

## OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - RETIRED

Mary Binegar, Chair  
Phil A. Long, Vice Chair

Barry Alcock	Becky Brown
Jack Boyd	Judy Buschle
Barbara Catalano	John Hoyes
Carol Kinsey	Lisa Scott Marshall
Jane Miller	Debby Huffman-Mirib
Tom Moscovic	Judy Novak
Kathleen Purdy	Wil Vickery
Rita Walters	Donna Smoot-Walters
Joni Watson	Beverly Woolridge

***OEA-R Mission Statement:*** *OEA-R is dedicated to providing services to meet the needs of its members, promoting member involvement within OEA, and supporting public education.*

### **REPORTS**

#### **CABINET/ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Members of the Cabinet are: Mary Binegar, Judy Buschle, Phil A. Long, John Hoyes and Carol Kinsey.

The OEA-R Cabinet met twice this summer to review our progress in 20020-2021 and establish short and long term goals for the future. After much discussion we set three short term goals survey our members, begin a monthly email from the Chair, and look at the overall organization of each of the district retired units. Our long term goals are to increase membership, engage more of our members in OEA-R activities, continue to clean up our member contact information, and establish closer relationships with other groups within OEA.

As the school began, we set up the Election Task Force to gain input on increasing participation in OEA-R Elections, posted a survey for member responses and have planned Roundtable discussions within each district to collect member input. At this time, all districts except two have held their Roundtable discussions and reported their comments.

We held an STRS webinar to help members better understand the challenges facing our retirement system. OEA-R representatives meet weekly with the STRS Work Group to support our OEA endorsed candidates. Additionally we held a virtual series on Racial and Social Justice. OEA-R has also formed a new Racial and Social Justice Committee to help inform our members and review our policies.

The Chair has been writing emails since August, and we have used the member email system to advertise several events. Our District Representatives are still contacting individual members to let them know we value their membership and to help clean up our contact lists. We will begin a membership drive soon to target two groups, those within five years of retirement and those who have retired in the last few years.

Additionally we worked closely with the Government Relations Department to coordinate activities for the 2021 elections and plan for the 2022 elections. The Chair and Vice Chair met with the OEA President and the OEA Executive Director to discuss the role of OEA-R within the OEA organization.

### **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Members of the committee are: Jack Boyd - Chair, Barbara Catalano, Debbie Huffman-Mirib, and Rita Walters. Jane Rahn Ex Officio member.

The responsibilities of the committee include: publishing the *Newsline*, updating the Facebook page, maintaining the web page (oea-r.oea.us), coordinating the basket raffles, presenting the annual awards, and providing other PR materials as directed by the OEA-R Advisory Council.

We have added an additional issue of the *Newsline* and the publication schedule has been modified to provide more timely information.

On our web page the current roster of Advisory Council members has been updated with photos.

We continue to strive to provide current information on our Facebook page.

### **MEMBERSHIP, GUIDELINES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Members of the committee are: John Hoyes – Chair, Barry Alcock, Judy Buschle, Carol Kinsey, and Beverly Woolridge

#### **Membership Updates:**

1. Updating of membership list continues. OEA-R currently has 8,320 members. Members have the responsibility to update their information when they retire and/or when their contact information changes.
2. The committee has developed four plans, including letters and promotional materials, to conduct membership campaigns to recruit and engage members. It is the committee's expectation that the number of ESP and Higher Ed members will increase.
3. A Membership Kit has been proposed to have a supply of the necessary materials readily available in each district.
4. The District Rep's. Annual Report form has been updated, as well as the accompanying appendices.
5. The committee encourages you to recruit a member as membership is everyone responsibility.
6. Volunteer to help your district membership person with the various duties/responsibilities of maintaining the various district membership s list, as well as participating in the various membership campaigns of belonging.

#### **Guidelines Updates:**

1. Four of five proposals to the OEA-R Guidelines were passed by the Fall Delegate Assembly and forwarded by the OEA-R Chair to the OEA President.
2. It is anticipated that more endorsed proposals by the Advisory Council will be presented at the Spring Delegate Assembly for the delegate's action.
3. The ESP dues reduction for Ohio membership is under consideration.

