

Retirement Systems Update

STRS

The market value of the fund as of September was \$73, 381, 750, 088. The fiscal year to date return is -.02%. The top 10 domestic holdings are Apple, Microsoft, Exxon Mobil, Procter & Gamble, Chevron, Johnson & Johnson, General Electric, Verizon, Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan Chase.

The State Teachers Retirement Board received a report of the annual pension valuation results from its actuarial consultant, Segal Consulting. The report provides a "snapshot" of the actuarial position of the retirement fund as of July 1, 2014. Segal's report this year shows the funding period for the pension fund — the amount of time needed to pay off any unfunded liability — decreased to 29.5 years from 40.2 years, and the funded ratio improved to 69.3% from 66.3%.

Better than expected investment returns were the primary driver for the funding improvement. Other significant notes from this year's actuarial valuation report include:

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability decreased to \$29.5 billion from \$31.8 billion; this represents the difference between STRS Ohio's actuarial value of assets and the actuarial accrued liabilities.

STRS Ohio paid about \$6.7 billion in benefits during the fiscal year.

The pension fund has a net \$5.2 billion in unrecognized gains being deferred to future years. STRS Ohio uses a common actuarial technique called "smoothing" to spread investment market volatility over four-year periods. This method helps pension funds recognize investment returns for a given year over a four-year window rather than a one-year "spike."

Contributing payroll decreased by 0.4%, and the number of active members decreased slightly. *Submitted by OEA Board of Directors member Bill Sears*

SERS – SPOTLIGHT

Good news for retired ESP! The Ohio Association of ESP voted changes to their constitution/by-laws to allow retired membership. As retired members of OAESP we can support and mentor active school support staff. Membership is only \$5.00 annually. A membership application form is available online at the OEA website

NEA member Benefits has a new and updated booklet for members titled "Explore". Be sure to see the discount for AT&T wireless service, pet insurance and a weekend rental car for \$9.99 per day. It is easy to log on to neamb.com to learn more.

In the annual report from SERS there are 64,720 retired members and beneficiaries in Ohio. Of these 45,332 receive health care from SERS plans. There are 10 male and 83 female health care recipients over the age of 100! The average monthly pension amount for 2013 is \$1,236 with average retirement age of 63.2. SERS has a great web site to keep members informed of issues and updates. *Submitted by ESP Representative Adele Matias.*

CONTACT YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM

STRS 1-888-227-7877 or www.strsoh.org

SERS 1-800-878-5853 or www.ohsers.org

OPERS 1-800-222-7377 or www.opers.org

DISTRICT NEWS

CENTRAL This fall the Central OEA/NEA Retired Advisory Board instituted a new Mentoring New Presidents pilot program. This pilot matches new local presidents with retired local presidents. The purpose of this program is to help new local presidents institute processes that will build the capacity of their locals this year and into the future. Central is providing each participating local with a Growth and Development grant

to provide training and other assistance to help this program succeed. *Submitted by District Representative Mary Binegar.*

NORTHEAST Our activities for the year are supporting NEOEA, NEOEA-R and OEA-R. During our September 2014 meeting of the Retired Organizing Committee we decided to support all the programs. Retired members are always welcome at programs for active members at NEOEA. Be sure to sign-up at the office. We are recruiting retired members to sign-up for Read Across America for March 2-16, 2015. We would like to have many more NEOEA-R members so let us know NOW where in NE you would enjoy reading to children. This has been a very successful program. The Intergenerational Mentoring Program for students at Kent State University is alive and needs your professional expertise. We have students preparing to teach K-12 and Higher Ed. If you are a member of NEA-R and OEA-R we need you. Please volunteer. Volunteer for Read Across America and Intergenerational Mentoring by calling the NEOEA Office (216-518-0200) and leave your name and telephone number with the secretary. Nanci DiBianca or Beryl Burkle will get back to you. *Submitted by District Representative Beryl Burkle.*

CAPITAL Capital members are looking forward to our first events of 2015. Upcoming events include a visit to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra as they perform "Cirque de la Symphonie", a tour of the Franklin Park Conservatory to view the orchid display, and paintings by Dale Chihuly. We will also attend a talk by Columbus author Bob Hunter, as he links the past of Columbus with its present. Other events include a tour of the Ohio Statehouse a Westerville Ohio wine walk and tour of its Anti-Saloon League Museum, and a "Serenade on Broadway" to Loveland Ohio. Finally, for our members in Florida, an event is planned at Babcock Wilderness in Punta Gorda. *Submitted by District Representative Jeff Corbin*

EOEA We are proud to announce that the 23 EOEA-R members donated \$300 at our monthly luncheon for the Reynoldsburg EA. *Submitted by District Representative Jack Boyd*

WESTERN The WOE-Retired November 19th program is "Senior Scams" presented by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The time is 11:00 a.m. The location is Company 7 BBQ, 1001 S. Main St. Englewood, OH 45322. After the presentation, attendees may order from the menu. Plan to spend \$8-10 for lunch. RSVP to Emmy Brudzynski by November 13, 2014 —email: emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu or phone: 937-610-9917. We look forward to seeing you. 19 Program-Senior Scams by Attorney General's Office at Company 7 BBQ Englewood; December 17 Lunch at El Meson in West Carrollton. Bring food for Home for Kids. *Submitted by District Representative Jane Rahn*

MISSION STATEMENT

OEA-Retired is dedicated to meeting the needs of its members, providing member involvement within OEA, and supporting public education.

