



# NEWSLINE

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED



## OEA-R Newsline Summer 2018 Edition

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

#### 2017-2018 Officers

John Hoyes, Chairperson

Bill Sears, Vice Chairperson

Peg Ham, Secretary

Carol Kinsey, Board of Directors  
Representative

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

#### OEA Campaign 2018

OEA-R/NEA-R Members CAN Make a  
Difference

OEA Campaign 2018 is now in active mode. OEA-R/NEA-R members are requested to become involved!!! There are several options for OEA-R involvement in this Campaign but THE ONE option that every member can exercise is to **VOTE!** There is

absentee voting, early voting, or voting in person at the polls on November 6. There are opportunities to become involved in individual Campaigns by contacting the candidate's campaign directly or the Party Chairperson in your County. Sharing information about OEA endorsements with family and friends is a powerful option. Educators are often looked to as informed sources of who will best serve PUBLIC EDUCATION. It is key in these challenging times to remember that OEA endorsements are made on the basis of who will best serve the interests of PUBLIC EDUCATION, not necessarily other issues which members may have strong personal opinions about. VOTE your profession (which in turn helps strengthen STRS). If you are having a group event with at least 30-50 people at your gathering, you can contact OEA President Becky Higgins with a request for Rich Cordray or one of the other statewide candidates to attend your event. The request does need to go through Becky and would be dependent upon the candidate's already committed schedule.

All statewide candidates for the 2018 election were invited to screen with OEA. Local House and Senate District screenings are currently taking place with all

candidates invited to participate. There are a few State School Board seats to be elected this year and those screenings will take place after the nonpartisan filing deadline on August 8. Be sure to check your Election Issue of Ohio Schools for a comprehensive listing of all OEA endorsed candidates.

Incumbent **US Senator Sherrod Brown** was screened in Columbus on September 30, 2017 and received an NEA Endorsement in early October 2017. (One other candidate in that race screened with OEA)

The OEA FCPE State Council met on March 9-10 to screen statewide candidates with the exception of Gubernatorial candidates, as there were contested primaries for those nominations and judicial candidates. On March 10 the OEA FCPE State Convention approved the following State Council recommendations:

**Attorney General-----Steve Dettelbach** (Candidates from both parties did screen)

**Auditor-----Zach Space** (only Mr. Space screened)

**Secretary of State----Kathleen Clyde----** (Candidates from both parties did screen)

**Treasurer-----Rob Richardson----** (only Mr. Richardson screened)

On May 18-19 (post Primary) the OEA FCPE State Council screened the Gubernatorial Candidates and Ohio Supreme Court Justice candidates. The OEA FCPE State Convention approved the following recommendations on May 19:

**Governor----Richard Cordray** (Only Mr. Cordray screened)

For **Ohio Supreme Court Justice** beginning January 1, 2019 **Michael P Donnelly** was endorsed (both candidates did screen)

For **Ohio Supreme Court Justice** beginning January 2, 2019 **Melody J Stewart** was endorsed (both candidates did screen)

I represented OEA-R/NEA-R during each of these screenings as the OEA-R Alternate while our OEA-R FCPE Representative Pam Smith continues to recuperate. OEA-R had a voice for all Statewide Screenings.

As of June 8, 2018 OEA records indicate there are 9,228 OEA-R/NEA-R members but only 112 have contributed financially to OEA FCPE. Between September 1, 2018 and June 8, 2018 those 112 members have contributed \$14,390.00 for an average of \$127.86 per contributor. If every OEA-R/NEA-R member contributed \$15 we could raise well over \$100,000 just from OEA-R/NEA-R!!!! Contributions can be made online at any time by going to [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org), then click on the menu bar and scroll down to DONATE in the purple box. You can make a onetime donation or a continuous donation.

This is your opportunity to make a difference for your colleagues and your profession as we unite to strengthen GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS for all students. Please feel free to contact OEA Government Relations (1-800-282-1500) or me ([Cskinsey@aol.com](mailto:Cskinsey@aol.com)) with any questions you may have.

