



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>

OEA FUND FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Board Reviews Changes to STRS Ohio Health Care Program for 2016—Last year, the State Teachers Retirement Board approved several changes to the health care program for 2016. These changes support the health care strategic framework adopted by the board in December 2011. During the April meeting of the Retirement Board, STRS Ohio staff reviewed implementation of these approved changes and presented additional recommendations for 2016.

IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED CHANGES FOR 2016

Premium subsidy and reimbursement

- Reduce the subsidy multiplier by 0.1% to 2.1% per year of service. This completes the phased-in reduction the board began in 2012. A retiree with 30 or more years of service will receive a subsidy in 2016 of 63% of the total cost of the plan.
- Continue the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement at 2015 levels for eligible benefit recipients.

Aetna Medicare Plan

- Reduce the in-network deductible to \$150 from \$300.
- Out-of-network coverage changes include: increasing out-of-pocket limit to \$2,500 from \$2,000; increasing specialist physician office visit co-payments to \$55 from \$50; increasing coinsurance percentage to 8% from 6%; and increasing skilled nursing/home health care coinsurance to 8% from 2%.

Medical Mutual Plans

- Discontinue the Plus Plan.
- For more information contact STRS.

Submitted by STRS Observer Bill Sears

SERS

Congratulations to the OAESP for a well-planned and well-attended Statewide Conference. The keynote speaker, Karen Izzi Gallagher, from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Northeast Ohio (GLSEN NEO) brought forward very current information. Other sessions offered contained quality information for active as well as retired ESP. *Submitted by SERS Observer Adele Matia*

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: Plan to attend the annual meeting on June 24 at the Boat House. At this meeting an annual election for president, vice-president, secretary, at-large board members will be held. Anyone interested in being on the ballot for ANY of these positions mentioned contact Cora Miller, Nominations Chairman at 614.560.3593 or corab@columbus.rr.com. Once again it is time to select another project to receive CEA-R's share of the 50/50 raffle money for the next two years. Please contact Judy Valentine to let her know of possible projects (that benefit Columbus City School students) for the CEA-R Board to consider. Anytime you have questions or comments, please contact Judy at 614.866.6333 or email at jvalentine59@aol.com. The following events are planned for the coming months: A Trek through the Heart of Africa, Thursday, June 11; A Visit with Coretta Scott King and the Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 24; Play Ball!!! Monday, July 6; Touring Glass Axis Friday, July 24; Stratford Ecological Center Wednesday, August 12; Behind the Scenes at the Schott Thursday, August 27. *Submitted by District Representative Jeff Corbin*

ECOEA: In July, preparation will begin for the 2015 Summer Newsletter Mailing Labels using the information from our OEA Retired Staff Liaison's records. This year, no electronic mailings, only hard copies would be prepared for you; so be certain your most current contact information. Our district retirees are very important for the ongoing work of the Association. If you desire to become involved, at any degree of participation, please don't hesitate to contact me. There is no question too small or issue too big. Continuing to interact with other retirees is special and significant to strengthen our ECOEA-R. Please plan to join me for the annual August "Not Back to School Luncheon" for the last social event of the summer. It will be held at the famous Mulligan's Pub, 4118 Belden Village St.N.W., Canton, Ohio 44718 on August 19th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Mulligan's Pub is well-known for its Irish Cream Cake and Award Winning Barbeque Ribs and Hot Coffee. Canton calls it the best hamburgers, steaks & seafood Pub with old-fashioned prices and the "Best Watering Hole in Stark County." Spouses and guests are always welcome. Self-pay. RSVP at ecoearetired@yahoo.com. Check out the menu at www.MulligansCanton.com and thank you for working on behalf of others. *Submitted by District Representative Kathleen Purdy*

SEOEA: With OEA-R generated money from an NEA-R grant, Southeast held a Retirement Seminar at the Athens OEA Field Office on February 28th which received positive reviews from those attending. The Southeast Executive Committee has recently modified its constitution and by-laws to include more opportunities for retired member participation. For example, a retired member may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, serve on the Executive Committee if there isn't a willing active member ready to serve after the position has been posted for 30 days. *Submitted by District Representative Christine McVicar*

SWOEA: Wow, what a wonderful turn out SWOEA-R had at our retirement workshop on March 17th, we had approximately 66 people including our 5 presenters. The group was a good mix of teachers, support personnel and spouses who are planning to retire in the near future. They were very receptive of all the presenters and the information they had to share. We also had a SWOEA-R outing to Miami Valley Gaming on April 16, 2015, for lunch and a fun afternoon with our lucky buckeyes! The next event is our upcoming annual May meeting to be held on May 19th at the SWOEA office starting at 5:00 PM with a light dinner. The program begins at 5:30 PM. At the present time we have an STRS speaker coming as our keynote presenter, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. A couple more upcoming dates SWOEA-R has planned for outings are: a visit to the Sign Museum in Cincinnati starting at a Cincinnati landmark, Camp Washington Chili in May with a follow-up in June to Belterra Park for a fun afternoon. *Submitted by District Representative Judy Buschle*

