



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED

www.ohea.org/oea-retired-members

OEA-R Newsline Spring 2016 Edition

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
David Bowen, Past President
Bill Sears, OEA Board of Directors

OEA-R NEWSLINE is the official publication of OEA-Retired
Claudia Miller, 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-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 expected the Board made decisions regarding the proposed changes in the STRS Health Care Program. The following changes were approved by the STRS Board taking effect in January of 2017.

Medical

- Discontinue Alere disease management program
- Increase emergency room copay for Medicare plans from \$65 to \$75
- Move Medical Mutual non-Medicare enrollees residing outside of Ohio to a Basic Plan administered by Aetna
- Increase urgent care copay from \$35 to \$40 in all plans
- Discontinue HealthSpan Plans

Prescription

- Discontinue coverage for proton pump inhibitors (PPI's), all available over-the-counter (examples are Nexium and Prilosec)
- At retail, adopt preferred network with \$10 additional copay at non-preferred pharmacies, and narrow retail network for Medicare
- Discontinue the diabetic 1/2 copay program
- Increase specialty drugs coinsurance percentage from 10% to 13% and per prescription maximum from \$500 to \$550

Eligibility Changes

- Discontinue Medicare Part B reimbursements for named survivors and beneficiaries who were age 65 by 2008 and either already a beneficiary or named beneficiary by 2008
- Discontinue sponsored dependent for unmarried retired teachers
- Change dependent children rate to a per child rate

Subsidy Changes

- Reduce STRS Ohio non-Medicare subsidy multiplier from 2.1 to 1.8 per year of service
- Phase-out Medicare Part B reimbursement over 3 years; reduce by 1/3 (to no less than \$29.90 minimum until completely discontinued in the third year)

During the May and June Board meetings there will be a review of 2017 Health Care Program Premiums.

John Morrow reported that investments were a plus 4.3% for the month of March. That leaves STRS at a negative 0.6% for the fiscal year with one more quarter to go in the fiscal year. There was a presentation by the International Equities Asset Class managers staff. More information was provided on the actuarial assumptions and the effects they will have.

Executive Director Mike Nehf reported that benefits counselors began calling 350 health care enrollees who are only enrolled in Medicare Part B while having a spouse who is enrolled in Medicare Part A. Unless the enrollee has been married for less than one year, he or she is eligible for free Medicare Part A. Counselors are making outbound calls to explain to the enrollee that free Part A is available and the steps that need to be taken with Social Security. In addition, counselors provide the member with a letter verifying STRS Ohio income so the member can also apply for potential spousal benefits with Social Security. These individuals are a subset of the 12,000 Part B only

enrollees with spousal Medicare information on file. Health care costs will be decreased by about \$1.4 million per year if these individuals are enrolled in Medicare Part A.

Employers are required to submit deposit and service reports for retiring members to confirm final earnings and service credit. STRS Ohio sent 413 reports to employers in the beginning of April for June retirement applicants. This is more than an 80% decrease from last year's number of 2,529 reports. Two years ago, STRS Ohio sent 1,427 deposit and service reports in the beginning of April for June retirement applicants. Reports for members retiring in July and August will be sent to employers over the next two months.

Submitted by STRS Observer Rita Walters

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-R is excited to announce our new schedule of events. Our upcoming events include: A talk by Graham Webb of the Fallen Feather Project and lunch at the Hofbrauhaus on May 10th, a tour of the Motts Military Museum and lunch at the Hidden Lakes Winery on May 26th; traveling the Amish Trail, which will be loaded with activities on June 6th. Our annual meeting and election of officers and board members will be held on June 15th at the Boat House Restaurant. Our very own CEA-R Notes will perform some of their wonderful musical selections. On July 13th, CEA-R will embark on a tour of Ohio Stadium with lunch at Mozart's Bakery and Piano Café. On July 27th, we will gather at the popular Clintonville Woman's Club and its famous Ham Loaf. We are sure to be inspired by speaker Mary Hiland as she attempts to take the mystery out of blindness, the mystery out of dog guides, and the magic out of Braille. Our group will assemble on August 22nd at the popular Worthington Inn to hear speaker Steve Ball give a presentation on the "Father of American Music," Stephen Foster. Next will be a two-day trip to Northern Ohio on August 10th and 11th. Some of the events include the Holden Arboretum, a dinner cruise, a bus tour of Cleveland, admission to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the famous West Side Market.