*Submitted by Carol Kinsey, OEA-R FCPE State Council Alternate Carol Kinsey*

### **STRS**

At the May STRS Ohio Board of Directors' meeting the Board interviewed four Actuarial firms that returned RFP's. Our contract with Segal has expired and we needed to either rehire Segal or change to another firm. The four firms that returned RFP's were GRS Retirement Consulting, Milliman, Cheiron and Segal. Each firm had thirty minutes for its presentation. The Board reached a consensus decision and

authorized Mr. Nehf to negotiate a contract with Cheiron.

Mr. Nehf reported that after a 33-month project, STRS Ohio staff and vendor successfully upgraded the STaRS pension fund management system to version 10 from version 8.3. The new software went into operation on May 8. The project required a sustained commitment from staff from multiple STRS Ohio departments, as well as a large contingent of contractors from Vitech, Inc. While the upgrade was implemented six months later than originally planned, it was completed within budget. The STaRS system enables all necessary pension fund management functions, such as maintaining member information, accepting contributions from employers, paying monthly benefits and providing health care benefits. The Member Self Service (MSS) and Employer Self Service (ESS) secure web portals are also part of the STaRS system and were upgraded. STRS Ohio now operates on the latest version of Vitech's software. Staff anticipates operating on version 10 for about five years before another upgrade project will be necessary.

April was another good month for both absolute and relative investment performance. The investments are at approximately 8.7% for the fiscal year to date for 2018. The preliminary STRS Ohio total fund return for the month of April was 1.0%. Investment assets increased in April to an estimated \$77.7 billion from \$77.3 billion at the end of March and \$75.1 billion at the beginning of the fiscal year 2018.

Rob McFee and Jeff Rhodes won their election to active seats on the STRS Ohio Board of Directors. They will begin their terms on September 1, 2018. Tim Myers will be retiring on June 1, 2018. That means

that May was his last meeting to serve on the STRS Board. In April, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Ohio House of Representatives and the President of the Senate jointly appointed David Gruber to an investment expert seat on the Retirement Board. Mr. Gruber is the director of Risk Advisory Services for Holbrook & Manter, CPA's. The term for this seat runs through Nov. 4, 2020.

The STRS Ohio Board approved the Health Care Premiums for all plans offered through the STRS Ohio Health Care Program for 2019. A complete list of these premiums is posted on the system's website or may be obtained by calling the toll free number 1-888-227-7877. About 92% of plan enrollees will have 2019 health care premiums equal to their 2018 premiums. Approved dental and vision plan premiums for 2019 are essentially unchanged.

The STRS Ohio Board of Directors also voted to extend the Medicare Part B Reimbursement for one year. Under this program, benefit recipients currently enrolled in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program and Medicare Part B receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B Premium. About 85,000 benefit recipients receive this reimbursement that was set to be reduced to \$0 beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

The next meeting of the STRS Ohio Board of Directors will be June 21, 2018.

*Submitted by Rita Walters*

## **SERS**

Russell Investments presented an education session for the Board regarding SERS' tactical asset overlay program. SERS has been a client of Russell Investment for more than 25 years, but only began the tactical overlay program three

years ago. In that short time period, the program has added more than \$30 million in excess investment returns to the Total Fund.

The overlay program is not an allocation but an active management strategy within SERS' existing asset allocation. While SERS' staff continues to manage assets in the portfolios, Russell is given the discretion to increase or decrease up to 4% of equity and bond positions based on the economic conditions to maximize investment returns. SERS' CIO, Farouki Majeed, said that an added bonus of working with Russell is that staff receives insight into its processes, which helps staff better manage its portfolios.

### **Investments Quarterly Report**

Wilshire Associates provided the Board with an update of current investment conditions in the U.S., and SERS' third quarter investment results for FY2018.