### **PROGRAM SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee are: Phil A. Long - Chair, Judy Novak, - Vice Chair, Donna Smoot-Walters, Kathleen Purdy, and Joni Watson

Charges:

- A. **STRS/SERS attendance:** Members are encouraged to attend virtual meetings of STRS.
  1. Send reminders and contact supplied by Rita Walters and Barb Catalano. This has been done for AC. May expand to membership and/or put on website.
- B. **Pre-retirement workshop sessions in each District:** virtual/in-person
  1. District/Retired Welcome and Membership Opportunities
  2. Proposal "What every educator should think about"– Guy Kendall-Freas
  3. STRS – representative from STRS will assist
  4. Grant incentive to get each District to host (when in person)

- C. **Read Across America: CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: READ** Committee: Dorothy Wilson(Capital-R), Cindy Endres(ECOE-R), Val Roldan(WOE-R), Nanci Dibianca(NEOEA-R), Becky Brown(SWOEA-R), Barry Alcock(Central-R), Becky Mayer-Radal(NCOEA-R) Rita Walters(EOEA-R), Christine McVicar(SEOE-R), Lisa Scott-Marshall(NWOEA-R), Judy Buschle, Mary Binegar, Phil A. Long, Chair  
Seventeen books for each District were purchased through NEA-R Grant funds. A booklist is available. Donated books will also be accepted, as long as, the book follows the theme of DIVERSITY. The books are currently boxed by District with ongoing discussion about distribution. Each book has an OEA-R bookplate. OEA-R offered around 25 book readings in 2021. There were 27,000+ views on Facebook and Youtube. The OEA-R Video Library:  
<https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>. We are pleased to report that this project follows the OEA strategic goal #4 – to advocate racial, social, and economic justice. Readers will continue in 2022 virtually adding to the library.
- D. **2021 Fall Conference:**
1. Virtual – days in September 30, October 7,14,21; format – 10-11:30 ; NEA-R presenters: Hilario Benzon and David Coleman.
  2. Racial and Social Justice Taskforce formed with Jeff Corbin Chair and Bob Maher Vice Chair.
- E. **Virtual Sessions of interest to retirees:** This is an ongoing discussion.  
Reviewed Summary from OEA-R/STRS webinar
1. Topics
    - A. Mental Health during Covid, Plans when Covid clears, Healthcare, Member benefits, travel
    - B. STRS Webinar: February 15, 2022 at 4:30
    - C. Technology for Retirees for Advisory Council March 3 at 7:00 PM
- F. **Spring Conference 2022** – ECOEA-R, SEOEA-R, EOEA-R May 17 Warther Museum
- G. **Strengthening OEA-R District organization pilot project** – materials, training assistance. Each District representative was asked to complete an organizational survey.
- H. **Kids Voting Ohio** – new non-profit, non-partisan organization to promote voting and democracy in public schools. OEA is a sponsor. Phil represents Ohio Association of Election Officials, another sponsor.

## **GRANT COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee are: Judy Buschle – Chair, Mary Binegar, and John Hoyes, and Phil Long.

Our NEA-R Grant this year focuses on building membership, increasing retiree participation and working with our O.N.E. (Ohio New Educators) and Aspiring Educators. OEA-R grant committee is excited to share what we've been doing and our upcoming events.

Our first grant activity for the year was looking at membership recruitment of retirees 1-2 years out from retirement. As part of the grant we also participated in the District Roundtables as a part of our goal to increase member participation and gather information for further grant initiatives. Our goal to increase membership has been to encourage our districts to hold pre-retirement seminars/workshops and to date several have already held them along with other districts scheduled for his spring. With the OEA pre-payment plan available to active members it makes it very easy for them to become lifetime members of OEA/NEA and all the benefits that goes with membership after retirement. We have been engaged with our O.N.E. members and are happy to announce Lisa Stovic is helping our retirees learn more about technology in an upcoming workshop. As in the past couple of years we are also supporting "Read Across America" which kicks off in March. In April we will be participating with the Aspiring Educator at their conference in providing raffle baskets and having an OEA-R table display. With the year slowly winding down we will begin to connect district local membership chairs about potential retirees to get information and an invitation to join OEA-R. Lists will be sent along with other information to help districts begin our OEA-R membership recruitment initiative. Many of our retiree members have continued to attend Leadership Councils and provide information and be a support to our actives.

### **LEGISLATIVE/OEA FUND COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee are: Co-Chairs Tom Moscovic (FCPE State Council Representative) and Wil Vickery (Legislative Representative), Lisa Scott Marshall, Jane Miller. Marti Franks Ex Officio member.

#### **OEA Fund (FCPE)**

The meeting was held on August 30. Discussion was based on increasing contributions to the OEA Fund by current retirees but also to find a way to find ways to have more retired members join OEA-R. A few ideas included some type of dues incentive, working through the District Reps, and contacting local leaders for retired members information from their respective locals. There is the possibility of a silent auction in the Spring. We will be continuing to discuss and plan. We will be looking at the possibility of a silent auction in the Spring.

Total contributions from the retirees 20-21: 55 of 8787 members contributed 9035.75.