



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.

2018-2019 Officers

Bill Sears, Chairperson
Carol Kinsey, OEA Director

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Peg Ham, Secretary
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OEA-R NEWSLINE is the official publication of OEA-Retired

OEA-R website: <http://oea-r.ohea.us>

Jack Boyd, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

OEA FUND FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Help OEA-FCPE raise money to elect pro-senior, pro-union, pro-education candidates. It's quick and easy to donate electronically. Go to: <http://ohea.org> and click on the DONATE button at the top of the page.

STRS REPORT

At the OEA-R Delegate Assembly, Mike Nehf, Executive Director of STRS Ohio addressed the delegates. At that time he handed out an Actuarial Update for STRS Ohio. It is a concise version of what the actuaries provided the STRS Board in October. He did not go over the information at the time but he did encourage the delegates to read the information and then ask any questions they may have about it when he sees them again at the Spring RA.

At the December meeting John Morrow reviewed the October and November Investment Returns and Activity. The total fund return for October was -4.1%. U.S. and International Equity markets declined over 7%. That had been the largest monthly decline in over seven years to that point. The staff initiated significant activity in the midst of the volatility. Approximately \$1 billion was withdrawn from fixed income.

\$575 million was allocated to domestic equities. Another \$350 million was allocated to international equities and another \$100 million was allocated to alternative investments.

The total fund for November was +1.0%. Despite positive return, volatility continued during November. The total fund fiscal year-to-date finished at +0.2% and investment assets were about \$76 billion. For December the markets were sharply lower. Trade tensions need resolution soon to prevent deeper impact on economic conditions and market returns.

Callan reported that for the one-year ending 9-30-18, STRS Ohio outperformed the benchmark by 76 basis points and ranked at the 14th percentile of the Callan Public Fund Sponsors Database. In Callan Reports the 1st percentile is best and 100th percentile is the worst. For the five-years ending September 30, 2018, STRS Ohio posted an annualized return of 8.98% relative to the

8.66% of the total fund target. STRS Ohio achieved a return that ranked at the 9th percentile during the last five years.

CEM Benchmarking provided a report of STRS Ohio's Cost Effectiveness Analysis for the five-year period ending December 31, 2017. The key takeaways of this report were as follows: *STRS Ohio's five year total return of 10.1% was in the top decile of the U.S. public universe. This compares to the U.S. Public median of 9.0% and the peer median of 9.0%. STRS Ohio's investment cost of 40.4 basis points is below our benchmark of 50.3 basis points. This suggests that our fund was low cost compared to our peers and our fund was low cost because we had a lower cost implementation style and we paid less than our peers for similar services.

This benchmarking report compares our cost and return performance to the 293 funds in CEM's extensive pension database. 162 U.S. pension funds participate. The median U.S. fund had assets of \$9.6 billion and the average U.S. fund had assets of 23.5 billion. Total participating assets were \$3.8 trillion. 77 Canadian funds participated with assets totaling \$1.4 trillion. Forty-three European funds participate with aggregate assets of \$2.9 trillion. Included are funds from the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Denmark and the U.K. 8 Asia-Pacific funds participate with aggregate assets of \$1.0 trillion. Included are funds from Australia, New Zealand, China and South Korea.

The most valuable comparisons for cost performance are to our custom peer group because size impacts costs. The peer group for STRS Ohio includes 17 U.S. Public Plan Sponsors ranging in fund size from \$48 billion to \$350 billion. The median size is \$94 billion versus our \$78 billion. Our five-year policy return of 10.1% was above the peer median of 8.8%. Our investment costs were \$267.9 million or 35.7 basis points in 2017. Our total investment cost of 40.4 basis points was below the peer median of 55.4 basis points. Benchmark cost analysis suggest that, after adjusting for fund size and asset mix, our fund was low cost by 9.9 basis points in 2017. Our fund was low cost because we had a lower cost

implementation style and we paid less than our peers for similar services. According to CEM Benchmarking had our funds that were internally managed been managed externally and had we paid the peer median costs, our costs would have been higher by approximately \$95 million.

At the December meeting of the STRS Ohio Board a Health Care Plan Management Policy was adopted by the Board. The goal of this policy is to maintain a sustainable long-term benefit while making adjustments as conditions allow. The primary objective is to maintain an estimated 50% chance that the plan will remain solvent for 60 years or more. Another objective is to share gains and losses between pre-Medicare and Medicare groups.