Despite the stock market being slightly down for the quarter, Lindberg noted that the U.S. economy remains strong with good jobs reports, inflation at the Federal Reserve target, rising wage growth, and continued borrowing by households.

Wilshire addressed the concern that the current economic cycle is nearing its end and the U.S. is heading toward a recession. She pointed to signs that growth has peaked: inflation is beginning to rise, and the Federal Reserve tightening monetary policy as indicators that a recession is becoming more likely.

SERS' investments continued to perform well when compared to all other U.S. public pension funds. Despite a quarter where the U.S. stock market was down -0.76%, SERS' Total Fund gross-of-fees gain of 0.79% ranked 9th in the nation. Over one year, SERS' 13.03% gain also ranked 9th nationally, its three-year return of 8.54% ranked 4th, and its five-year return of 9.32%

ranked 13th. These were unprecedented numbers for SERS' investment returns.

### **Website Redesign: Same Address, New Look**

The newly redesigned website is more intuitive, easy to navigate, equipped with dropdown menus, responsive to all types of learners, and is compatible with both mobile and desktop platforms.

SERS invites you to take a look:

[www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org).

### **Health Care Update**

SERS presented the 2019 proposed rates for SERS' self-insured medical plans and prescription drug coverage. Bennett discussed the impact on the proposed rates of various recommendations for benefit changes. She also suggested that the Marketplace Wraparound and early Medicare programs initiated by the Health Care Department, along with the prescription drug Marketcheck and favorable Medicare Advantage rates likely will lower premiums and bring health care costs down in the coming year.

Proposed changes to the Medicare medical plan design included decreasing specialist office visit co-pays to \$30; increasing chiropractic co-pays to \$20; and changing the ambulance benefit from coinsurance to an \$80 co-pay. Proposed changes to the non-Medicare medical plan design included a change to the emergency room benefit from coinsurance to a \$150 co-pay.

Dental and vision rates also were discussed. The proposed dental rates for 2019 increased from \$27.81 to \$28.09 for benefit recipients; \$55.62 to \$56.18 for benefit recipients and one dependent; and from \$83.70 to \$84.54 for benefit recipients and two or more dependents. The proposed vision rates for 2019 remained the same with \$7.11 for benefit recipients; \$14.22 for benefit recipients and one dependent; and \$16.70 for benefit recipients and two or more recipients.

## **Monthly Retirement and Survivor Benefit Transactions**

For May, the SERS Board approved 538 active members for service retirements, and 19 survivor benefits for spouses and/or dependents.

*Submitted by SERS Observer Barb Catalano*

## **CONTACT YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

STRS 1-888-227-7877 or [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)

SERS 1-800-878-5853 or [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org)

OPERS 1-800-222-7377 or [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org)

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **CAPITAL:**

I hope that you are enjoying the summer weather. The Capital District has a myriad of activities planned for the fall season.

On September 6th, we will once again tour the Franklin Park Conservatory, and visit the new children's area. On September 18th we will journey to Zanesville to visit various places, and also travel to the home of John Glenn.

October will find some of us visiting Niagara Falls from the 3rd to the 5th. The area should be beautiful this time of the year.

On October 11th, we will have lunch at a perennial favorite, the Clintonville Woman's Club, with guest speaker Susan Reid. Susan will give a presentation on Johnny Clem, the young drummer boy of the Civil War. On the 19th we will visit the newly renovated Barber Museum in Canal Winchester. The building is loaded with items found in barbershops from the "olden" days. We will have lunch at the Blystone Farm Restaurant, also found in Canal Winchester.

On November 13th, it will be time to board the bus and travel to Medina and visit

various places such as Root Candles, Miss Molly's Tea House, the Toy and Train Museum, and Castle Noelle. We will most likely make a quick stop on the way home to Der Dutchman. Our annual silent auction will take place sometime at the end of the month. This event, a huge favorite, takes place at Berwick Party House.

To celebrate the holidays this year, we will attend this year's La Comedia production of "White Christmas", on December 7th.

