



# NEWSLINE

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

## 2022-2023 Officers

Mary Binegar, Chairperson

Phil A. Long, Vice Chairperson

Judy Buschle, Secretary

Deloris Rome Hudson, OEA Director

John Hoyes, Past Chairperson

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

Jackson Boyd, Editor

## STRS



## May 2023 REPORT

The OEA-R members present at the meeting were Phil Long, Mary Binegar, Joni Watson, Jim McGreevy and me. Robert Davis was also in attendance. I was the only OEA-R representatives who spoke during public participation.

Chairperson Carol Correthers welcomed the new appointee for the Governor, Mr. Bishop. There were several signs all over the room posted by the ORTA group asking: "Where's Wade?" in reference to Wade Steen who had been the appointee by Gov. DeWine until May 5, 2023 when the governor's office announced that Mr. Steen's appointment had been rescinded and Mr. Bishop would be taking his place.

CFO Lynn Hoover began the meeting with a presentation concerning the Sustainable Benefit Enhancement Plan and other Updates. Ms. Hoover reminded everyone that Ohio law requires the Board's outside actuary to determine if a proposed benefit enhancement would materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system. The Board's pension funding policy complies with Ohio law, sets forth the goal of safeguarding members' benefits in the long-term and the funding objectives. The fiscal 2022 funded ratio is below its 100% funding objective and the 85% provision. No benefit enhancement is recommended by Cheiron, the board's outside actuary, at this time. The new Sustainable Enhancement Plan (SBEP) does all of the following:

- \*Complies with Ohio Law

- \*SBEP is designed to provide sustainability and manage the risk of future benefit cuts

- \*Plan can be utilized to augment the funding policy and scorecard assessment
- \*Fiscal 2023 budget amount \$0; de minimis enhancement \$830 million
- \*Board's pension funding policy will be reviewed by the board's governance committee; SBEP and framework can be included'

Mike Noble and Gene Kalwarski of Cheiron reviewed the presentation that Mike provided at the April Board Meeting. He also responded to questions that the Board had asked at the April meeting. Cheiron has determined that in the event the SBEP budget is zero, a de minimis enhancement would not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system. The de minimis enhancement amount will be no more than 1% of the actuarial value of assets, provided the Plan is projected to be fully funded in 20 years or less after the inclusion of the de minimis enhancement .

- \*This projection will reflect the latest known investment return for the current fiscal year and assumed returns for future years
- \*FYE 2023 currently projected at 5%

A motion was made to pay a one time 1% COLA beginning July 1, 2023. Also to offer a temporary 34 year eligibility for unreduced retirement benefits. The motion passed but not unanimously.

Ms. Sellers had asked at the last STRS Ohio Board meeting in April for a comparison of the state's five pension systems. STRS Ohio's actuary, Brian Grinnell provided that review. STRS Ohio current funded status looks similar to SERS and OP&F, but results look very different if STRS Ohio paid an ongoing 2% COLA. According to the presentation the market value funded ratio is as follows: OPERS - 93.0%, STRS Ohio - 78.4%, SERS - 77.3% OP&F - 76.6%. The projected years to 100% funded ratio: OPERS - 6 yrs, SERS - 12 yrs, STRS Ohio - 13 yrs, OP&F - 18 yrs.

Matt Worley, STRS Ohio CIO, reported that the Board had been working on developing a Statement of Investment Beliefs which was one of the recommendations from the Fiduciary Audit. There was a motion to approve the Statement of Investment Beliefs which passed but not unanimously. According to Mr. Worley the preliminary total fund return for April was +0.86%. The preliminary fiscal year 2023 total fund return is estimated: Gross return +5.29%, Net Return +5.19%. Total investment assets ended April at approximately \$88.7 billion; higher by \$1.0 billion in fiscal year 2023.

