

OEA-R Newsline

The official publication of OEA-Retired

**OEA FUND FOR CHILDREN
AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Campaign 2016 has begun. Let's help raise money to elect pro-senior, pro-union, pro-education candidates. 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.

STRS

As of November 30, the total STRS fund valuation was \$74,385,190,860. The annual rate of return for fiscal year 2015 was +2.3%. The target rate of return is 7.75%.

Medicare Enrollment and STRS Ohio Webinar: A common misconception is that Ohio educators do not qualify for Medicare because they did not contribute to Social Security. In fact, you are eligible for Medicare when you turn age 65 even if you are not eligible for Social Security benefits. STRS Ohio requires you to sign up for Medicare Parts A & B or Part B-only at age 65 or earlier if you qualify. During this webinar we will explain the "parts" of Medicare, the importance of enrolling, when and how to enroll, STRS Ohio health care plan options for Medicare enrollees and how to select a new health care plan. We will also address questions often asked by new Medicare enrollees as well as any

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, *Chairperson*
Carol Kinsey, *Vice Chairperson*
Marti Huss, *Secretary*
David Bowen, *Past Chairperson*

**OEA-R NEWSLINE is the official
publication of OEA-Retired**

Bill Sears, *Editor*
OEA-R website
<http://oea-r.ohea.us>

questions you submit during the presentation. Each webinar will be held from 1-2 p.m. (EDT) on the dates listed below. Registration for each webinar is limited to 100 people. Registration can be taken until 12:30 p.m. on the day of the session. After you have successfully registered, you will be sent a confirmation email that will include instructions on how to join the webinar. This webinar may be viewed on a PC or Macintosh computer as well as mobile devices (e.g., an iPad/iPhone). See the System Requirements section below for more information and requirements. Please note that you will need to have speakers attached to your computer to participate in the webinar and mobile device viewers may need to use headphones. Go to the STRS website strsoh.org to register for Feb. 18, March 18, April 22, May 20, or [June 24, 2015](#). *Submitted by STRS Observer Bill Sears*

SERS

On December 15, the Secretary of State certified that two candidates met the requirements for inclusion on the ballot for a four-year retiree seat term that begins July 1, 2015. Candidates Frank A. Weglarz and Beverly A. Woolridge both met the minimum requirements. All retired SERS members should have received a ballot, a postage-paid return envelope, and candidate biographies with their Focus newsletter by early February. Ballots must be returned to SERS by 4:30 p.m., on March 2, 2015, to be valid.

The auditor determined that the financial statements contained in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) presented fairly, in all material respects, SERS' net assets as of June 30, 2014. The CAFR contains a detailed look at the System's financial status and investment activities, as well as actuarial and statistical information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. SERS' annual net investment return of 17.3% is a major highlight of this year's CAFR. The return exceeded the policy benchmark by 1.7%. *Submitted by SERS Observer 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 REPORTS

CAPITAL: CEA-Retired has fun and interesting events planned for this winter and spring. February 17 - "Finding the Past in the Present"; March 6 - "Today's Columbus City Schools"; March 19 - "Touring the Ohio Statehouse"; April 16 - "Westerville Wine Walk"; April 29 - "A Serenade on Broadway". Information and registration is available in the CEA-Retired brochure or at cea-retired.com. Check out our Facebook page, too, at facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Education-Association-Retired. *Submitted by District Representative Jeff Corbin*

ECOEA: Last month, the ECOEA-R Holiday Happenin's social event was held in Wayne County at the Pine Tree Barn. This unique restaurant with one-of-a-kind furniture, gifts and clothing apparel attracts people from all over Ohio; according to a recent Cleveland television broadcast that showcased why it is so well-known. Christmas card holders were the table favors. Using some OEA-R Grant monies, the ECOEA Program Committee will be hosting the Annual STRS/SERS Retirement Workshop, Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. Highlights will include financial planning for retirement and important mid-career decisions in place prior to retiring. Because OEA-R has been successful in obtaining NEA grants to continue both Intergenerational Mentoring and Lifetime OEA-R/NEA-R Membership programs, each OEA district was awarded \$450 to support another Membership Recruitment Drive. Lifetime OEA-R/NEA-R memberships are available at this workshop for \$350 (\$250 for national and \$100 for state). Your retired members look forward to seeing you there. The deadline is quickly approaching for registering for the NEA-R Organizing and Leadership Conference in late March. ECOEA offers a \$500 scholarship to a retiree that would like to attend. For more info visit our website at: www.ohea.org, click on the district site then follow it to the retiree pages. *Submitted by District Representative Kathleen Purdy*

