



NEWSLINE

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

2021-2022 Officers

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Phil A. Long, Vice Chairperson

Judy Buschle, Secretary

Carol Kinsey, OEA Director

John Hoyes, Past Chairperson

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

Jackson Boyd, Editor



During the Investment segment of the meeting Matt Worley reported that the total fund return for April was -4.03%. The preliminary 2022 total fund return is estimated at 0.11%. The capital markets reflect much uncertainty. Total investment assets ended April at \$91.6 billion, lower by \$3.2 billion in fiscal 2022. He provided the initial review of the Semiannual Broker Evaluation for the first half of fiscal 2023. The Board will vote on the recommendation in June. He also provided a review of the performance-based incentive program with a few minor changes.

During the Finance Department portion of the meeting representatives from Cheiron presented their economic assumptions for the June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation. STRS Ohio's current discount rate is set at 7.0%. Cheiron reported that at this time it is not recommending any change in the discount rate.

Gary Russell provided a pension benefit comparison with other teacher retirement systems in the United States. Specific comparisons to non-Social Security states:
Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, and Texas.

Gary reported that statewide plans have been modified in 42 states since 2010 following the great recession, and typically the result has been: Increase years of service and/ or age for retirement eligibility Increase number of years used in the final average salary calculation Modify COLA.

No system is the best in all categories as:

- Contributions + investment earnings = benefits + expenses
- Illinois has the best COLA; however, 55% contribution rate and 42.5% funded
- Texas has the lowest contribution rate but also the lowest rated COLA -Nevada has largest benefit multiplier, but has never subsidized health care

STRS Ohio compares well among the 13 non-Social Security Systems

- Total contribution rate remains the fourth lowest of 14 rates
- Benefit increase or COLA's for a member retired 20 years is the sixth highest among the 13 states; the seventh highest for someone retired 15 years and the ninth highest for someone retired 10 years
- Retirement benefit as a percent of FAS, is near the midpoint for a member retiring with 34 years of service at age 56

-STRS Ohio is one of seven systems providing subsidized health care \$6.4 billion contributed to health care, is equal to \$50.9 billion pension asset value
-Actuarial funded ratio is the third highest at 80.1% behind Missouri (87.7% and no health care), Maine (83.9% and no health care)

Eligibility for unreduced benefit is the key lever in most pension reform changes. Later age or more service is required of new members. Fourteen states require age 62 or older for unreduced benefit. Six states at age 62 (Louisiana, Texas and California). One state sets the age at 63. Five states require an age of 65 (Maine and Massachusetts) There are 18 states that require 30 years of service at any age for current year retirees.

Varied criteria for eligibility and amount of adjustment; however, no plan provides compounded COLA to match inflation.

Ten states have COLA's that are granted by the legislature. Eleven states have a compounded COLA. In 21 states if a COLA is granted it is a portion of the CPI. Some COLA's are based on performance on returns or funding level of the system. Arizona's COLA is based on excess returns over the last ten years. Idaho board can only pay a COLA if assets exceed liabilities after COLA is paid. New Jersey COLA suspended in 2011 until 80% funded (currently 40% funded). Wisconsin has a dividend adjustment that can increase or decrease benefit.

STRS Ohio total contribution rate is 12th lowest of 63 states. Average contribution rate for non-Social Security states is 32.10%, up from 31.96% last year. STRS Ohio member contribution rate is 18th highest of 63 states. STRS Ohio employer contribution rate is 6th lowest of 63 rates

After the last meeting the Board was notified that the ORSC had released its audit report. I am currently wading through the report and its recommendations. There was an article published by Gongwer and posted last Saturday. The gist of that article was that there were no signs of fraud found. The report by Funston was 279 pages. The article continued by saying that there was little evidence for many of the allegations leveled by critics of the pension system. The performance audit states that the board is legally required to balance the needs of current and future retirees when making decisions.