An initial review of the performance-based Incentive (PBI) Policy was provided by a representative from Aon McLagan. STRS wants to insure that the Plan will:

- \*attract, motivate, and retain top caliber professionals
- \*Provide competitive pay that balances internal equity with market competitiveness
- \*Drive exceptional long-term investment performance with appropriate levels of risk and cost
- \*Be fair, reasonable, and relatively easy to understand and administer.

McLagan found that the Plan is generally aligned with competitive market practice. For example, the plan does the following:

\*Includes staff who have direct impact on results or perform analysis that facilitates portfolio decisions.

\*Includes incentive maximums that vary by position.

\*Includes a mix of short- and long-term performance.

\*Rewards participants for value-add over policy benchmarks.

However, McLagan recommends STRS consider making some or all the following changes:

\*Measure all investment performance net-of-fees. (currently, there is a mixed use of net and gross Increase the minimum weighting to total fund performance from 10% to 20%).

\*Simplify the plan by removing one-year measures from portfolio and asset class components (currently weighted at 2-10% of total incentive opportunity).

\*"Clean-up" the plan document by ensuring plan provisions are clear and precise.

\*Move administrative policies into a separate document.

\*Adjust the absolute return provision to be a linear gradient (e.g., haircut equal

\*Institute a 1x positive return adjustment in positive years.

I hope more and more OEA-R reps attend the STRS Ohio Board meetings. You will understand what we are up against.

Submitted by: Rita Walters.



## **MEDICARE CARD SCAM**

The Ohio Department of Insurance is advising Ohioans, particularly those enrolled in Medicare, to be on the lookout for a new scam.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent the Social Security Administration, Medicare, and the Ohio Department of Insurance saying you need a new Medicare card or you need to turn in your paper card for a plastic card, it is a scam.

These agencies will not call you and ask for personal information unless they are returning a call to you.

Ohioans who suspect or have been victimized by a Medicare scam should contact the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-488-6070 or [proseniors.org](http://proseniors.org).

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

*Mary's Word's-*

As we wrap up one year, we begin to prepare for next year. Our main focus for OEA-Retired will continue to be increasing our membership and continually correcting our membership database.

This summer we will be doing some training for our action response team members. We will also be developing a training kit for each District. Joining one of these action response teams is a great way to become more involved and to actually help plan activities for your district retired members. You will be receiving more information about these teams over the summer and into the fall.

We know that there are many forces working against public education at this time. I sincerely hope you join with other OEA members in fighting against issue one in August. Please watch your email or text messages about opportunities to work together with the One Person, One Vote campaign. In the fall, you will also have the opportunity to take part in OEA's Public Education Matters campaign. Please reserve the date of September 30 for a unity event with other OEA members.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at OEA-R events in the coming year.

Submitted by: Mary Binegar, OEA-R Chairperson



## **THE TALE OF TWO ASSEMBLIES**

The OEA-R Delegate Assembly convened for its spring meeting at STRS on Thursday May 11, 2023. There were thirty-four delegates and twelve guests in attendance. As anyone who reads this knows, our gatherings have always been informed and enlightened by the active questioning and wisdom of Bill Dorsey. To say that his absence at this meeting was noticed is an understatement. We all learned plenty from our various speakers, and many of us asked good questions of clarity of our guests and officers. But let's face it; none of us is going to bring the insights Bill always brought. He is missed.

We sat for "unprepared" remarks and a short Q&A with STRS Director William Neville. He was not able to talk about the recent election of Pete Davidson to the STRS Board, taking the seat of the OEA-endorsed candidate and incumbent Arthur Lard. SB 6 would allow "retired reemployed" to serve on STRS Board, if the bill passes. There have been twenty-seven various allegations against STRS, and all have been found to be without merit. The STRS budget will increase 2.7%. Regarding PBIs (performance-based incentives), or bonuses paid to various STRS employees, Mr. Neville noted that only those making investment

decisions are eligible for these. PBIs are rewarded to those who beat board-approved benchmarks. There are no subjective components. The Board can grant a Cost of Living Adjustment to annual pensions only if the outside auditor (Cheiron) offers the judgment that doing so would not materially IMPAIR the INTEGRITY of the asset. As we all know, last year the Board approved a 3% COLA (as of 7.1.22), and this year has just approved a 1% COLA, as of 7.1.23.