There was no scheduled STRS Ohio Board Meeting in January. Our next meeting will be February 21st. The Board was presented with information from the actuary concerning the COLA. There was no review of the information at that meeting. The Board will take that information into consideration when it reviews its current fund investment policy. That will be done in the spring.

Article by Rita Walters, STRS Board Member



SERS REPORT

Ohio Secretary of State received only Hugh Garside's candidate petitions for one of the two open 4-year employed member seats beginning 7/1/19. Under Ohio law if this happens no elections will be held. The Board will declare those still unfilled to be open in July and begin process of choosing temporary replacements.

The Audit information was good and the report can be found on the SERS website.

SERS employees contributed coats, gloves, scarfs and hats for Cristo Rev High School and other community agencies such as the Salvation Army Angel Tree Drive and a "Cookie Extravaganza" to fund Toys for Tots.

Carol Nolan Drake, SERS's federal government relations consultant briefed the Board on health care and pension issues tackled in 2018 and what to watch for in the coming year. You can see her full report on line.

There were 161 active members that were approved for service retirement and 11 survivor benefits for spouses and dependents.

No Board meeting in January. The next meeting will be Feb. 21 at 8:30 AM in Columbus.

Article by Barb Catalano, SERS Observer



UNIT REPORTS

Capital

The Capital District has been busy with new activities for 2019. We recently visited the Columbus Museum of Art for its celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance. We later discovered hidden secrets of Columbus with author Aneitra Hamper at the Hofbrauhaus Columbus.

Our February activities include lunch at La Scala Restaurant, with speaker Jeri Diehl-Cusack, a retired librarian who will help us delve into campaign humor from the past. Our second event will take us to the new National Veterans Memorial and Museum for a tour, and lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

In March we will have lunch at the Clintonville Woman's Club with speaker John Coniglio. For those who don't recognize his name, he is the new president of the Columbus Education Association. This will be the time for retired members to receive an update on the status of the Columbus City Schools. Later in the month we will travel to the Ohio Craft Museum and have lunch at the Red Door Tavern.

April means a return trip to the annual musical and dance spectacular, *Vaud-Vilities*. The theme this year is, "The Magic of Music." Some of our members will travel

to Virginia in late April to attend "Plaids and Stripes", by Virginia's International Tattoo. The trip will feature a spectacle of military music and maneuvers, a tour of the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, the Naval Station Norfolk, and a tour of Virginia Beach and the Cape Henry Lighthouse. The trip concludes with tours of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Quantico National Cemetery.

For those interested in exploring new opportunities, here are some suggestions. The Holy Rosary-St. John Learning Center is looking for volunteers to teach GED classes. Contact Dan Miller at 614- 547- 2121, if interested. Our own CEA-R Notes can always use more singers. They practice on Wednesdays at Epworth United Methodist Church. Contact Bobbie Mills at 614- 888-0683. Our book club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Griswold Center. The phone number is 614- 842-6320.

Article by Jeff Corbin



East Central

ECOEA-R members and guests enjoyed gathering in December at the festive Pine Tree Barn for their Annual Holiday lunch. An elected Retired STRS Board Trustee, OEA-R member Rita Walters, attended and gave a firsthand update on the current status of STRS. ECOEA-R members are invited and encouraged to attend the annual ECOEA Legislative Dinner. It will be held March 1, 2019 at La Pizzeria in Canton. Go to the ECOEA website www.ecoea.ohea.us for details including cost and to make a reservation. **SAVE THE DATE** for the next ECOEA-R event. That will be the Annual Not Back to School Lunch scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 11:30 am at Mulligan's Restaurant and Pub, 4118 Belden Village Street, Canton, Ohio 44718. Each person will order their choice from the menu and be responsible for their own charges. Rita Walters will again be attending with the latest information from the August 15 STRS Board Meeting. OEA-R members from other OEA Districts are most welcome to join us for this lunch. For information and/or to

make a reservation, contact Carol Kinsey----
330-495-2318 or Cskinsey@aol.com.
Mulligan's is under new management and
reservations are **required** by August 16.

Article by Carol Kinsey



Eastern

EOEA-R sponsored two workshops for active members who are within five years of retirement. John Buch from STRS Ohio was the presenter. The first one was held on Tuesday, October 23, at Undo's in St. Clairsville. We had fifteen members who attended. The second one was held on Tuesday, October 30, at Theo's Restaurant in Cambridge. There were ten members in attendance. We usually hold these workshops in the spring but I thought maybe if we did it in the fall our attendance would improve. That was a mistake because when we held them in the spring, they were much better attended. A meal was provided. The members who attended thought the information provided was most helpful.