The report continues: "We recognize certain stakeholders will not be satisfied until annual COLA increases are restored. We also recognize the hardships retirees are experiencing, but the fiduciary duty of the Board is to ensure the sustainability of the fund for current and future members and beneficiaries"

In response to criticisms that STRS can be opaque, especially where private equity fees are concerned, the document states that PE fee transparency is an industry-wide challenge.

In response to claims that STRS investments have underperformed, Funston reached a different conclusion. The firm found that the STRS pension fund was in the top 25% when compared to peers and the "top performing" Ohio fund in the past decade.

The performance audit found that the STRS board, appears to have acted with "loyalty and impartiality" regarding its fiduciary duty.

When I finish the report and its recommendations I will report to you on those. Bottom line is that all of the lies that were put out by the other side during the election process were baseless and contrived to rile voters.

Thanks again for all your help during the election process. I really appreciate all your support.
Submitted by: Rita Walters.





Beginning August 1, 2022, retirees and benefit recipients will start receiving the *Retiree Focus* newsletter and their payment stub two times a year.

The *Retiree Focus* and payment stub, which were previously mailed quarterly, will now be sent twice a year, once in January and once in July. Additionally, whenever there is a change to the benefit, a payment stub and an insert containing any necessary information will be mailed.

Retirees and benefit recipients will not receive a *Retiree Focus* or payment stub in September or December, but will continue to receive their payment each month. **This will not affect payments.**

The *Retiree Focus* will still contain important information and dates, but will offer more comprehensive articles along with special features and savable cut-out sections, including the monthly payment schedule. It also will be available electronically as an email.

Retirees and benefit recipients will receive email updates in April and October containing SERS news.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mary's thoughts-

This membership year has flown by. We have seen some new works begun and other work continued. Our new work has been the formation of a Racial and Social Justice Committee. This group is working hard to keep us aware of any issues that might arise within the association as well as keeping us up on issues that affect our communities. We also provided Testimony Writing training which I hope many more of our members will take advantage of this training in the future. This training gives us one more tool to influence our legislators and hopefully protect public education in the future.

Work that has continued this year is our Read across America program. This year we did virtual readings again. This bank of recorded readings can be accessed by active members at any time, not just during Read across America. We hope to continue to build the number of readings that are in our virtual library. Thank you to all who did read, and my hope is that many more of you will take part this coming year. Even after we get back in the classrooms for readings, we still want to build that bank of virtual readings.

As we get ready for the NEA Representative Assembly. Your OEA delegates will work to represent you well and to bring back essential information to share with you. After the RA, your OEA-R Advisory Council will begin to plan for next year. Please let us know if you have any ideas about projects or activities that we need to be engaging in. You may contact me at binegm@aol.com.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and will be ready to gear back up for a lot of work in the next membership year.

Submitted by: Mary Binegar, OEA-R Chairperson



2022 SPRING OEA-R DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AND OEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY REPORTS

A Tale of Two Assemblies Part 2. May 5, 7, 2022

The single most striking moment of the OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly occurred near the end of our three-hour zoom Thursday March 5. At the conclusion of her Chair Report, Mary Binegar borrowed a phrase from fellow retired member Becky Brown and admonished the thirty-one Assembly attendees (and, by extension, all retired members) to, and I quote, “**Unleash the Beast!**” The Beast, it turns out, is our professional ire over the increasing number of critics of public schooling, more than a few from within our own ranks, including those who aligned themselves with the STRS Board candidates running against our endorsed candidates. More on those later.

All three officers joined our Retired Delegate briefing, and all brought their own versions of dire news, as well as some celebration. OEA President Scott DiMauro rued that so many teachers are leaving the profession that we are in a crisis, and then extolled the upcoming celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the OEA, taking place on June 4 in a tent outside the OEA Building. I figure there is information on that in other places on the Web site. Vice-President Jeff Wensing cautioned about the potential devastating results to education and schools were HBs 327, 322, and especially 616, to pass; all address to some degree or other the banning of teaching “divisive” concepts in schools. While “race” is featured prominently in each bill, “white supremacy” is not; you may draw your own conclusions. Jeff noted that a bright spot in the legislature is HB 497, which if passed will eliminate of the third-grade reading tests. Treasurer Mark Hill remarked that OEA is trading water in overall membership, down a half percent. Professional educator numbers have grown by a half percent, but there’s a 3% drop in ESP ranks. OEA overall membership down about 7%. One possible reason offered is this is perhaps due to not being able to meet potential members in person these past two years. Mark is projecting a 2% membership loss for next year’s budget; he hopes it is not that high, but we need to plan.