The Assembly heard remarks from the OEA President Scott DiMauro. His big theme: How and why public education matters. Public education is under more of a threat than it ever has been. Fear, division, book bans, harmful legislation, supporting a privatization agenda, expansion of private school vouchers are all affecting our profession. We're all in the business of helping students become good citizens, and not merely good workers supporting the economy. **We need to strongly vote against the ballot issue moving the constitutional change to a 60% vote. No minority-rule! No 40%+1!** Scott addressed Mr. Lard's loss. OEA invested heavily in the campaign, conducted lots of research, conferred with consultations, and ran a stellar candidate. There seem to be two problems: 1. lot of folks who don't understand basic issues about retirement: pensions, retirement security, relations to legislatures; 2. we are up against a wave when it comes to our members, in their dissatisfaction with what has been happening at STRS.

OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing reported about HB1. Among the various facets of this bill is the attempt to change our tax code to a flat tax of 2.75% across the state. This would cost \$4 billion in lost revenue, affecting local governments as well as school districts. Makers of this bill actually have backed off, but the bill is still there. A small bit has been incorporated into budget bill, HB 33. The two universal voucher bills are HB 33 and SB 11. HB 33 increases the income-based voucher to 400% of poverty to be eligible. The estimate is that for current students in private schools this would cost over \$500 million and does not count new students. Vouchers would later cost \$1.1 billion. Remember that these vouchers are available not only to student in public schools who wish to transfer to private schools, but also to students who have always attended private schools and never attended public schools, ever.

The delegates, on the recommendation of the screening committee, endorsed the candidacy of Amy Butcher for the office of NEA Director #2. (She was subsequently elected at the OEA-RA two days later.)

Bill Lavezzi reported that he will propose the following New Business Item at the Representative Assembly: **OEA Government Relations will identify the names and electoral units of all Ohio legislators who voted in favor of legislation changing the vote required to amend the Ohio Constitution to 60%. OEA Government Relations will identify the names and electoral units of all Ohio legislators who voted in favor of legislation placing the issue on the August 2023 ballot. This information will appear in Ohio Schools and will be made available to OEA Fund meetings, including local screening councils, until the date of the spring 2026 Representative Assembly.** Bill's point, shared by all delegates, is that we need to begin to hold these legislators accountable for

their actions and decisions that run counter to the needs and the will of the people of Ohio, and most certainly of our members.

The OEA Spring Representative Assembly convened Friday May 12, beginning at 6pm, recessed at @8pm, and reconvened the next day, May 13, @9am. Here I must report that I was unable to attend the Assembly due to a small but significant medical issue. So, what follows comes directly from the thorough report of Deloris Rome Hudson, the OEA-Retired Rep to the OEA Board of Directors. Deloris! Thank you so much! Here it is:

**OEA Representative Assembly  
May 12-13, 2023  
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

1. Elected the following statewide candidates: Dwayne Marshall (Gahanna-Jefferson E.A.) – NEA Director #1 (with a term ending 8/31/2026) Amy Butcher (Westlake T.A.) – NEA Director #2 (with a term ending 8/31/2026) Dr. Lisa Johnson (Columbus E.A.) – OEA Board of Directors At-Large-1 (with a term ending 7/14/2026) Tonya Horn (Green Local Assoc. S.S.) – OEA Board of Directors ESP At-Large-1 (with a term ending 7/14/2026) George Hoover (Barnesville A.C.E.) – OEA Board of Directors ESP At-Large-2 (with a term beginning 8/1/2023 and ending 7/14/2024)
2. Approved the appointment of Eugene Norris to the OEA Appeals Board for a seven-year term ending August 31, 2030.
3. Approved the proposed 2023-2024 Resolutions Report, as amended.
4. Passed the following New Business Items:
  - SP-2023-01 – The Representative Assembly adopts the OEA Vision Statement as recommended by the Board of Directors: To create an Ohio where every student has access to a high-quality public education and where all members are supported, valued, and respected.
  - SP-2023-02 – The Ohio Education Association will provide the necessary budget and staffing support to carry out the action plan created by the Education Support Professional Educator Voice Academy. Specifically, the Educator Voice Academy actions will need staff and budget support to organize activities including but not limited to: Reaching out to ESP members at OEA meetings over the summer to raise awareness and gather support for a movement to increase wages and build respect for ESPs Conducting 1:1 conversations with ESP local leaders Organizing a meeting of ESP Presidents with the goal of getting member voice and state approval to build membership and power Organizing local listening meetings to gather member input Creating an ESP specific page on the OEA Website
  - SP-2023-03 – The OEA Representative Assembly endorses the recommendations of the OEA Educator Voice Academy Cadre on Social and Emotional Learning. Specifically, OEA's EPRMA Department will develop bargaining guidance that promotes the

inclusion of OEA members as active participants in the selection of Social and Emotional Learning curriculum, advocates for continued professional development that supports the effective implementation of that curriculum and requires OEA members to be partners in the development of a social and emotional learning curriculum implementation timeline at the local level. Bargaining guidance would provide a starting point for contract and/or MOU language that supports OEA member inclusion in these processes.

Recommended actions include: OEA staff locate, curate, and host links to and titles of available social and emotional learning resources for OEA members. OEA should develop and facilitate professional development and advocacy opportunities that stress the importance of educators prioritizing their social and emotional needs. OEA should support member-developed and member-led professional development opportunities focused on social and emotional learning curriculum and implementation.

- SP-2023-04 – The Representative Assembly endorses the OEA Public Education Matters initiative, and in support of building a movement to protect, defend, and strengthen public education in Ohio, the Ohio Education Association shall conduct a mass solidarity event in Columbus for members and allies in the Fall of 2023.
- **SP-2023-05 – OEA Government Relations will identify the names and electoral units of all Ohio legislators who voted in favor of legislation changing the vote required to amend the Ohio Constitution to 60%. OEA Government Relations will identify the names and electoral units of all Ohio legislators who voted in favor of legislation placing the issue on the August 2023 ballot This information will appear in Ohio Schools and will be made available to OEA Fund meetings, including local screening councils, until the date of the spring 2026 Representative Assembly. Here is Bill Lavezzi's NB item!**
- SP-2023-06 – OEA will investigate the feasibility and benefits associated with creating cohorts similar to Ohio's New Educators (ONE) with Member Ambassadors who can focus on the personal and professional needs of educators in the middle years and the final 10 years of their career and report the findings to the Representative Assembly in Spring 2024.
- SP-2023-07 – In order to increase the involvement of all OEA members a special members column or forum should be a regular feature in Ohio Schools Magazine.

#### Informational:

- There were 570 registered delegates at the assembly.
- Delegates contributed \$28,371.57 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education.
- OEA Fund giveaway winners:
  - \$500 – Susan Withers (Euclid T.A.)

- \$300 – Eric Olsen (Howland C.T.A.)
- \$100 – Jennifer Bahler (South-Western E.A.)
- The following Constitution articles were read by title for possible amendment at the December 2023 RA: Article VI – Officers; Article IX – Affiliates; Article X – Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws.

FYI.....

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

OEA-R Spring Conference on June 7, 2023, Malabar Farm State Park, Lucas, OH

OEA Leadership Conference on June 9-11, 2023, in Columbus, OH

NEA-R Annual Meeting on June 29-30, 2023, In Orlando, FL

NEA RA on July 3-6, 2023 in Orlando, FL

Submitted by: Barry Alcock



**OEA-Retired ELECTION INFORMATION**

**2024 ELECTIONS      July 15, 2024 to July 14, 2027**

**Officers**

Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
Secretary

**Unit Representatives**

CAPITAL  
EOEA  
NCOEA  
NWOEA

**Declarations of candidacy forms are due by February 15, 2024 to OEA.**

**Forms will be available soon at:**

**<http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>**



## NEWLY ELECTED ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Barry Alcock – CENTRAL  
Kathleen Purdy – ECOEA  
Jeff Slattery – SEOEA  
Carol Kinsey – AT-LARGE

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Charges:

- A. **STRS attendance:** Members are encouraged to attend meetings of STRS.
- B. **Pre-retirement workshop sessions in each District:** virtual/in-person
  1. Proposal: **encourage Districts to offer as it benefits Actives; retired act as support**
    - A. STRS
    - B. NEA Member Benefits
    - C. Completed: Central-R, ECOEA-R, EOEA-R, NEOEA-R, SWOEA-R; Planning: WOE-R NCOEA-R, NWOEA-R

- C. **Read Across America: “READ LOCALLY; READ GLOBALLY”**  
Committee: Dorothy Wilson/Carol Dixon(Capital-R), Kathleen Purdy(ECOEA-R), Val Roldan(WOEA-R), Nanci DiBianca(NEOEA-R), Damien Dagenbach (SWOEA-R), Barry Alcock(Central-R), Becky Mayer-Radel(NCOEA-R) Rita Walters(EOEA-R), Bob Maher(SEOEA-R), Lisa Marshall Scott(NWOEA-R), Judy Buschle, Mary Binegar, Phil A. Long, Chair \*Try to get non AC members for 2023-24.

Follow up with readers/committee

1. **Theme for 2023**
  - A. **“READ LOCALLY – READ GLOBALLY “ - 4,100 hits!!!!**
    1. Use OEA/OEA-R/Ohio authors
2. **Theme for 2023-24: “READ FOR DEMOCRACY”** - books about voting, leaders of democracy
3. **Partnering with OEA/Hilliard EA** who received a grant from NEA; Activities May 20

OEA-R Virtual Library - <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>

- D. **Virtual Sessions of interest to retirees:** This is an ongoing discussion.
1. Topics
    - A. **Technology for Retirees** – This session presented by OEA Staff Rachel Grabowski on April 27 1-2pm. This session plus more topics can be used in the future
    - B. **Communication – how do we get the word out about OEA-R events – POST within District!!!!**
    - C. **STRS/SERS (2) “So You Are Turning 65” – information about Medicare and STRS for an easy transition May 4**
    - D. **Work with Racial and Social Justice Committee – February 22, 2023 through NEA – a zoom with David Coleman on “Implicit Bias” on May 17 1-3pm.**
    - E. **Politics made easy – how to access information on political officials, legislation**
    - F. **Retired Issues: political, medical, financial(1) “GPO/WEP” – Judy Novak and Mark Hill represent OEA/OEA-R**
- E. **Spring Conference 2023** – NCOEA-R, NWOEA-R, June 7 Malabar Farm  
**Future: 2024: WOEAE-R/SWOEA-R; 2025: Capital/Central; 2026: NEOEA-R**
- F. **Starting and Strengthening OEA-R District organization pilot project:**  
 Each District Rep is to use the new **Starting and Strengthening Retired District Guide**. Each District representative should evaluate what their District has in place already and what needs to be looked at for the future.
- G. **OEA-R Roundtables:** The 2022 summary has been shared with the Committee Chairs.
1. **\*Continue using roundtables – what works best for the District to solicit input from their members – do at regularly scheduled event or informally.**
  2. **Held: SWOEAE-R, WOEAE-R**
- H. **Leadership Councils**
1. **TREMENDOUS response! Still hoping to involve more members as representatives. ASK!!!**
  2. **Talking Points to representatives every two months or more often if needed**
  3. **Membership Committee designed retirement certificate – distribute at LC**
- I. **OEA-R Congressional Contacts**
1. **Asked by OEA to have retired representatives**
- J. **Future Program and Services committee charges – continue charges for 2023-24**

## **OEA-R, ASPIRING EDUCATORS, ONE EVENT: “AUTHORS, EDUCATORS, ACTIVISTS”**

Series of one hour zoom sessions 5-6pm for retirees, actives(ONE), aspiring educators. Tentative dates: October 11,18,25

Submitted by: Phil A Long.