We are also taking reservations for "Christmas on the Riverwalk," a tour of San Antonio. More information can be accessed on our website, cea-retired.com

Submitted by District Representative Jeff Corbin

ECOEA: February 1, 2016, was the deadline to seek the district scholarship to attend the NEA-R Organizing Conference in San Diego with one ECOEA-R member applicant. Congratulations to Joyce (Hawkins) Williams from Alliance, who as a first-time attendee will write a summary to appear in our 2016 Summer Newsletter.

Several ECOEA-R members worked at the Stark County Board of Elections during the March 15, 2016, Presidential Primary.

Carole Eaton served as a trainer for poll workers, Kathleen Purdy assisted with scheduling these trainings along with clerical data analysis. Richard Ward was on the team to conduct voting for residents of assisted living and nursing facilities. If you worked in your area, please forward your information to: ecoearetired@yahoo.com. If you are available, committed and qualified, poll workers are needed for the November 8, 2016, General Election. Contact your county Board of Elections or visit the Ohio Secretary of State website.

The Repository and ECOEA-R member Mimi Bogard and her team from the Canton Area League of Women Voters co-sponsored Canton's Candidates Forum in the cafeteria at McKinley Downtown Campus (formerly Timken) on March 10th. These forums offered a meet and greet for voters to ask questions in order to make wise decisions at the polls.

March 30, 2016, was the "Take Back Our Schools" Education Summit / Press Conference inside the Choffin Career & Technical Center in Youngstown as the Community Leadership Coalition on Education fights against HB 70. (Academic Distress Commission/CEO and Collective Bargaining) <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov>. For more information, find them on Facebook at Youngstown EA or visit <http://youngstownea.ohia.us>.

The ECOEA-R Summer Newsletter will be available in early August with more information on the August 17, 2016 Annual "Not Back to School" Luncheon or visit our website at <http://ecoear.ohia.us>. This is by invitation only...and you are invited!

Submitted by District Representative Kathleen Purdy

NCOEA: The NCOEA-R Spring Workshop was held Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Bellville, Ohio. The twenty-eight members and guests in attendance were welcomed by Judy Novak. OEA-R member Chris Swank shared information on how members can stay involved and presented the OEA-R video.

The workshop focus was for active members who are getting close to retirement. Our guest speakers were John Buch from STRS and Guy Kendall-Freas from NEA Member Benefits. They shared information and answered many questions.

Drawings and door prizes were held. The winners of the two gas cards were Pam Frysinger and Kevin Oldaker. Winners of NEA Member Benefits prizes were Perry Brokaw, Joan Fithian, Pamela Frysinger, Dawn Porter, Elizabeth Pritchard and Sherry Young.

Submitted by District Representative Judy Novak

NEOEA: "Thank you" to all the readers that made our March 2016 Project of Read Across America a success. We really read across Northeastern Ohio in schools, libraries and recreation centers. We gifted new books and gently used books to places where we read. Some of our gently used books were given to students where our members also tutor. We want to carry the joy of reading to as many students as possible.

Volunteer with us in March 2017.

As a retired member of OEA-R, the intergenerational Mentoring Program is a very worthwhile program in which to be involved. The mentoring program at Youngstown State University is co-facilitated by Bonnie Harris and Harold Wilson. Please contact the NEOEA office to leave your name and phone number before the September school year begins to become a mentor. We are mentors for our profession. This year has been a very successful year on both campuses. NEA has given OEA – R grants for this project for the last eight years. We must be successful or these grants would not keep being approved. This program has received nationwide recognition and participants in the program have presented national workshops for NEA-Retired.

The OEA-R grant funded workshop for Pre-Retired Membership in OEA-R/NEA-R was presented after the Megaconference at Corporate College in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. All active and retired members were invited to participate in a forum describing what is available with OEA-R/NEA-R membership. This workshop was well attended. Members filled out membership forms and paid dues by check or online for life membership. We are on YouTube at OEA-R Working for Your Future.

