



NEOEA - Retired

Volume 24, Number 3

January 2024

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association

<https://neoea-r.ohea.us>

<https://www.neoea.org>

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Understanding the Impact of GPO/WEP

Stop Penalizing Our Active & Retired Educators!



Nearly 40 years ago, two provisions in the Social Security Act were created with the intent of equally treating workers who pay Social Security taxes throughout their careers and those who do not pay Social Security taxes on all of their earnings.

However, the provisions—the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension

Offset (GPO)—have caused nearly 2 million American workers to be denied benefits because they chose to enter public service. We need our police, firefighters and educators, but they are being penalized for the very service they provide. To date, public employees in 15 states are affected by WEP and GPO. Ohio is one of the states impacted.

OEA-Retired is hosting an informational webinar on **Monday, January 22, 2024**, at 5pm. Facilitated by: Mark Hill, OEA Secretary-Treasurer and Judy Novak, OEA-Retired Advisory Council.

Learn the facts about the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). This is your chance to hear the latest information on legislative efforts to repeal WEP and GPO and ask any questions about how you and your colleagues are impacted by WEP and GPO.

Be aware of what you might lose. Find out what YOU can do and how YOU can help. Register for the event at <https://forms.office.com/r/V2LYBTLBGE>

OEA-R Advisory Council Elections



This Spring the following offices will be up for election- OEA-Retired Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and District Representatives from Eastern, North Central, Northwest, the ESP Representative and the Higher Education Representative on the OEA-R Advisory Council. Forms can be filed either by email or US Postal Service but all candidacy forms must be in the OEA office by February 15, 2024. Please contact William Baird for this form,

bairdw@ohea.org or (614) 227-3169.

Retired Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly



If you would like to be a candidate for NEA-Retired delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly, you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by February 15, 2024. Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information.

Declaration of candidacy form: [https://oear.ohea.us/files/2023/07/NEA-Retired-](https://oear.ohea.us/files/2023/07/NEA-Retired-Delegate-Declaration-of-Candidacy-2024.pdf)

[Delegate-Declaration-of-Candidacy-2024.pdf](https://oear.ohea.us/files/2023/07/NEA-Retired-Delegate-Declaration-of-Candidacy-2024.pdf)



OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee Book Study



Join the OEA-Retired Racial and Social Justice Committee Book Study for another year of exciting discussions! All OEA members are invited to join us on this journey. We aim to inspire engaging conversations on books that relate to everyday experiences on the topics of racial and social justice. This will help us learn from each other and grow in understanding.

All sessions will be virtual on Zoom and most sessions will take place the third Monday of each month from 7pm-8pm with exceptions for holidays.

To accommodate holidays, the January and February 2024 dates will occur on: Tuesday, January 16th at 7pm, Monday, February 26th at 7pm

Book Reading Schedule:

- ◆ Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann (January/February 2024)
- ◆ White Rage by Carol Anderson (March/April 2024)
- ◆ You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems by Sharon Flake (May 2024)
- ◆ Change Sings by Amanda Gorman and Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe (June 2024)
- ◆ One Person, No Vote by Carol Anderson (July/August 2024)

A certificate of attendance will be issued to all participants based on the hours they attend. Approval for CEU credits is dependent upon your local LPDC committee.

Registration Link: <https://ohea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdygpzkoG9SY5h7hqhMyjYTjZ3ptMC#/registration>

Contact Bob Maher, Co-Chair, OEA-Retired Racial and Social Justice Committee, rm823990@ohio.edu with questions.

Upcoming Conferences

Saturday, March 9, 2024
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM



NEOEA MegaConference

The name says it all—**Megaconference**—and it will feature twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots. Topics offered fall into the following three themes: leadership development, personal development, and professional development. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 9, 2024** and review the information page at <https://neoea.org/whatdesc/130> which has detailed program and registration information.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

NEOEA-R Spring Conference

This year's Conference will be held at the NEOEA Conference Center in Mayfield Heights and will feature presentations from STRS Member Education, OEA Legislative Update by an Officer, a Public Education Advocate and a Financial Planner followed by lunch.