2014-2015 Officers

John Hoyes Chair	Carol Kinsey Vice-Chair
Marti Huss Secretary	David Bowen Past Chair

GREEN TRANSITION

Reminder, as we transition to *going green* please provide us with your name and email address. This new format will save OEA thousands of dollars each year. Beginning with this issue, all individuals with email addresses will only receive an electronic version of *NEWSLINE*. Send your name and email address by sending it to your OEA-R staff liaison's Administrative Assistant at: gorkaj@ohea.org

OEA-R Newslines is the official publication of OEA-Retired.
Bill Sears, Editor

OEA FUND FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

A special thanks goes out to those retired members who participated in the work of Campaign 2014. Also recognition goes to those who donated in 2013-2014 in helping us to exceed our goal. It's quick and easy to donate electronically. Go to www.ohea.org. On the left, scroll down to "Quick Links" and then to "Donate to FCPE." VISA and MasterCard are accepted. Let's help raise money to elect pro-senior, pro-union, pro-education candidates.

JOINING CAUCUSES

The OEA-R Leadership and Advisory Council Members believe it is important for OEA-R to have a presence and become actively involved in OEA, our chosen profession. OEA-R has representatives serving on the OEA Board of Directors, the FCPE State Council, and every OEA Committee. If this is something you are interested in, please submit your name to the OEA-R Chair, John Hoyes indicating what your interests are, to be given consideration as opportunities arise.

There are additional opportunities for OEA-R members to join any or all of the OEA Caucuses. Each of the three has open memberships with very minimal annual dues. The membership year runs from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31. They are the Doris L Allen Minority Caucus, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Caucus, and the Women's Caucus. Membership is open to ALL OEA and OEA-R members. A member does not need to have a personal orientation toward any of these groups to join and become more informed about issues facing other colleagues and students, and /or participate in the Caucus.

Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus

For information or to join, please contact Martha Mitchell at luggage@aol.com

OEA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus (OEA-GLBT Caucus)

The purpose of this organization shall be:

To protect the rights and interests of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender members of the Association and their supporters;

To promote recognition of the needs and constitutional rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students, both self-identified or perceived; and

To advance understanding and acceptance of gay, lesbian bisexual, and transgender people in all areas of society.

For more information or to join, please contact OEA-R member Sue Christian at Sue.Christian72@gmail.com

OEA Women's Caucus

The purpose of this organization shall be:

To research and publicize the status of women in the education profession,

To support appropriate state and federal legislation to achieve equitable opportunity for women,

To recruit women for leadership roles within the United Education Profession,

To sponsor Caucus meetings at state conventions and other appropriate professional gatherings,

To work with non-OEA groups concerned with the status of women,

To use education to eliminate all sex-role stereotyping,

To achieve equality in reality.

For more information or to join the Women's Caucus please contact OEA-R member Gail Andrews Turner at gatohiowc@yahoo.com. *By OEA-R Vice-Chair Carol Kinsey*

OEA-R FALL CONFERENCE

The OEA-R Fall Conference was held September 10 at STRS in Columbus and was well-attended. Presentations included STRS Member Benefits, STRS Health Care, and participation in Campaign 2014. Bill Shriver discussed Giving Back through Scouting and Rhonda Johnson discussed Education in the City. A presentation was given by Bill Dorsey on the quilt donated to OEA by retired delegates and members attending the 2014 NEA Representative Assembly.

OEA-R SPRING CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The OEA-R Spring Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at the NEOEA Conference Center in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Registration information will be in the next NEWSLINE and on the OEA website.

NEA-R ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

The NEA-R Organizing Conference will be held March 24-26, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration information is available on the NEA website (nea.org) starting November 14, 2014.

ELECTION NOTICE

The following positions on the OEA-R Advisory Council are up for election in the spring of 2015:

Officers: Chair, Vice- Chair, Secretary
District Rep.: Capital, Eastern, North Central, Northwest

An election will also be held for retired representatives to the NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly delegate.

Declaration of Candidacy Forms for all positions are available by contacting Carol Price (procec@ohea.org or 1-800-282-1500). They're also available on the OEA Website ([ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)) at: <http://www.ohea.org/for-your-information>