Tickets will sell quickly, so you want to be sure to buy them before the posted deadline.

*Submitted by District Representative Jeff Corbin*

**ECOEA:** ECOEA-R members and guests are invited to attend the Annual ECOEA-R Not Back to School lunch on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. Join us at 11:30 AM in the beautiful, historic Victorian Room at Mulligan's Restaurant and Pub, 4118 Belden Village Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44718. Each person will order their choice from the menu and be responsible for their charges. This is designed as an enjoyable social event to catch up with former friends and make some new ones. There may be a door prize or two. Also joining us that day will be an OEA-R member who is one of the two Retired Trustees serving on the STRS Board, Rita Walters. She will provide a brief STRS update and answer questions you may have. We welcome OEA-R members from other OEA Districts. Mulligan's is now under new ownership and management so for that reason this year advance reservations are REQUIRED. Please let me know no later than August 9 if you will be attending. You can email at [Cskinsey@aol.com](mailto:Cskinsey@aol.com) OR text or call me at 330-495-2318.

*Submitted by District Representative Carol Kinsey*

**NCOEA:** Our "End-of-the-Year" Luncheon was held May 24, 2018 at "The Old Bag of Nails" in Mansfield, Ohio. We were glad to welcome newly retired member, Dan Rueger. Those in attendance were Dan Rueger, Becky Mayer, Perry Brokaw, Joyce Skocic, Chris Swank, and Judy Novak. We had the opportunity to visit with active members from the Mansfield School District who were also celebrating their last day.

Becky Mayer has agreed to be our webmaster. We look forward to being able to access pertinent information concerning Education issues. Information concerning our future meetings and social events will also be posted. You will be able to access the website through OEA's website.

Becky Mayer planned to attend the Summer Leadership Academy as a member of the retired team.

Future meetings include:

"Not Back to School" Brunch on August 9th at 11:00 Location: IHOP Restaurant, Lex-Springmill Rd., Ontario

"Holiday Luncheon and Ornament Exchange" on December 6th Location: To Be Announced



*Submitted by District Representative Judy Novak*

**SWOEA:** SWOEA-R Executive Committee met on June 8, 2018, to plan out the

upcoming year. The new officers were invited to this the last meeting of the 2017-2018-year. New officers for the upcoming 2018-2019, year are President, Deloris Rome Hudson, Vice-President, Gretchen Washington, Treasurer, Judy Buschle, and returning Secretary Haven Reardon. Along with the officers we had our executive council, Marti Huss, Bill Sears, and Bob Beers in attendance. The two main goals reviewed were to increase our membership and attendance at activities along with a new goal of FCPE funds increasing. As more and more teachers move to the retirement status we need to reach out and engage them to make sure they have not retired from the profession. We need to keep them informed and active to continue making public education a priority for the students that depend on educational professionals to make their lives better in today's world. We have a calendar of events planned beginning with "Terra Cotta Warriors," late July/early August 2018. We will be sending out our first 2018-2019, SWOEA-R newsletter in August of upcoming events for the year.

*Submitted by District Representative Judy Buschle*

**WOEA:** April 18 WOE-R co-hosted the OEA-R Spring Conference at Carillon Park with SWOEA-R with 15 WOE-R members attending. Participants experienced the park area, heard from OEA-R officers, STRS Board member, Rita Walters and SERS observer Barb Catalano, our own enthusiastic Sandy Dobberstein on her role at the Cincinnati Zoo and SWOEA-R Marti Huss and her Lighthouse tours. WOE-R organizing members: Sandy Dobberstein, Jane Rahn, Pat Lynch, Debbie Owens, and Dawn Wojcik – THANK YOU!!!

June 20 Program, lunch and business meeting: 11:00 AM, the Dayton Public Library (215 E Third St., Dayton). On

August 5, 2017, the doors of the new Main Library in downtown Dayton opened to the public. Built upon the strong structural core of the 1962 building, the Main Library is four times the size of the previous building. With expansive park and city views, six original art installations, meeting places and gathering spaces of all sorts, the Main Library is a destination for exploration, learning and discovery. After a private tour we will get lunch at the library café, eat, and have our business meeting in private room #3A, 3rd floor (There is an elevator).