Submitted by District Representative Beryl Burkle

SEOEA: SEOEA/SEOEA-R presented a joint conference on March 12th at the Ohio University Inn in Athens, Ohio. The morning was SEOEA's annual Spring Issues Conference, and the afternoon was a retirement seminar entitled "Ready...? Set...? Retire!" The retirement seminar, supported by a grant OEA-R received from NEA, attracted 25 members. The SEOEA-R E-NEWS was distributed on March 20th. If you would like a hardcopy mailed to your home, contact Christine McVicar at 260 Morris Drive, Cutler, Ohio 45724.

Submitted by District Representative Christine McVicar

SWOEA: SWOEA-R has been busy as usual. We headed the SWOEA Retirement Workshop on March 15th and had a great turn out with over 42 attendees. We had two pre-retirement signups for OEA/NEA lifetime membership. We had a great meal and lots of good questions and information provided by our speakers, Dan Huss, attorney; John Buch, STRS; and Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Members Benefit.

The SWOEA Spring Rep Assembly was once again well represented by our SWOEA retirees who actively participate on the various committees sponsored by SWOEA. We again had a raffle basket that helps fund SWOEA-R events and activities. Thanks to all those who participated in our basket raffle and signed up for lifetime membership in SWOEA-R.

SWOEA-R had a great turn out at the annual NEA-R Organizing Conference held in San Diego, California. Those in attendance were pre-retiree Gretchen Washington, and retirees Marti Huss, Judy Buschle, Deloris Rome Hudson and Bill Sears. We attended many great informational sessions on organizing, leading and advocating for public education. We are now informed and ready to begin planning for the 2017-2018 year for SWOEA-Retirees.

Scheduled meetings are as follows:

- The SWOEA-R General Meeting to be held on May 17th at the SWOEA office in Springdale. The guest speaker will be speaking on Social Security

- We will also be electing officers. Please plan on attending.
- A SWOEA-R outing at the Szechuan House on Lebanon Road in Sharonville, Ohio, on June 15 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The program, "Protecting Ohio's Families from Fraud and Identity Theft," will be presented by guest speaker Danielle Murphy from the Attorney General's office.
- The SWOEA-R NOT Back to School Brunch will be held on August 23 at Panera, Union Centre, 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Join us to have fun and for a chance to meet our new retirees and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Submitted by District Representative Judy Buschle

WOEA: The Mission of WOEERetired 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. WOEERetired has meetings at 11 a.m. that include a program, meal and business the third Wednesday of the month for March-June and September-December. Locations vary throughout the district, and all retirees are welcome to attend.

Nancy Mullins, Warlita Duvall and Jane Rahn attended the NEA Retired Organizing Conference entitled "Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It" in San Diego, March 22--24, 2016. Friends, food, and fellowship were enjoyed. Presentation messages were enlightening, humorous and inspirational.

During the WOEERetired March meeting members sampled and learned about using olive oils and vinegars and then enjoyed an Italian meal. The April meeting was informative as three representatives from the local higher institutes of learning shared programs available to seniors. Then in May members sampled local brews and learned about the history of brewing in Dayton while visiting Carillon Brewing Company at Carillon Historic Park.

June 15, 2016, Tour of Boston Stoker Factory begins at 11:00 a.m., 10855 Engle Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377. Lunch will be at Noon at El Rancho Grande, 7500 Poe Avenue, Vandalia, Ohio 45377. Short business meeting follows. RSVP one week prior to the meeting by contacting Emmy Brudzynski by email, emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu or phone, 937-813-7661.

September 21, 2016, 11:00 a.m., Company 7 BBQ, 1001 S. Main Street, Englewood, Ohio 45322. Program: "History, Mystery, Mayhem & Murder." This program is the actual accounts of murders that took place in Dayton presented by Woodland Historic Cemetery. Come and enjoy food, fellowship, and thrills. RSVP one week prior to Emmy Brudzynski (see previous paragraph).

Phil Long was elected to represent the Western District on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council for the term of September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2019. Therefore, at this time I want to thank you and let you know it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Council these past two terms and represent you, the members of Western.

WEOA-Retired held Pre-Retirement Planning workshops on April 14 in West Carrollton and April 25 in Tipp City. The new video created by OEA-Retired about membership entitled Working for Your Future...Keep Growing with Us that is on YouTube as well as on DVD was shared.