## **THE OEA FUND**

The committee met virtually since March. Our goal, as always, is to increase contributions from our retired members. The committee has been working with OEA to get a history of our members contributions and to implement a plan to get more retired members involved and to donate to the OEA Fund.

We also planned a Silent Auction which was held during the May Delegate Assembly. Participants generously contributed items for the auction and even more generously bid on the items.

We will be planning another silent auction for the Delegate Assembly in December. Thank you to all who contributed and bid on the items and to Becky Brown who has been the driving and organizing force behind the auction.

### **OEA-R Spring 2023 Silent Auction/Fundraising Report**

On Thursday, May 11, the OEA-R Legislative Committee held a Silent Auction to benefit the Ohio Fund. Purchases and donations raised \$2,138.00.

Members donated books, wine, handmade items, bath and body items, candles, artwork, collectibles, a zen garden, to name just a few. We even had a quilt featuring t-shirts representing OEA history! Thanks to the following members who donated items for the auction: Barry Alcock, Mary Binegar, Becky Brown, Judy Buschle, Barb Catalano, Carol Dixon, Mary Kennedy, Phil Long, Judy Malinowski, Lisa Marshall-Scott, Jane Miller, Tom Moscovic, Judy Novak, Kathleen Purdy, Deloris Rome Hudson, Kathy Turning, Nancy Wonson

OEA-R has been able to raise significant dollars by holding these auctions! Please start looking for items for the Fall Silent Auction. What will you bring?

Submitted by: Tom Moscovic

## MEMBERSHIP

The goal that the Membership Committee of Advisory Council, has been working on this past year is to increase our membership. We have a certificate to honor those who are retiring that has information about joining OEA-R.

If you know any teacher who retired this year, please let Lisa Marshall-Scott know, so we can get a certificate to them. You can find the membership form on the OEA-R website to pass on to anyone who is interested in joining OEA-R and stay involved.

Also please remember, if you change your address, phone, or email address, to let the Membership at OEA know. By doing this, it allows OEA-R Advisory Council District Reps to be able to let you know of upcoming events in your Districts events.



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### **Connect with Us Ohio Education Association**

225 East Broad Street  
P.O Box 2250  
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-228-1500  
Toll-free: 1-800-282-1500  
Fax: 614-228-8771

**VOTE NO  
IN AUGUST**

**ONE PERSON = ONE VOTE**

## DISTRICT REPORTS



### **ECOEA:**

As many of you are aware, the OEA Retired Advisory Council has been REV'd UP! Relevant, Engaged and Visible. We received public relations items to become even more visible around Ohio. Vehicle license plate holders were distributed with our logo. We completed large card messages to finish the headings of “#publiceducationmatters: Public Education matters because...” and “ #publiceducationmatters: Investment in our students means...” We shared our messages by having photos taken holding our signs for posting on social media platforms. To help promote the Public Education Matters campaign, we are asking YOU to share your personal story about why public education matters to you. [https://ohea.soapboxx.us/question/public\\_education\\_matters](https://ohea.soapboxx.us/question/public_education_matters)

Much thanks and appreciation for voting in the OEA Elections for your ECOEA Candidates. Please consider participating in our activities as your time allows. You are always welcome. Have a great Summer.

Submitted by: Kathleen Purdy



### **EOEA:**

Eastern OEA-R continues to have our last Friday luncheons in Zanesville at the Olde Falls Inn. We are looking forward to taking advantage of their new patio this summer.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact us at: [oea.retired@gmail.com](mailto:oea.retired@gmail.com) for details and directions.