Rita Walters continues to represent EOEA-R on the OEA Advisory Council. Hopefully when this term for Rita is up someone else will take on the responsibility to serve EOEA-R.

Article by Rita Walters



North Central

NCOEA-R: Our Holiday Luncheon was held at "Landoll's Castle" in Loudonville on December 6th. It was a beautiful snowy day in the Mohican woods. Those in attendance were Ellen Couch, Judy Novak, Joyce Skocic, Karen McCready, Becky Mayer, Dan Rueger, and Chris Swank.



Future dates to remember:

"End-of-the-Year" Luncheon will be held on June 3, 2019 at 1:00 at "The Old Bag of Nails" located at 625 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, Ohio.

"Not Back to School" Brunch will be held on August 14, 2019 at 11:00 at IHOP Restaurant located at 2190 Walker Lake Rd., Ontario, Ohio.

Article by Judy Novak



North Eastern

Read Across America-Remember-you're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child.—Dr. Seuss NEOEA will be celebrating Read Across America during the month of March by reading to students. Retired educators will read in classrooms, libraries, or at other events where children are gathered. Readers will leave a Dr. Seuss book courtesy of a grant by the NEOEA Board of Directors, and a Read Across America reading activity calendar courtesy of NEA and OEA.

Megaconference-The 2019 Megaconference Will be presented on March 9, at Corporate College East located in Warrensville Heights. Megaconference features 12 simultaneous breakouts in three one hour time slots. Three of the classes are sponsored by NEOEA-R: "Help students soar with Sora!"; "NFOhio:New Instructional Resources"; and "PBS Learning Media: Freshly Updated". After lunch the hundreds of attendees are invited to attend our one-hour Pre-Retired Workshop, and many do attend.

Spring Conference- This year's spring conference will be held on April 25 at the NEOEA headquarters. Classes are not set yet but they will include "STRS breakout", "What does the last election mean to you", "Legal update", and the ever popular Member Benefits". Other classes will be finalized soon, as will the registration material.

Luncheons-The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee are looking for volunteers to host a luncheon's for retirees in the spring in your area. These county luncheons are a project of the out reach committee of the NEOEA-R. Their purpose is to provide a social opportunity for an enjoyable lunch among retired educators and to make grass roots connections with our retired members (Especially those not involved in the leadership roles within our Association). In the past few years, these gatherings have been well received both by her volunteers in the retirees they host. Groups are small and informal. If interested please contact the NEOEA office.

Article by Marsh Buckley



Southwestern

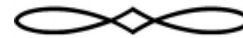
SWOEA-R has been pretty active this year with outings and meetings to build a stronger SWOEA-R group. We finished 2018, off with a great time at the Liberty Center, Cheesecake Factory with a luncheon. We had some new faces and guests that joined us and had a great time reminiscing and talking about upcoming events.

Our goal is to become a more active and visible group of educators – we may retire from our particular positions we held, but we are not retired from the profession! We are looking for ways to contribute to the profession, whether directly or indirectly. Any ideas or suggestions are always welcome, you can contact Deloris Rome-Hudson (romehudson@aol.com) or Judy Buschle (judybuschle@aol.com).

Presently, SWOEA-R is working with the OEA-R Grant committee to engage with active O.N.E. (Ohio's New Educator's) Member Ambassadors to help reach out and get them actively involved in OEA. Teaming up with active Member Ambassador will help reach new educators as well as 2-3-year members of the union become aware of the

many benefits and opportunities their membership provides and makes available. Our next SWOEA-R meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2019.

Article by Judy Buschle



Western

FCPE contributions went very well this past year: \$1164. Donations since September 2018 - \$600.

WOEA-R delegates elected were: Phil A. Long, Val Roldan, Willie Terrell. The Fall Forum held November 14.

Delegates for OEA-R: Willie Terrell and Sandy Coe, Jane Rahn and Phil A. 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. 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.

READ ACROSS AMERICA: The WOE Professional Efficacy Committee and WOE-R under the direction of Val Roldan are planning for the 2019 Read Across America. The event will be March 1 with Trotwood, Northmont, and Beaver Creek participating. Others are welcome.