Thursday, April 25, 2024

OEA-R Spring Conference



The 2024 Conference will be held at the **Dayton International Peace Museum** from 10:00AM-3:00PM. Founded in 2004, The International Peace Museum raises awareness of nonviolent strategies for achieving peace now and in the future. Activities include an individual and docent led tour, art project, lunch and networking.

Other Affiliate Conferences

- ◆ NEOEA Leadership Summit - January 23 - <https://neoea.org/MemberData/Summit.pdf>
- ◆ NEA Minority Leadership Training - January 26-28 – Baltimore MD
- ◆ NEOEA ESP Virtual Conference – February 3 <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ESPconference.pdf>
- ◆ NEA Retired Conference – March 3-5 - Chicago
- ◆ NEA Higher Education Conference - March 15-17 – Atlanta GA
- ◆ NEOEA Legislative Reception – March 18
- ◆ NEA ESP National Conference - March 22-24 - Las Vegas NV
- ◆ Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals - April 26-27
- ◆ OEA Summer Leadership Academy – June 20-22
- ◆ NEOEA Summer Leadership – July 17-18

OEA Legislative Scorecard & Legislative Watch

OEA Government Relations has developed an online **legislative scorecard** <https://scorecard.ohea.org/#/> for each member of the Ohio General Assembly. The scorecard tracks



floor votes on bills for which OEA has taken a position notified legislators of this position. Additionally, the scorecard tracks co-sponsors for bills OEA has intense interest in. The OEA Legislative Scorecard is provided for informational purposes and should not be construed as an endorsement. Each

campaign season, OEA invites candidates to screen with local OEA members for possible endorsement/recommendation of their election. Participation in screenings, voting records, support of key education issues, and accessibility are factors considered in endorsement decisions made by OEA members.

OEA Legislative Watch

OEA Legislative Watch is the association's newsletter covering the legislation and policies that affect public education employees. Access the governmental news at <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/legislative-watch/>

Legislative Successes and Update



OEA's report on successful legislation of interest to public educators and an update on other items before the Ohio General Assembly are published in the report at: <https://www.ohea.org/cms/assets/uploads/2023/11/OEA-Legislative-Successes-and-Update-for-Fall-2023-RA.pdf>

2023-2024 NEOEA/OEA-R RA Delegates



Retired members are elected to represent the interest of OEA's Retirees at the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Representative Assemblies.

The Spring OEA Representative Assembly will be May 10-11 and the NEOEA

Representative Assembly will be held on April 20, 2024 at Orange High School.

The following Delegates represented NEOEA at the December 2, 2023 OEA-RA: Marti Franks, Peg Ham, Hank Haynes, Cheryl Hill, Norm Hillstrom, Bill Lavezzi, Steven Mitchell, Donna Smoot-Walters—NEOEA District Representative, John Veverka, Jené Wilson and Nancy Wonson

OEA Fall Representative Assembly Report



Fall 2023 Representative Assembly

December 2, 2023 – Summary of Actions

- ◆ Adopted the proposed 2023-2024 Legislative Policies for Achieving Excellence in Education. Legislative Policies
- ◆ Section 1: Ensuring the foundation of a high-quality system of public education
- ◆ B. Public dollars for public schools
- ◆ Vouchers

OEA Supports:

- ◆ Prohibiting private schools that accept vouchers from rejecting applicants based on race, religion, prohibiting private schools that accept vouchers from rejecting applicants based upon race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. if there are space limitations, schools should be required to hold a lottery for new students;
- ◆ Requiring private schools that accept vouchers to be subject to regular audits for the use of taxpayer funds;
- ◆ Requiring private schools that accept vouchers to test all voucher students using the state achievement tests;
- ◆ Requiring the state to produce a school report card comparable to those issued for public schools.

OEA Opposes:

- ◆ Public funds for the support, creation, or expansion of private school facilities.

