



NEWSLINE

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED



MISSION STATEMENT

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

2015-2016 Officers

John Hoyes, Chairperson

Carol Kinsey, Vice Chairperson

Peg Ham, Secretary

Claudia Miller, Newsletter Editor

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

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-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

According to Mike Nehf, Executive Director of STRS, the STRS call centers fielded approximately 49,000 calls in the months of October and November. Many of those calls dealt with Healthcare Open Enrollment. The Member Education Department conducted 64 Health Care Program Highlights Meetings for nearly 6,000 attendees in October and November. A video was viewed online by about 1,000 in-state members who were unable to attend the meeting. An email marketing the video was sent to 12,000 out-of-state retirees.

Members now have the ability to add or change beneficiaries through their Online Personal Account. Work began in Mid-December on the functionality to change death benefit and reemployed retiree beneficiaries.

In compliance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), STRS Ohio benefit recipients will begin receiving 1095-B forms now for tax year 2015. The 1095-B form reports each month during the year that minimum essential health coverage has been provided. All STRS Ohio plans provide minimal essential coverage, which protects members from having to pay a penalty tax for not having qualified health care coverage.

STRS Ohio will directly issue one 1095-B form to each benefit recipient who was enrolled in an STRS Ohio Medical Mutual self-insured plan during any month during 2015. STRS Ohio mailed 1095-B forms on January 19, 2016.

STRS Ohio's fully insured plans (Aetna, AultCare, HealthSpan and Paramount) are responsible for issuing 1095-B's for all non-medicare benefit recipient enrollees. Medicare benefit recipients enrolled in these plans will receive 1095-B forms either from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or their plan administrators.

The STRS Board continues to work on a funding policy. The staff presented a draft of a funding policy that included suggestions the Board members have made during previous discussions. The Board was scheduled to discuss the draft during their January Retreat.

The External Audit has been completed in December and STRS was given a clean, unmodified opinion; which is the best there is.

CEM Benchmarking compares STRS to other public pension funds in its database as well as its peer group, the other state retirement funds. Our investment costs in 2014 were \$218.8 million or 29.9 basis points. Our total investment cost of 35.7 basis points was below the peer median of 58.5 basis points. Our fund was low cost because we had a lower cost implementation style. We saved \$103 million by managing more of our funds internally than externally. The investment assets through November were \$72 billion.

Based on Board policy, staff compares the benefits provided by teacher retirement systems in other non-social security states each year. The last report was provided in November 2014. These states include: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio and Texas. Sandy Knoesal reported that pension reform has been prevalent in the last decade with 28 states making changes since 2010 and multiple changes in nine states since 2005. STRS Ohio compares favorably with regards to contribution rates. Service retirement benefit ranks at the 50th percentile. STRS Ohio ranks in the top quartile for COLA (cost of living adjustment) as one of the 12 states that have a statutory COLA that is not tied to inflation. STRS Ohio has the seventh richest benefit of the 13 systems for a 30-year benefit for a current retiree and also the seventh richest when comparing benefits available to new members.

Submitted by STRS Observer Rita Walters.

SERS

January 28, 2016 SERS hosted a Pension and Health Care Roundtable meeting at SERS' headquarters. SERS staff discussed potential pension reform as well as health care and legislative issue currently affecting SERS. The public was, as always, welcome to attend and listen to the discussions.

SERS continues to take the lead in advocating for the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act (HR711).

Thanks in part to an overwhelming response from SERS retirees, Congress passed legislation to reduce 2016 Medicare Part B premiums from the proposed \$159.39 to \$121.80 for those subject to the Medicare Part B rate increase.

ESP News

The OEA ESP Statewide conference is scheduled for February 27, 2016. The Conference will be held in Columbus at OEA headquarters. The conference is open to retired and active ESP. Watch for more information in Ohio Schools.

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

ECOEa: Saturday, January 30, 2016 East Central OEA Retirement and Financial Planning Workshop was held at the Courtyard Marriott in Canton for members and guests. Carol Kinsey, Kathleen Purdy and Sally Smith conducted the OEA-R discussion outlining the value of becoming a pre-retired member and the NEA Benefits that would continue after retirement. Other retirees and pre-retired members gave brief testimonies explaining why they joined. Support of the OEA-R portion was through another NEA-R Grant, "Media + Motivation = Members. " Please encourage your education members to consider becoming pre-retired. Information is available on our district website: <http://ecoea-r.ohea.us>.

With spring just around the corner, please consider attending an event this year to support the work of other retirees who share a common interest in the social, wellness and other educational issues that impact our profession. The NEA Retired Organizing Conference information is posted on our website. The OEA-R Statewide April Conference will be in Columbus at the STRS Building on April 26. Visit our district website: <http://ecoea-r.ohea.us> for additional information.

We have available positions if you are interested in short-term assignments. Please feel free to contact me to learn more about any short-term volunteer opportunities: ecoearetired@yahoo.com. Thank you for electing me as your district representative to support your interests.

Submitted by District Representative Kathleen Purdy

NEOEa: "Oh, the Places We Go" We will be celebrating NEA READ ACROSS AMERICA (RAA) during the month of March 2016. Plan to join us. You pick the day, the time, and the place. I want to help you have a wonderful RAA experience as you show students the joy of reading as a life long skill. Let me know what you are planning or if you need a place to read. Call the NEOEA Office (800-354-6794) and I will get back to you ASAP. Volunteer alone or with friends. Materials/resources are at: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/read-across-america>.

The NEOEA Megaconference is March 12 and you are invited to register. Call the office for more information. We will hold a Pre-Retired Workshop that afternoon and would like your support as retired members.

Our Intergenerational Mentoring Programs at Kent State University and Youngstown State University are starting another successful year.