SEOEA: We have a big event, our first Retirement Seminar, on Saturday, February 28th, 2015. Tamla Cole, STRS representative, Cameron Vaughn, SERS representative (provided we have 16 registered SERS members), and Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits, will join us at OEA's Athens Field Office at 53 Johnson Rd., The Plains, OH for informative, interactive presentations designed for OEA members nearing retirement. Breakfast Buffet and Registration will begin at 8:30. Contact Christine McVicar for more information at vicarmac@yahoo.com or 740-551-2133. You can expect our 1st bi-annual SEOEA-R E-Newsletter the first week of March. If you need to update your email address or request a hardcopy by mail, contact Christine. *Submitted by District Representative Christine McVicar*

WOEA: WOEА-Retired has meetings planned for Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at the Dayton Racket Club in Dayton, OH. The program topic is the Human Trafficking of Children. The April 15, 2015, meeting is at the Dayton Art Institute with a docent-led tour. For any questions concerning the fees/cost involved for the meeting(s) or to RSVP contact Program Chairperson Emmy Brudzynski: e-mail: emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu or phone 937-610-9917 at least six days prior to meeting date..

The dates of the sponsored workshops by WOEА-Retired and WOEА made possible by a grant written by OEA-Retired from NEA are March 11, 2014, in Eaton at the Preble County ESC; and March 16, 2014 in Celina at the Richardson-Bretz Building. The info is online at woea.org.

Three WOEА-Retired members, Phil Long, Willie Terrell, Jr. and Tom Milord, ran for OEA-Retired delegate status.

By visiting woea.org and scrolling to "retired" section one can look at past newsletters and minutes of previous meetings. One can also go to the site Office Manager Kim Honeycutt created to get to us directly.

www.woea.org/woea-r.htm Submitted by District Representative Jane Rahn

PROGRAM/SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Program/Services Committee is chaired by the OEA-R Vice Chair, Carol Kinsey, as set forth in the OEA-R Guidelines. Other Committee members include Beryl Burkle, Jane Rahn, and Joyce Skocic.

The Committee met four times during each Advisory Council meeting this past year. They reviewed participant evaluations from the OEA-R Fall Conference and the Caucus meetings prior to the RAs in both December and May implementing suggestions within the realm of the committee's responsibilities when possible, e.g. presenters, topics, format/length of sessions, members' needs etc. There was also significant email communication among Committee members regarding the planning of the Fall Conference to gain input and concurrence as the agenda was being finalized.

The committee planned a well-attended Fall Conference presenting the newly elected OEA officers to the attendees as well as focusing on Right to Work and members' interest in health insurance. A recently adopted feature of the Conference where OEA-R members speak to activities in which they participate was again a popular part of the agenda. In response to evaluation comments, door prizes were offered. Based on OEA-R recently affiliating with the Ohio ARA

(Alliance for Retired Americans) and attending their meetings, it was decided to extend an invitation to their Executive Director Headley Davis and their President, Norm Wernet to attend our Conference as observers to learn more about OEA-R. We were honored they made time in their schedules to spend the entire Conference Day with us.

The Program/Services Committee continues to review and revise the Committee's Related Materials as needed. The Program Services Committee is requesting an evaluation of the regional conferences to be shared with the Advisory Council.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee met four times this year, in March, May, September, and December. The members of the committee are Bill Sears, Newsletter Editor, Jack Boyd, Webmaster, Bob Beers, and Chris Swank. At each meeting the NEWSLINE, the website, and listserv are discussed along with other topics.

For 2014, the NEWSLINE was available four times this year. The website is used to post relevant information. Copies of newsletters, reports, forms, and photos are available online.