WEOA: WEOA-Retired have meetings planned for May and June 2015. Join us Wednesday, May 20th for a tour of the "old" Dayton Courthouse on Main Street in Dayton with lunch following at the Spaghetti Warehouse. The June 17, 2015 meeting is a tour of Saint Charles Senior Living Center in Carthagenia (St. Charles Center) located at 2860 U.S. 127 Celina, OH 45822 with lunch at Casa Rodriguez 202 W. Logan St. Celina, OH 45822. Meetings start at 11:00 a.m. 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 three sponsored workshops by WEOA-Retired and WEOA made possible by a grant written by OEA-Retired from NEA were held in three of the counties comprised by the Western District: Montgomery, Preble, and Mercer. Positive evaluations and suggestions to continue making members aware of their benefits and remaining a part of their profession after retirement in their retired organizations of WEOA-Retired and OEA-R/NEA-R were appreciated by attendees. 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: www.woea.org/woea-r.htm. *Submitted by District Representative Jane Rahn*

NCOEA: On March 20, NCOEA-R held a successful Retirement Workshop at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, in Belleville, Ohio. John Buch from STRS and Guy Kendal- Freas spoke to over 50 attendees about their future benefits and the advantages of joining OEA-R. At least six lifetime membership applications were accepted and several more active members were planning to apply and have their names entered in the drawing for a reimbursement of their lifetime membership dues. Many thanks go to the OEA, OEA-R, and to the NCOEA for their financial support in hosting this event. Folders and door prizes were available along with much useful information. We enjoyed the delicious buffet and the comfortable accommodations provided by Der Dutchman who were so flexible and easy to work with. We recognize Chris Swank for all her efforts in providing folders and door prizes for the event, and Judy Novak for helping with registration. It was a wonderful evening and I was proud to be a part of it. Thank you all who helped and attended. *Submitted by District Representative Joyce Skocic*

NEOEA: We had a very successful Read Across America Project in March. We really read across North Eastern Ohio. We had many volunteers to carry the joy of reading to many school students. We have a video that you will find on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) at "RAA 15" or go to the website <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/> and see information for Read Across America. We would like to have more volunteers in March of 2016. We gifted new and gently used books to places we read. Please put us on your list of fun things to do. The video has been entered in the OEA Contest for RAA. The Mentoring Program at Kent State University is looking for additional mentors to work with education students at KSU who will graduate as teachers. Please contact the NEOEA Office to leave your name and phone number. As a retired member of OEA, the Intergenerational Mentoring Program is a very worthwhile program to be involved in. We are Mentors for our Profession. *Submitted by District Representative Beryl Burkle*

At Large: Ohio is one of the larger states in the National Education Association, yet we have a very small retired group, so one of the goals of the Ohio Education Association-Retired is to increase our membership. Another goal is to support the active members and the student members. OEA-Retired also provides a Spring and a Fall Conference for our members.

In order to achieve these goals, the OEA- Retired has received several grants from the National Education Association Retired. Many of these were aimed at increasing our retiree membership. These grants have been used to offer incentives for retirees to join OEA-R/NEA-R and to encourage actives to join as pre-retired members. The latest grant provided funds to hold retirement workshops in each of the ten districts across the state. The workshops have been very effective as they provided important retirement information for actives and gave us an opportunity to promote membership in the OEA-Retired.

Another grant enabled OEA-Retired to establish the Intergenerational Mentoring Program which matches retirees with education majors on college campuses to give them an experienced educator to consult for advice. This program has received nationwide recognition and the participants in the program have presented national workshops for NEA-Retired.

As the At-Large Representative on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council, I try to represent all the retired members in the state of Ohio. I invite all of you to contact me with any concerns or questions that you may have about OEA-Retired. We are always interested in any suggestions for future grants and ideas and speakers for our programs and workshops. You may contact me at 330-231-1223 or email me at cswank44@embarqmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you. I hope you are enjoying your retirement and are keeping active in your community and the association. *Submitted by At-Large Representative Chris Swank.*

ELECTION RESULTS

The OEA-Retired Advisory Council Offices for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary ballots were counted on Monday, April 6, 2015. There were 2,082 votes cast and all were counted/valid. (OEA-Retired unified members and OEA-Retired only members were eligible to vote). For Officers, the term of office begins September 1, 2015 and ends August 31, 2018.

Chair

1293 Votes: John Hoyes – ELECTED

662 Votes: Dale Kain

Vice Chair

1301 Votes: Carol Kinsey – ELECTED

674 Votes: Marsh Buckley

Secretary

1121 Votes: Peg Ham – ELECTED

847 Votes: Jack Boyd

OEA-Retired Delegates to 2015 NEA Representative Assembly (Elected delegates also participate in the NEA-Retired Pre-Conference). The OEA-Retired NEA RA Delegate Ballots were counted on Monday, April 6, 2015. There were 2,029 votes cast. There were 38 who voted for too many; therefore, only 1,991 were counted/valid. (OEA-Retired unified member and NEA-Retired only members were eligible to vote). The OEA-Retired are entitled to eight (8) NEA RA delegates. The OEA-Retired Chair serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office.