Submitted by District Representative Beryl Burkle

NWOEA: NWOEA-R is hosting a "Meet-and-Greet Day" at the Hollywood Casino in Toledo, Ohio on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Any NEA/OEA/NWOEA and/or retired teacher/staff member who would be interested in attending this fun day, can RSVP to Sue Cramer by email scramer@toast.net or call the NWOEA office at 1-800-366-9632 by April 7, 2016. Attendees will need to meet in the casino's lobby area at 11:30 am and learn how to register for activities at the casino and where to go to eat lunch.

Submitted by District Representative Sue Cramer

SEOEA: Get out your new 2016 calendars so you can make note of several events available to you in the coming year. You can attend the OEA-R Statewide Spring Conference in Columbus on Tuesday, April 26th and the SEOEA Retired Luncheon on Thursday, November 11th. For SEOEA-R information visit <http://seoea-r.ohea.us> or link through OEA's website at www.ohea.org

Submitted by District Representative Christine McVicar

SWOEA: The SWOEa-R Executive Committee met on December 11, 2015, and began preparations for the 2016 calendar year of SWOEa-R. Lots of goodies were collected for the

Clermont County Homeless Shelter throughout the fall and Bill Sears delivered those prior to Christmas. We are off to a good start for our community project for the year. We will continue to collect throughout the winter and spring and be ready for another donation by June 2016.

Our Retirement Workshop is set for March 15, 2016, at the SWOEA office, starting at 5:00 pm with a dinner followed by informative sessions by STRS, SERS, NEA Member Benefits, and Dan Huss, Attorney. Along with these speakers we will be showing the DVD created by OEA-R showcasing the benefits of joining OEA-R as a pre-retiree as well as a retiree. Mark your calendars for March 15th workshop. The deadline registration cutoff will be March 7th. The \$10 registration fee will be returned at the workshop. We have a limited number of seats so contact SWOEA office at 513-771-3319 so you have a seat!

Other upcoming events for SWOEA-R include our General Meeting, scheduled for May 17th at the SWOEA office, 270 Northland Boulevard, Suite 224, Cincinnati, OH 45246. At this meeting our presentation topic will be Social Security and how it applies to STRS and SERS retirees. We will also be electing officers. If interested in running for an officer position (President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer) please contact Bob Beers, at bobeers1@roadrunner.com prior to March 17, 2016. Also, mark your calendars for an outing on June 15th 11:00 - 1:00 PM at the Szechuan House (11762 Lebanon Road, Sharonville, OH) with a guest speaker on Protecting Ohio's Families from Fraud and Identity Theft. More information will be out closer to the date.

Submitted by District Representative Judy Buschle

WOEA: The Mission of WOE-Retired is to support continued leadership and the maintenance of professional skills and to enhance the unique potential of each participating member. The purpose shall be to maintain professional contact with the education community and support legislation and benefits for retired education employees. WOE-Retired has meetings at 11 a.m. that include a program, meal and business the 3rd Wednesday of the month for March-June 2016 and September-December 2016. Locations vary throughout the district and all retirees are welcome to attend.

WOEA-R has three members registered to attend the NEA Retired Organizing Conference entitled "Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It" in San Diego March 22-24, 2016. Jane Rahn, along with first time attendees, Warlita Duvall and Nancy Mullins, look forward to an enlightening meeting.

March 16, 2016: The program will start at 11:00 a.m. at Olive Oasis, 7 E. Main St. Troy OH 45373. Nathan will present a talk about oils and vinegars. Samples will be available. At 12 noon we will move to La Piazza Pasta & Grill located at 2 N. Market St., Troy, OH 45373 for lunch (order from the menu) and the business meeting. RSVP one week prior to meeting by contacting: Emmy Brudzynski, Phone: 937-813-7661; Email: emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu.

April 20, 2016: 11:00 a.m. at Company 7 BBQ, 1001 S. Main St. Englewood, OH 45322. Program: Panel of presenters from Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, and University of Dayton will share *Educational Opportunities* for people over 60. Members will order lunch and a business meeting will follow. RSVP one week prior to the meeting by contacting Emmy Brudzynski (see above).

Submitted by District Representative Jane Rahn

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 a representative 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

This caucus honors the memory of Doris L. Allen, a teacher in central Ohio in the 1960s and 1970s who became an active member of the Human Relations staff of OEA. She worked diligently to advance the Human & Civil Rights of all those working in the educational system in Ohio. Allen was killed in an airplane accident while traveling to an NEA Human Relations Conference. The OEA Representative Assembly elected to change the name from the Black Caucus to the Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus to allow for a broader base of representation of all minority members who belong to the United Teaching Profession.

OEA DLAMC 2016 Membership forms are now available with a discounted rate for retirees. Contact Martha Mitchell, President at luggage@aol.com or (740) 221-3156 for more information or to join.

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.

Submitted by OEA-R Vice-Chair Carol Kinsey

OEA-R Spring Conference

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at the STRS Building, 275 E. Broad Street, 7th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215:

9:30-10 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
10-10:10 a.m. Introduction/Welcome
10:15-10:45 a.m. Legislative Update (Dan Ramos, OEA)
10:45 -11 a.m. Break
11-11:30 a.m. NEA Value Builder (Guy Kendall-Freas)
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Museum Overview (Museum Docent)
12-12:45 p.m. Lunch
1-3 p.m. Columbus Museum of Art Tour

The Columbus Museum of Art is located at 480 East Broad Street. Parking is free at both locations.

Send the registration form, along with your check for \$25 made payable to Capital District, by Friday, April 15 to the Columbus Education Association, Attention Jeff Corbin, 929 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205-1101.

OEA-R Spring Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone (Home)_____ (Cell)_____

I am planning to attend the Columbus Museum of Art Tour: Yes _____ No _____