Submitted by: Jack Boyd

## **NEOEA:**

NEOEA-R Organizing Committee began the year by hosted a session on NEOEA Day, October 14, 2022. The session was held at the Cleveland Kid's Book Bank. The NEOEA R members sorted, cleaned, repaired and packed books for distribution to various agencies.

The NEOEA-R Organizing Committee hosted 2 workshops at the NEOEA Megaconference 2023. The committee also provided a pre-retirement session which was attended by over 30 active members.

The NEOEA Retired Spring Conference was virtual this year on March 28, 2023. The following sessions/speakers provided retired members a wealth of information; Scott DiMauro, OEA President; Legislative Update OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing; STRS Update Tamla Cole/SERS Update Cameron Vaughn; NEA Member Benefits Guy Kendal-Freas; and Patrick Shepherd from Cleveland International Film Festival and Film Slam. The conference was enjoyed by all.

The NEOEA Organizing Committee submitted an article to the summer issue of News & Views, the newsletter for NEOEA Association active teachers. The article gave information on how to become pre-retired, ways to stay involved after they retire and NEA/OEA benefits they would continue to enjoy.

Submitted by: Donna Smoot Walters



## **NCOEA:**

We had four retired delegates attend the OEA Representative Assembly in May. Becky Mayer was elected as our NEA-R delegate to the summer convention in Orlando, Florida.

We are looking for members to participate in an Action Response Team (ART). This team will assist OEA-R districts with membership engagement, civic engagement, and supporting active locals. The first training will be held June 21 – 22 in Columbus. Please contact Phil Long ([palciv13@gmail.com](mailto:palciv13@gmail.com)) if interested.

We had 23 members registered for the spring conference held June 7, 2023 at Malabar Farm. We toured the home and farm of Louis Bromfield, a writer and conservationist. He was one of the earliest proponents of sustainable and organic farming in the United States. We had lunch at the Malabar Farm Inn Restaurant. This was once a mill and stage coach stop until the 1840's.

Judy Novak participated in a GOP/WEP lobbying cadre with other NEA members in Washington, D.C. They met with Senators, Representatives and legal assistants to discuss repealing the GOP/WEP which unfairly penalizes Social Security benefits of public employees. Judy stopped at the offices of Ohio Representatives Joyce Beatty, Troy Balderson, and James Jordan. She also

accompanied a group to Representative Jennifer McClellan of Virginia. This state is not affected by GOP/WEF but they were interested in hearing our stories.

We are planning our annual “ Not Back to School “ lunch in August at the Blueberry Patch. More information will be coming later.  
We hope to see you there!

Submitted by: Judy Novak



### **NWEOA:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Back Not to School Breakfast” will be Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We will meet at the newly opened restaurant called The Toasted Yolk, 2020 Tiffin Ave Findlay, Ohio 45840. At this event will be a short meeting to update members on what is going on with OEA-R and opportunities to get involved in NWEOA-R activities. We will have a few prizes and it will give members a chance to socialize with other retirees from NWEOA. Look for more information in August about sending in your RSVP. Hope to see you there.

It is not too late to get involved in the ART team this year, if you still want to get involved but were unable to attend the training, there are still ways to help please let the NWEOA office know at [nwoea.center@gmail.com](mailto:nwoea.center@gmail.com).

Submitted be: Lisa Marshall-Scott



### **SWOEA:**

SWOEA-R members continue to serve on many committees in order to support public education, public school educators, and support staff. Our goal is to make a difference!

Our members enjoy each other’s company at our social events: “Not Back to School Breakfast,” Holiday Lunch, Trips to a local Winery, and a summer luncheon at a Brewery! Besides drinking and eating we also go to places of interest in our district.

Thanks to the OEA and OEA-R officers for attending our events!

We raise money for “The Ohio Fund” as well as for our use by holding raffles on items donated by our members. We also support the SWOEA Silent Auction to benefit “The Fund.”