Votes Delegates

By Virtue John Hoyes

816 William A. Dorsey

631 Bill Sears

541 Christina Wall Swank

482 Marti Huss

675 Carol Kinsey

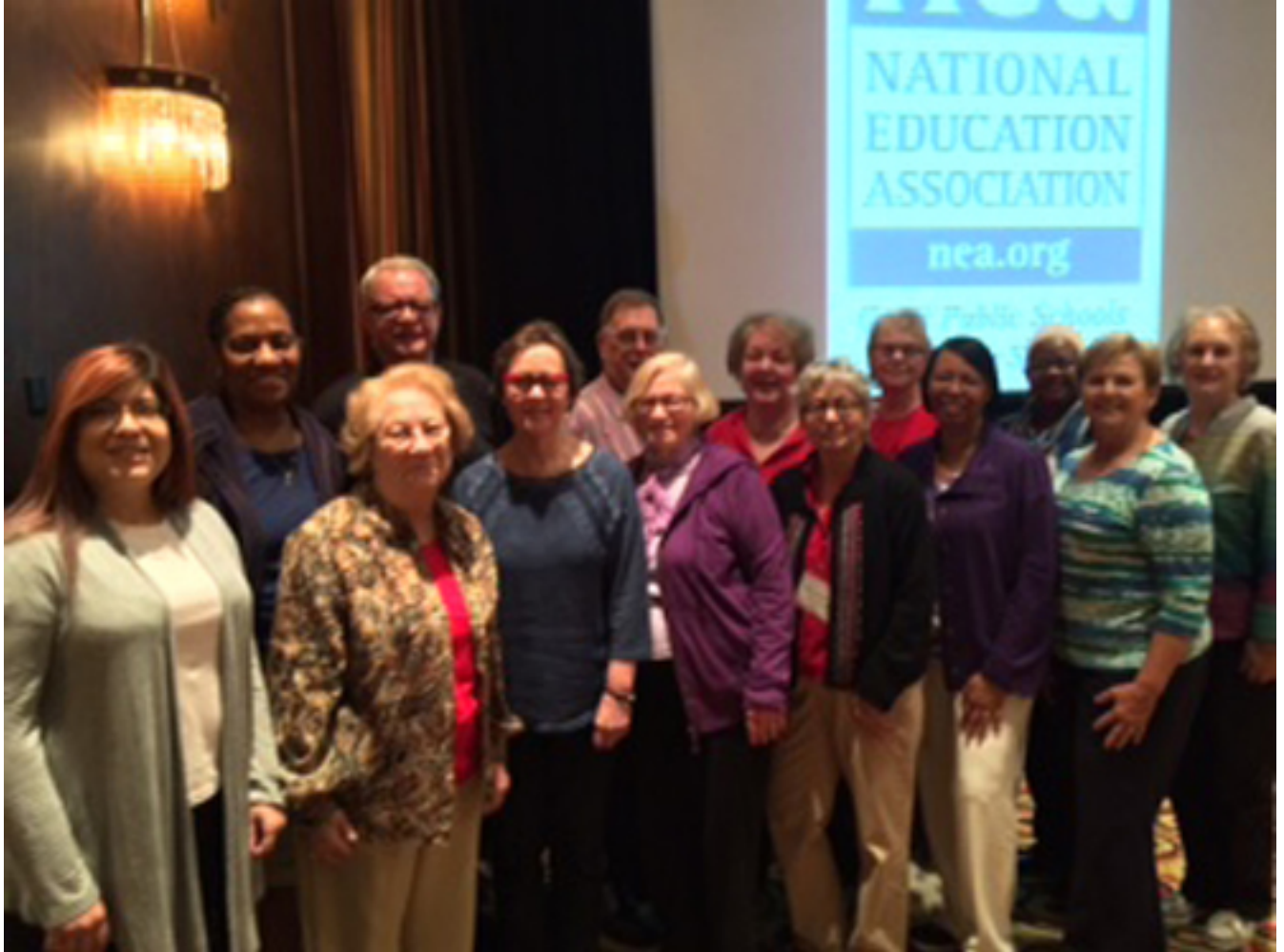
553 Marilyn R. Allen

519 Donald L. Traxler

Elected by Acclamation to the OEA-R Advisory Council were Jeff Corbin (Capital), Lorna Ferguson (EOEA) and Sue Cramer (NWOEA).

All candidates appreciate your participation in the election process.

OEA-R Participants at the 2015 NEA-R Organizing Conference in Atlanta, March 24-26, 2015



Front Row: Dinica Williams (Staff Liaison), Beryl Burkle, Jane Rahn, Marilyn Allen, Christine McVicar, Donna Smoot-Walters, Marti Huss and Judy Buschle Back Row: Peg Ham, Bill Sears, John Hoyes, Carol Kinsey, Chris Swank, and Deloris Rome Hudson