The one major project we have worked on this year is our initiative to "go green". In order to reduce the amount of paper being used, information and reports for the Advisory Council meetings is available to members at a dedicated OEA site. Laptop computers are used by the AC members during the meetings and have proven to be a much more efficient way of handling information. This concept saves money on printing and mailing of the newsletter... There will also be a survey of all members in 2015 to review the items, design, and format.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROFESSIONALS

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals (OADDP) was formed in 1983 as a "Department" of OEA serving as a formal caucus for OEA members working in County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. As more and more individuals formerly served by county boards have transitioned to our local public schools, the OADDP has maintained its original focus and stands to support all OEA members working with persons with DD.

The Mission of the OADDP is to advance the growth of the education and habilitation of individuals with developmental disabilities and to provide a collective voice for the professional, paraprofessional and support staff working with persons with developmental disabilities. OADDP Strategic Goals promote high standards for staff, provider organizations, and services provided while assuring the viability of County Boards of DD as a service option for those who choose it

The OADDP provides the following services to members:

- A quarterly newsletter - The OADDP *Newsline*.
- Monitoring of legislation that affects OADDP members.
- Leadership training at an Annual Conference.
- A Public Relations Local Grant program
- Delegate Luncheon at the OEA Representative Assemblies
- Executive committee meetings six times per year

OEA Retired members are welcome to get involved. For more information on current issues facing DD professionals and to download an OADDP Brochure, visit the OADDP website at: <http://oaddp.ohea.us/>. Submitted by Hank Haynes, OADDP Web Editor

FCPE REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Names of persons who are interested in serving in the positions of OEA-R Representative and Alternate to the OEA-FCPE State Council are now being accepted. This is a two (2) year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017. The elected Representative serves as an OEA-R Advisory Council member in a non-voting capacity and co-chairs the OEA-R Legislative/FCPE Committee. The Advisory Council meets four (4) times a year, usually September, December, March, and May. The Alternate has no required activity except at such time when the Representative may not be available. To be eligible for either position, candidates must meet the requirements of both the Advisory Council and the OEA FCPE, which include a minimum annual FCPE contribution of \$100. The Representative shall represent the interests of the OEA-R to engage in political action to effect the implementation of the OEA policies for the improvement of education in the state of Ohio. Duties may be found in the OEA-R Guidelines Article VIII - Appointments by the Advisory Council Section E. The Guidelines are posted on the OEA-R website, <http://oea-r.ohea.us/documents-2/>. Please submit your name to John Hoyes, OEA-R Chair, at jhoyes@columbus.rr.com and cc Carol Kinsey, OEA-R Vice-Chair, at cskinsey@aol.com by February 27 indicating if you wish to be considered for the Representative or the Alternate position.

If you wish to nominate a person other than yourself, you may do so but that person needs to email both persons listed above as agreeing to their nomination.

OEA-R Members at DLAMC Dinner



*Front: Sue Creamer, Beryl Burkle, Christine McVicar, Kathleen Purdy, David Bowen
Back: Judy Buschle, Marti Huss, Jack Boyd, NEA President Lily Garcia, Carol Kinsey, Chris Swank, John Hoyes*

OEA-R SPRING CONFERENCE

Tuesday May 12, 2015

9:30 - 1:15

NEOEA Conference Center
5422 East 96th Street Suite 200
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Schedule

- 9:30-10:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 10:-10:20 Introduction/Welcome
- 10:30-11:25 Breakout Session 1
- 11:35-12:30 Breakout Session 2
- 12:30-1:15 Lunch (be sure to stay for door prizes)
- 1:30-2:30 Visit to Canal Exploration Center (optional and no cost)

Breakout sessions:

- A. Health Care Utilization by Tamla Cole
- B. NEA Member benefits by Guy Kendall-Freas
- C. Legislative Updates by Scott DiMauro
- D. Travel Tips for Retirees

Registration

Send registration form with check for \$20 made payable to NEOEA by Monday, May 4, 2015 to:

NEOEA
5422 East 96th Street, Suite 200
Garfield Heights. OH 44125

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Session choices in order of preference: _____, _____, _____, _____

For more information or questions visit www.neoea.org