The SWOEA-R Executive Committee has been working to handle the business of the association. Our SWOEA-R Executive committee meets regularly (via zoom and live) to plan how to best serve our membership. Information is shared via newsletter as well as posting on the SWOEA Website and FB page. Members are kept informed via emails, letters, and phone calls.

Our “Read Across America” chair Damian Dagenbach helped our members support “Read Across America” by creating recordings of favorite books. Thanks to Becky Brown, Judy Buschle, Damian Dagenbach, and Haven Reardon for participating in this project.

We held informal Round Tables this year to get feedback from our members in order to improve program delivery. We also had NEA Benefits presentations at both the Fall and Spring SWOEA RA.

We also attend Council Meetings (when invited). Three members attend their selected councils. We’ve worked diligently this year to Inform active members about the benefits of joining OEA-R.

OEA-R Membership materials were distributed to local Presidents at Council Meetings as well as the Presidents Plus Two Spring Event. We encourage our active members to become pre-retired members!

Judy Buschle and Deloris Rome Hudson attended the NEA-R Conference held in San Francisco, Ca. They also attended the NEA Leadership Summit.

Members attended the workshop sponsored by the OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee.

We are excited to be a part of the OEA ARTeam and look forward to the training this summer.

Our General Meeting will be held at the SWOEA Office on May 25th, refreshments at 5:00 and meeting at 5:30. Dues will remain the same - \$30.00.

We have some fun events planned: Wine tasting at the Vinkolet Winery July 25 at noon. A trip to Carillon Park and a visit to a brewery are also being planned.

Thanks to Bob Beers for his years of service on our SWOEA-R Legislative Committee. Bob has also shared his expertise on Constitution and By-Laws. He has made a positive and long lasting influence on both SWOEA and SWOEA-R.



Deloris Rome Hudson, Judy Buschle, and Becky Brown attending the OEA-R Advisory Council meeting May 10, 11, and 12. On May 10, Deloris, Judy, and Becky went to the State House to advocate for One Person, One Vote. Sadly, the legislature did not listen...

SWOEA-R will be working to defeat this heinous legislation in August.

Here are positions that our members hold:

Deloris Rome Hudson: SWOEA-R President. SWOEA Executive Committee, SWOEA Convention Planning Committee, SWOEA HCR Committee, OEA Board of Directors, OEA BSA Committee & Cadre, OEA-R Cabinet, OEA-R Advisory Council

Gretchen Washington: SWOEA-R Vice President, SWOEA Representative on the Professional Efficacy Committee, ARTeam

Marti Huss: SWOEA Convention Planning and Elections Committee, SWOEA-R Newsletter Editor, and SWOEA-R Membership Chair

Haven Reardon: SWOEA-R Secretary, SWOEA Leadership and Development Co-Chair, OEA Leadership Development and Training Committee

Johnny Huston: SWOEA-R Treasurer

Judy Buschle: OEA-R Secretary, NEA-R Grant Committee

Becky Brown: OEA-R Advisory Council, OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee, OEA-R Legislative Committee, OEA-R Silent Auction Committee, SWOEA Executive Committee, SWOEA Legislative Co-Chair, SWOEA Leadership Development, and Scholarship Committees, ART Team

Damian Dagenbach: SWOEA-R "Read Across America" chair, SWOEA Convention and Planning Committee, and SWOEA Elections, Legislative Chair

Submitted by: Becky Brown and Deloris Rome Hudson



### **WOEA:**

WOEA has had a busy 2nd half of the year. Our members were introduced to the West Social Tap and Table. This is a new food hall concept in Dayton. They then toured the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

We also toured Crayons to Classroom. Crayons to Classrooms is a free store for teachers from under-funded preK-12 schools that serve students living in poverty. They serve schools in Ohio's Miami Valley with 60% or more of their students participating in the National School Lunch.

Our members donated items to the nonprofit Dear Dinah which serves women that are in or survivors of human trafficking and also had a speaker from STRS.

We had a great year and are looking forward to what is yet to come.

Submitted by: Joni Watson

