An OEA-R Member’s Vigilance Pays Off!

Late last year the OEA-R Staff Liaison received a telephone call from an OEA-R member who conveyed a concern about possible overcharges from her STRS healthcare insurer regarding the out-of-network rate for medical supplies. During the conversation, the Liaison asked whether she would be willing to provide him with a chronological outline of what occurred bolstered by as much supporting evidence (i.e. official letters, billing statements, etc.) as she could provide. Fortunately, the member kept comprehensive records and agreed to send the packet of correspondence evidence to OEA. After seeking guidance from STRS Board member, Jim McGreevy, the Liaison forwarded them to the appropriate people at STRS.

Following an investigation initiated by STRS, the insurance provider agreed with the OEA-R member that she had not received timely notification about the change in medical supply providers and therefore should not have been billed at out-of-network rates for the medical supplies. As a result of the STRS investigation, it was determined that over 800 other individuals had also not been notified in a timely manner about this change. The outcome of the member’s initiative was that the affected individuals were given a credit against future transactions for the difference between the in-network rates they should have been charged and out-of-network rates that they were charged.

We are Going Green
For those of you who have already responded, thank you. You may have noticed that the size of the paper on which NEWSLINE is printed has changed. We are transitioning to going green by using less paper and reducing publishing costs. This new format will save OEA thousands of dollars each year. Additionally beginning with the fall, 2014 issue, all individuals with email addresses will only receive an electronic version of NEWSLINE.

In order to ensure a smooth transition in our quest to go green please remember to update your postal address if you do not have an email address ... or if you do have an email address and are not receiving NEWSLINE electronically, please provide us with your name and email address by sending it to your OEA-R staff liaison at: ottierb@ohea.org

Submitted by Bill Otten, OEA-R Staff Liaison

Thirteen OEA-R Members attended the NEA-R Annual Meeting in Denver this summer. Front row: Marilyn Allen, Donna Smoot-Walters, Marti Huss, Carol Kinsey, Judy Buschle and Homer Adams. Back row: Don Traxler, Bill Dorsey, Bill Sears, Peg Han, and John Hoyes. Absent: Jane Rahn and Chris Swank.
Intergenerational Mentoring Program

Have you retired from teaching in the last five years? Do you miss the interaction you had with your students? If you live within 50 miles of Kent State, Miami, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University-Lancaster or Youngstown State University, you might be the retired teacher we are looking for! The Intergenerational Mentoring Program pairs retired teachers with education majors on college campuses in Ohio. We have training sessions to get you started in September, followed by our first “Meet and Greet” in October, where you will meet your mentee. We follow up with several group meetings per year -- the rest of the time you communicate with your mentee via text message, email, phone and face to face meetings.

The program is designed to help keep quality educators in our public school classrooms by supplying the education majors with the support and feedback necessary to help build their self-confidence. We can answer the questions that only people who have “been there, done that” have experienced!

The program has been very well received on the campuses with great feedback from the students and retired teachers. We need more mentors! To learn more, contact the State Coordinator, Marti Huss, at mehuss@hotmail.com

OEA-R members Marti Huss and Judy Buschle and OSEA members participated in Outreach to Teach in Denver.

OEA-R STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE
September 10, 2014 - Register Now

STRS Building, 7th Floor
275 East Broad Street - Columbus OH 43215

Speakers include the OEA Officers, OEA Executive Director Sheryl Mathis, and OEA-R Staff Liaison Bill Otten. STRS and SERS Health Care personnel will speak on health care issues/changes for 2015 followed by Q & A. Other interesting and informational sessions are planned for the afternoon.

FREE Parking is provided at the STRS building.
REGISTRATION: 9:30 a.m.
PROGRAM: 10:00 a.m.
LUNCH: 12:15 p.m.
CONCLUSION: 3:00 p.m.

Complete and return the registration form below with your $15.00 registration fee by Sept. 1st in order to be eligible for door prizes. Lunch is included and you’ll be notified by email once your payment is received. Mail form and payment to:

OHA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
ATTN: BILL OTTEN, P.O. Box 2136
Columbus, Ohio 43216-2136

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP ____________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________

OEA DISTRICT ____________________________

Ohio Education Association