It is with sadness that WOE-R learned of the passing of one of our members, Deb Tauber on March 4. A Memorial Service was held on March 10. Deb retired from Dayton Public Schools in 2012.

FCPE contributions are going very well: September - \$162; October - \$146; November - \$172; December - \$226; April \$186; May - \$212 Total: \$1104. Members contributed over \$1500 last year. Members will have an opportunity the coming year for a Taco dinner for 4 by Sophia Rodriguez and Phil Long.

With the cooperation of Carol Kinsey, WOE-R members Sandy Dobberstein, Jane Rahn, and Phil A. Long are attending Uniserv Council meetings in WOE-R.

Assignments are: Sandy Dobberstein: Far West, Western, Miami A&B; Jane Rahn: Greene County and Happy Trails; Phil A. Long: Grand Lake and Grand Old River. The response has been very positive. The cooperation and support of the LRCs is greatly appreciated. We participated in the New Educator Program through Uniserv Councils. Helping with the New Educator Program were Debbie Owens, Sandy Coe, Jane Rahn, Phil Long.

READ ACROSS AMERICA: The WOE-R Professional Efficacy Committee and WOE-R under the direction of Val Roldan

sponsored a very successful 2018 Read Across America. Each classroom received a calendar and a book with a beautiful bookplate stating the book was donated by WOE-R and read by a WOE-R member. Over 50 requests for volunteer readers came from Beavercreek City Schools, Northmont City Schools, and Trotwood Madison City Schools for the March 2 event. Thanks to all readers, classrooms and those who organized this event. Readers were recognized at the WOE-R Rep Assembly and will be honored at the Fall Recognition Dinner.

WOE-R will be involved in the screening process for candidates. WOE-R has representatives for Ohio House District Screenings: 39 – Walita Duvall; 40 – Jane Rahn; 41 – Sandy Coe; 42 – Willie Terrell; 43 – Val Roldan; 73 – Deb Owens; 80 – Sandy Dobberstein; 84 – Phil Long. On March 10<sup>th</sup> Sandy Coe, Warlita Duvall, and Phil A. Long attended the State FCPE Convention.

NEA/OEA-R Life dues are \$350 until September 1, 2018. Then they will increase to \$450. WOE-R life dues are \$100. Everyone likes a sale!!!! Join pre-retired unified now for \$450 and save \$100! WOE-R is assisting with gathering names of 2018 retirees.

Sept. 19, 2018 Business meeting followed by lunch and program: 11:00 AM Miami County Parks District Lost Creek Reserve (2385 OH-41, Troy, OH) Come hear a presentation by the director of the Miami County Parks District and maybe be surprised with an animal visit. If weather permits, an easy guided hike after the program. Lunch and program \$12.00.  
*Submitted by District Representative Phil Long*

# OEA-R STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE

**September 13, 2018**

OEA Headquarters  
225 E Broad St  
Columbus OH 43215

Speakers include the OEA Officers and speakers from the retirement systems. Other interesting and informational sessions are being planned.

**Note: FREE Parking is provided at the STRS building.**

REGISTRATION:	9:30 a.m.
PROGRAM:	10:00 a.m.
LUNCH:	12:00 p.m.
PROGRAM	12:45-2:45
CONCLUSION:	3:00 p.m.

**Complete and return the registration form (below) with your \$15.00 registration fee by August 31st** 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  
STATEWIDE FALL CONFERENCE  
P.O. Box 2550  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-2136  
ATTN: Todd Jaeck**

---

**Save the Date and Register Now**  
**For September 13, 2018**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OEA DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement System:    \_\_\_\_\_ SERS    \_\_\_\_\_ STRS

Lunch Preference:    \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey    \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef    \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian