly meets at the OEA or 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.

The OEA Representative Assemblies will be December 2, 2023 and May 10-11, 2024. The NEOEA Representative Assemblies will be November 11 at Harding HS, Warren and April 20 at Orange HS.

Please check for meeting summaries and minutes of the OEA-R Advisory Council, OEA-R Delegate Assembly, and the OEA Board of Directors on the Documents/Reports page of the OEA-R website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

November 7, 2023 General Election Calendar

- Military & Overseas Absentee Voting: Begins September 22
- Deadline to Register to Vote: October 10
- Early In-Person and Vote-by-Mail (Absentee) voting begins October 11
- Deadline to return Applications by mail for an Vote-by-Mail / Absentee ballot: October 31
- Voting in-person at the Board of Elections ends at 5:00 p.m. November 5
- All Vote-by-Mail / Absentee ballots mailed anywhere in the U.S. must be postmarked on or before November 6 and received at the Board of Elections on or before November 11 in order to be counted
- Election Day: November 7 (Polls Open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- All Vote-by-Mail / Absentee ballots returned in person must be received at the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. on November 7 in order to be counted.

Three Ways to Vote

Plan how you will vote:

- **Vote-by-Mail** – You can vote before Election Day by applying for a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Military and overseas voters can vote this way too. (Contact your County Board of Elections.)
- **Vote Early In-Person** – Anyone registered to vote in Ohio can come in to the Board of Elections and vote at the scheduled times. (Address must match Ohio Photo ID or other acceptable document.)
- **Vote on Election Day** – Anyone registered to vote in Ohio can vote at their assigned polling location on Election Day. (Address must match Ohio Photo ID or other acceptable document.)
- Find and visit your County Board of Elections at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

Check Your Voter Registration

Make sure that you are registered and update your information if you have moved. Visit the Ohio Secretary of State website at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>.



School Board and District Levies on Ballot Make your voice heard! OEA-Retired Members Can Help

Support NEOEA School Board Efforts:

These local associations are trying to elect pro-public education, pro-organized labor candidates to their school board in 2023: Youngstown; Berkshire; Brunswick; North Royalton; Elyria; Lakewood; Geneva; Maple Heights; Mentor; Willoughby Eastlake; Mogadore; Springfield Local; Strongsville.

- Our members gain much by ensuring pro-public education, pro-organized labor candidates get elected to school boards around the state. Majority coalitions of friendly school board members help us:
 - Improve the work environments for our members and learning environments for our students
 - Create a partnership that helps ensure our districts raise the revenue it needs - not at the expense of our members
 - Improve our public policy advocacy efforts on the state and federal level
 - Help us establish a farm team of allies who will go on to higher office

Supporting NEOEA Ballot Initiative Efforts:

These local associations are trying to help pass important local ballot initiatives in their respective school districts: Canfield; Waterloo; Edison Local; Lucas; Cuyahoga Heights; Lake Local - Stark; Medina.

- Although state funding for public education has improved in recent years, it still does not meet all of the needs of our school districts.
- Most of our school districts still need to seek funding from voters to meet their budgetary needs - and it is increasingly difficult due to our economy. Districts oftentimes call upon our members to be the workhorses for their levy campaigns - a challenging task. Multiple volunteer activities can be accomplished by retirees in service of a school district's ballot initiative during the work day that active members cannot do. These can include:
 - Speaking at meetings
 - Campaign planning and research
 - Daytime voter contact and volunteer recruitment

How to Get Involved:

Your volunteerism can make a real difference in the outcomes of area school board campaigns and school levy efforts. Please contact your former local or the local where you live to see how you can help them out this fall. OEA UniServ Political Advocacy Consultants are assisting our locals throughout the campaign season and ready help.

Additional Volunteer Efforts:

OEA-Retired members are needed serve as poll workers. Ohio's 88 county boards of election continue to struggle to recruit and retain poll workers. Shortfalls became painfully obvious in a number of counties during the 2023 Primary and August Special Election. Contact your local Board of Elections or an OEA UPAC.

NEOEA Day—October 13, 2023

Registration for several programs are still open. Check out the NEOEA Day Catalog: <https://neoea.org/files/ND2023.pdf>

KSEA Mentoring Volunteers Needed

By Beryl M Burkle, NEOEA-R Organizing Committee

Kent Student Education Association (KSEA) has invited NEOEA-R back for our 15th year to mentor education students at Kent State University. The last two years were virtually by email, phone, and facetime. This year campus visits can also be arranged. Working virtually has been successful because of student's busy schedules and some mentors located some distance from Kent.

We will match you with students that are in majors familiar to you from your time in the classroom. You will become their Professional Friend, someone to talk to, listen, and share your experience.

The program is starting in October. Additional mentors are still needed. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact me ASAP. Beryl Burkle, 330-659-3928, berylburkle@gmail.com.

OEA-R Fall Conference

The OEA-Retired 2023 Fall Conference is sponsoring three virtual webinars in October 2023. This year will feature five OEA active and retired members sharing their stories of courage and determination against adversity.

Join us virtually on Zoom on Wednesdays, October 11th, 18th, and 25th at 5pm-6:30pm for an hour and half of inspiration and commitment to advocacy for public education.

Click here to register for the OEA-Retired 2023 Virtual Fall Conference. <https://www.ohea.org/oea-retired-fall-conference/>

Upcoming Conferences!

Are you interested in attending NEA or state conferences? Contact a colleague and plan on attending.

- ESP National Conference is March 22-24, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Higher Education Conference is March 15-17, 2024, tentatively scheduled for Atlanta, Georgia.
- Minority Leadership Training is January 26-28, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals is April 26-27, 2024 (location to be determined).

Buckeye Book Fair

The 36th Annual Buckeye Fair will be held on Saturday, November 4 at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster, Ohio from 9:30 - 4:00.

A day for readers to meet the authors and authors to meet their readers! Over 100 authors and illustrators will meet readers and sign copies of their latest books at the 36th annual Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster. The book fair has books for sale, author speakers, and literary activities for all ages. For more information, go to <https://buckeyebookfair.org/>

OEA stands with the United Auto Workers

<https://www.ohea.org/press-releases/2023/oea-stands-with-the-united-auto-workers/>

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee

By Donna Smoot Walters, NEOEA-R Rep
OEA-R Advisory Council

OEA-R Advisory Council is offering Retired members the opportunity to become more engaged with the Active members of NEOEA. As a NEOEA-R member you will be invited to your area **Leadership Council Meetings**. Thanks to all of the NE Retired members who have already volunteered...there are only 4 seats available:

1. CASSY 43; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, HiEd, Units 5, 8, 9E;
2. Northeast; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3 Units 5, 6, 9E;
3. Tri-County; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, Units 5, 8, 9E
4. Western Reserve; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, Units 8, 9E

Would you please consider representing NEOEA-R in a Council near you? Email Mary Alice Conkey, conkey@neoea.org, she will be able to submit your name to receive an invitation to the meeting. You will receive talking points for each meeting.

Action Response Team (ART) Member positions were created to help assist OEA-Retired Districts with membership engagement, civic engagement, and supporting active locals. OEA-Retired believes that engaging potential members and supporting OEA-R activists will lead to increase in membership and situate OEA-Retired as a leading voice for education retirement issues. A training session will be held in Columbus on October 26, 2023 <https://forms.office.com/r/KV0zNuEVNc>. Please express your interest by emailing Phil Long, palcisv13@gmail.com.

Read Across America, Theme for 2023-24: "READ FOR DEMOCRACY" - books about voting and leaders of democracy. Consider sharing your favorite book by recording the book for OEA-R's virtual library. Contact Phil Long, palcisv13@gmail.com to get more information. Visit the OEA-R Virtual Library - <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>.

Thank you for volunteering and helping NEOEA-R to be relevant, engaged, and visible.

Join us at Playhouse Square with NEOEA Discounts

NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows in the KeyBank Broadway Series: New Discounts!