The following Constitution articles were read by title for amendment at the May 2024 RA: Article II – Membership; Article V – Board of Directors; Article VI – Officers; Article IX – Affiliates; Article X – Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Informational:

There were 691 registered delegates at the assembly. Delegates contributed \$26,298.08 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

Meeting summaries, minutes of the OEA-R Advisory Council, OEA-R Delegate Assembly, and the OEA Board of Directors are on the Documents/Reports page of the OEA-R website at <https://oea-r.ohea.us/>

Activities Survey

The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee would like to know your opinions on activities our retirees would enjoy—knowing that retiree engagement benefits us all.



There's still time to fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/65BHWY9>

Enjoy 2024 and we hope to see you at future retiree events!

OEA Retirement Systems Update

Information regarding STRS, SERS and OPERS Retirement Systems is at <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/>

Members should get the facts about STRS!! There is so much misinformation out there promoted by another group whose motivation is difficult to determine. OEA-R has created a Task Force to provide correct information about STRS!

Interested members should contact Mary Binegar, OEA-Retired Advisory Council Chair at binegm@aol.com

Read Across America

To celebrate Read Across America, OEA-R members recorded themselves reading books for school kids. The theme was *Read for Democracy*. OEA Virtual Library link: <https://ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america>

NEOEA Discounts at Playhouse Square



NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows in the KeyBank Broadway Series.

- ◆ **Flanagan's Wake** - Jan 5-Apr 27 | Kennedy's Cabaret
- ◆ **Mrs. Doubtfire** - Jan 9-28 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **Mamma Mia!** - Jan 30-Feb 4 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express** – Feb 9-Mar 3 | Hanna Theatre
- ◆ **Funny Girl** - Feb 20-Mar 10 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **Paw Patrol Live!** – Mar 9-10 | KeyBank State Theatre
- ◆ **Annie** – Mar 19-24 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **The Merry Wives of Windsor** – Mar 22-Apr 7 | Hanna
- ◆ **Stomp** - Apr 17-21 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **Always...Patsy Cline** – Apr 26-May 19 | Hanna Theatre
- ◆ **Company** - Apr 30-May 19 | Connor Palace
- ◆ **Back to the Future** - Jun 11-Jul 7 | KeyBank State
- ◆ **MJ** – Jul 16-Aug 11 | KeyBank State Theatre

Use promo code listed in the Playhouse Square area of Announcements at neoea.org, accessible after logging in, 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>

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>
- ◆ **Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse:** <https://www.rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/group/detail/fieldhouseplus> Code: OEA22

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:** <https://www.brightnow.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>
- ◆ **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>

NEOEA-R Calendar

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

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|------------------|---------------|--|---|
| Jan 16 | Apr 15 | OEA-R Racial & Social Justice Book Study |  |
| Jan 22 | | Understanding GPO/WEP | |
| Jan 23 | | NEOEA Leadership Summit | |
| Feb 3 | | NEOEA ESP Conference | |
| Feb 6 | | NEOEA-R Organizing Committee | |
| Feb 15 | | OEA-R Advisory & NEA-R Delegates Declaration of Candidacy Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer | |
| March | | Read Across America | |
| Mar 3-5 | | NEA-R Conference | |
| Mar 9 | | NEOEA Megaconference | |
| Mar 18 | | NEOEA Legislative Receptions | |
| Mar 26 | | NEOEA-R Spring Conference | |
| Apr 25 | | OEA-R Spring Conference | |
| Apr 20 | | NEOEA Representative Assembly - Orange HS | |
| May 9-11 | | OEA Representative Assembly | |
| Jun 20-22 | | OEA Summer Leadership | |
| Jun 29-30 | | NEA-R Annual Meeting | |
| Jul 3-7 | | NEA Annual Meeting | |
| Jul 18-19 | | NEOEA Summer Leadership | |

NEOEA Calendar

<https://neoea.org/Education-Union/NEOEA-Calendar>