Submitted by District Representative Jane Rahn

CATCHIN' UP WITH INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING....

The Intergenerational Mentoring program is completing its eighth year of existence in Ohio. It began with six mentoring pairs at Kent State University in 2008. Mentoring pairs are education majors, usually in their junior or senior year of college, and retired teachers who live near the college campuses. For 2015-16, we had 79 mentors and 113 mentees, for a total of 192 people involved on six campuses. The campus facilitators are: Beryl Burkle and Nanci DiBianca at Kent State, Marti Huss at Miami University, Marilyn Allen at Ohio University, Vivian Brown at The Ohio State University, Sue Christian at Ohio University-Lancaster, and Harold Wilson and Bonnie Harris at Youngstown State University.

If you have retired in the last five years and want to continue your professional involvement in the field of education, please consider applying for membership in the Intergenerational Mentoring Program – our future teachers need you! There is reimbursement for most of your expenses and your involvement would be rewarding for you as well as the student(s) you mentor. Think about how all those years of experience in the classroom could be put to good use! There will be training held for each of the six campuses in the fall – don't wait to apply!

Interested? Want more information? Contact Marti Huss, State Coordinator for the Intergenerational Mentoring Program, at 513-385-6470 or mehuss@hotmail.com. The mentoring application may also be downloaded from the OEA website, or contact Kelli Shealy at OEA at 800-282-1500.

Submitted by Marti Huss

ELECTION RESULTS

In elections this spring, the following were elected to three year terms for the positions indicated. Carol Kinsey, OEA-Retired Advisory Council—OEA Board of Directors Representative; Marsh Buckley, NEOEA OEA-R Advisory Council Representative; Phil A. Long, WEOA OEA-R Advisory Council Representative; Judy Buschle, SWOEA OEA-R Advisory Council Representative; Barbara Catalano, ESP OEA-R Advisory Council Representative; Bonnie Harris, Higher Ed OEA-R Advisory Council Representative; Rita Walters, EOEA OEA-R Advisory Council Representative (vacancy-term ending 8/31/18).

The following were elected as Delegates to the NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly: John Hoyes, William A. Dorsey, Carol Kinsey, Donald L. Traxler, Homer O. Adams, Bill Sears, Marsh Buckley, Marilyn Allen and Marti Huss.

All candidates for all positions appreciate your votes.

OEA-R was well represented at the NEA-R Organizing Conference in San Diego this spring.



Front row: Marti Huss, SWOEA; Joyce Williams, ECOEA; Marilyn Allen, Capital; Warlita Duvall, WEOA; Jane Rahn, WEOA; Deloris Rome Hudson, SWOEA; Beryl Burkle, NEOEA; Christine McVicar, SEOEA; Donna Smoot-Walters, NEOEA. Back row: Gretchen Washington NEA Director from SWOEA; Jeff Corbin, Capital; Judy Buschle, SWOEA; Bill Sears, SWOEA; Mary Binegar, CEA; John Hoyes, EOEA; Peg Ham, NEOEA. Not pictured Nancy Mullins, WEOA; and Todd Jaeck, OEA-R liaison.



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED

www.ohea.org/oea-retired-members

OEA-R STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE

September 14, 2016

Save the Date and Register Now

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

Morning speakers include the OEA Officers, OEA Executive Director Sheryl Mathis, and OEA-R Staff Liaison Todd Jaeck. Other interesting and informational sessions are being planned.

By request, the afternoon will be devoted to the Retirement Systems. STRS Executive Director Mike Nehf will focus on the State of the STRS Pension System. Following that, STRS and SERS Health Care Personnel will be invited to speak on health care issues/changes for 2017 followed by questions and answers. We will again offer our ever popular session featuring our own retired members and their post retirement activities. Attend to “fiddle around” with OEA-R member Charlie Wilcoxon at the end of the day. You may just leave by dancing a jig or singing a familiar tune as you exit the Conference.

*Note: **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 September 2nd to be eligible for door prizes. Lunch is included in the fee. You will be notified by email once your payment is received. Mail form and payment to:

**OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED
STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE
ATTN: Todd Jaeck
P.O. Box 2550
Columbus, Ohio 43216-2136**

September 14, 2016

Save the Date and Register Now

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OEA-R NEWSLINE

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