- **Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet Of 1812** – Sept. 22-Oct. 8, 2023 at Hanna Theatre
- **The Wiz** – October 3-22, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **Nurse Blake: Shock Advised Tour** – October 25, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **The Book of Mormon** – October 24-29, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre
- **Dracula: The Bloody Truth** – Oct. 20-Nov. 5, 2023 at Hanna Theatre
- **Girl From the North Country** – Oct. 31-Nov. 19, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **A Christmas Carol** – Nov. 24, 2023 - Dec. 23, 2023 at Mimi Ohio Theatre
- **Hairspray** – Dec. 5-10, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **The Nutcracker** – Dec. 14-23, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express** – Feb 9-Mar. 3, 2024 at Hanna Theatre
- **The Merry Wives of Windsor** – Mar. 22-Apr. 7, 2024 at Hanna Theatre
- **Always...Patsy Cline** – April. 26-May 19, 2024 at Hanna Theatre

Use promo code 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>

OEA Retirement Systems Update

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

July 2023 OEA Retirement Systems Update

- SERS Anti-Spiking Provision Included in State Budget

June 2023 OEA Retirement Systems Update

- STRS to Continue Retirement Eligibility at 34 Years, Provide 1% COLA in FY '24
- STRS Board Weighs Possible Benefit Enhancement
- OPERS Funding Status Holding Steady

Wanted: NEOEA-R Newsletter and Website Editor

After eighteen years, Hank Haynes is retiring from his position as NEOEA-R Newsletter and Website Editor.

- This newsletter is published in September, October, January, March, and June. It is set up on MS Publisher, then posted and distributed as a PDF on the NEOEA-R website and summarized and emailed using Constant Contact to NEOEA-R members and other association leaders. The October and March issues are also printed and mailed to NEOEA retirees who are members of OEA-R.
- The NEOEA-R website (<https://neoea-r.ohea.us/>) is run on the OEA WordPress server with technical assistance from Darren Clum, OEA Data Information Systems Specialist .

Anyone interested in taking over should contact Mary Alice Conkey, NEOEA Executive Director.

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.

- August 4 – OEA Summary of Final Budget Bill.
- July 10 – Important Reminder for the August Special Election.
- July 3 – Final Budget Bill Includes Fair School Funding Plan, Increase in State Teacher Minimum Salary, and Universal Expansion of the EdChoice Voucher Program.
- June 20 – Ohio Senate Passes Budget Bill; Trans Sports Ban (HB 6) Joined with Gender Transition Prohibition Bill (HB 68).
- June 12 – Senate Budget Plan Fails to Prioritize Ohio's Public-School Students and Educators.
- May 30 – Reminder: Next OEA Member Lobby Day; Educating for Ohio's Future Coalition Statehouse Day of Action.



North Eastern Ohio Education Association
6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D,
Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124-4190

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit #1723

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
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R; NEOEA Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-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
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R
- Becky Higgins, Copley TA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Teri Mackey, Wadsworth EA-R
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
- Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
- Tom Moscovic, Willoughby-Eastlake TA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
- Jené Wilson, ACCESS-R

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>.

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/>.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** <http://www.brightnowdental.com/>. <https://neoea.org/files/BrightNowFlyer.pdf>.
- **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ohecu-loan.pdf>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking: <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **Playhouse Square:** <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>.
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>.

NEOEA Calendar

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

- Oct 11, 18, 25** OEA-R Fall Conference
- Oct 13** NEOEA Day, Various Locations
- Oct 14** OAESP Conference
- Nov 11** NEOEA Representative Assembly (Harding HS, Warren)
- Dec 2** OEA Representative Assembly
- Feb 3** NEOEA ESP Virtual Conference
- Feb 15** NEA-R Delegates Declaration of Candidacy Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- Mar 9** NEOEA Megaconference
- Mar 18** NEOEA Legislative Reception

STRS Ohio Reflections Series

Watch videos of STRS members reflecting on teaching and their careers: <https://www.strsoh.org/resources/newsroom/2023/member-reflections-series.html>.