Marge Punter encourages donations for Artemis. All supplies are appreciated.

Article by Phil Long



At-Large

The OEA-R Fall Delegate Assembly was held November 30, 2018. Forty-one delegates attended. The survey results were tabulated using the 32 evaluations that were

received. Speakers received a good or excellent rating for a majority of their ratings. The location and material being useful also received good or excellent ratings. Food suggestions again reiterated a choice of turkey and the choice of iced tea for a drink option. Registration was set up earlier this year and received a rating of excellent with no comments. Comments dealing with concerns for professionalism at meeting were noted.

Thank you to those members who attended and for helping the committee to make changes when possible.

Two other Western retirees and I attend UniServ Council meetings in the area and share the activities and opportunities that are available to current members when they continue as part of their professional organization upon retirement. Staff and teachers representing their local districts are welcoming.

In addition, I was able to attend, along with ten other Western retirees, the Educator Appreciation Dinner (certified and ESP) sponsored by Western District at the Boonshoft Museum in Dayton, Ohio. A delicious catered dinner was provided as well as a presentation in the planetarium.

Article by Jane Rahn



Grant Committee Report

OEA-R again for the third year has received a grant from NEA-R with a focal point of the grant to implement the NEA New Educator Program. Our objective is for retirees to work with Ohio's O.N.E. (Ohio New Educators) Member Ambassadors to strengthen the relationship with state affiliate and local leaders.

Our first meeting with District Advisory Council Members or their designee will be January 20, 2019 at Deer Creek State Park. We will be introduced to the active members and begin working with them to help them reach their goals of helping new educators become familiar with what NEA and OEA has to offer them as our newest members to

the profession. This will then be followed up with a meeting on February 5th at Ohio University where volunteer retirees will look at data and begin identifying where we can make a contribution to the New Educator Program.

We will then follow up with our O.N.E. active Member Ambassador's and begin working together to build relationship that will promote and encourage a life long passionate for the profession and the benefits of membership.

Article by Judy Buschle, Grant Committee Chair



The following item is from Sarah Borgman, President of NEA-R. Sarah is from Indiana.

Sarah Says . . .

At our Annual Retired Meeting in June, I challenged our delegates and guests to *stand and fill the gap*. We had just been handed the Janus decision and membership growth---or lack thereof--- threatened all of us. It appears that we have faced that challenge, but what remains today is the fact that there is a job for everyone in our Association whether seeking new active members or those retired of our own. Maybe "selling" membership is not your strong point, but you certainly have stories to tell and can use to help others: new career teachers, aspiring teachers, active members, or those sitting on the fence!

The bottom line is that in our advocacy for students, our profession, and public education there is a job for everyone. YOU are needed to *stand and fill the gap*. Unfortunately, we lose our own members who have been real warriors and someone needs to *stand and fill the gap*. There are jobs to be done in every facet of our work; there are projects waiting to be done; there are calls to be made and e-mails to be sent to legislators; there are committees with vacancies; there are multiple positions to be filled. **Will YOU stand and fill the gap?**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The following positions on the OEA-R Advisory Council have filing deadline of February 15, 2019. Forms are to be submitted to OEA Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Hill.

OEA-R OEA Board of Directors
OEA-R Higher Education
OEA-R ESP
East Central (ending 2020)
North Eastern
Southwestern
Western

These positions are for terms beginning September 1, 2019 and ending July 14, 2021. Members holding these positions

serve as automatic delegates to the OEA Representative Assemblies.

Click [here](#) for declaration of candidacy form.

OTHER ELECTIONS

Elections for the 2019 NEA-Retired Delegates will be held in March. Election notices will be sent in February.

For more up-to-date information check our web site:

oea-r.ohea.us

Click on the OEA-R Elections tab at the top.

OEA-R Spring Conference

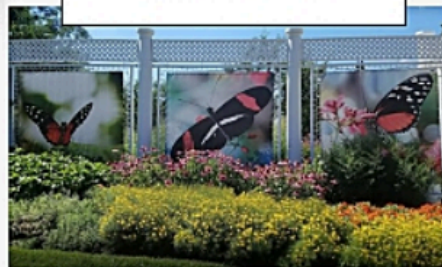
April 4, 2019

Columbus, Ohio

Morning Session @
STRS



Afternoon Session @
Franklin Park
Conservatory



Check our web site for registration form and additional information.