Judy Buschle reported on the NEA-R Grant: awarded \$9827, spent some of it. To date we have addressed all four goals in the grant, including aspiring educators and ONE.

Delegates heard speeches from candidates for statewide elections (because of problems with subs, not all candidates are here in person, some are, some recorded).

OEA BOD At- Large - Deborah Jackson (**endorsed**)

OEA ESP BOD At-Large - Dee Meredith (**endorsed**)

OEA President - Scott DiMauro (**endorsed**)

OEA Vice President - Jeff Wensing: **spoke in person. (endorsed)**

NEA Director #3 - Angel Dyer-Sanchez: **recording. (endorsed)**

NEA Director #3 - Sharron Callahan: **recording.**

NEA Director #4 - Carol Correthers: **here! (endorsed)**

NEA Director #4 - Carol Nance: **here!**

Tom Moscovic gave the report of the screening committee, which had met on April 26. The committee had voted to endorse all unopposed candidates. They also had voted to endorse Angel Dyer Sanchez, and Carol Correthers. Our attending delegates voted to endorse the candidates recommended by the committee, and in fact, at the OEA-RA the next day, all our endorsed candidates were elected.

Tom Moscovic also gave the Kickoff Report for the OEA Fund (formerly FCPE): Fund committee met on April 25. As of April 22 contributions: out of 8700+ OEA-R members, 55 members contributed. We need to get more members, and then more to contribute.

Chair Mary Binegar reported on the new OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee, which counts about a dozen members and has met via Zoom at least four times, with a fifth meeting scheduled Monday May 23. The committee, chaired by Jeff Corbin, will begin to research and conduct such events as webinars addressing various racial and justice issues, and will communicate these to all OEA-R members. The committee is in the process of creating a Logo, and a Facebook page. Members are also reading, collectively, How to be an AntiRacist, by Ibram X. Kendi. Any OEA-R member interested in joining the group may contact Jeff Corbin.

Mary will also introduce a NBI at tomorrow's OEA RA to reduce the annual dues for ESP members to OEA-R to half the current amount.

The delegates honored three of the OEA Retired Advisory Committee whose terms are up and are term-limited from seeking re-election: Carol Kinsey, Barb Catalano, and Wil Vickery. It goes without saying that we have been a better organization because of the contributions of all three of those friends and colleagues!

A fair bit of what we did Friday at our Retired-Delegate briefing was replicated at Saturday's OEA Representative Assembly, held both in person at the Columbus Convention Center, and virtually via whatever platform is used for such things. Approximately 350 delegates attended in person, and another approximately 350 delegates tuned in online. As noted, all the OEA-R endorsed candidates won their elections, which were conducted using new electronic hand-held devices distributed at the onset of the Assembly. In fact, these devices were used for all elections and decisions throughout the assembly, which gaveled down @9am and adjourned at @430pm.

I spent the first hour "personing" the Kids Voting table in the convention lobby on behalf of the good Mr. Phil Long, so I missed all that happened during that first hour, which as you can surmise were mostly introductions, preliminary reports, floor nominations, and so on. Frankly, we were all waiting for any announcement of the STRS Board elections, which would be made public at some point during the assembly. We were not to like the results.

Among various NBI and motions to pass were Mary's NBI, which she submitted as an individual and not on behalf of the OEA-RAC, to halve the dues of ESP members to OEA-R, and a change to the C&B to eliminate the opportunity of members to nominate candidates for any office from the floor of the RA. The latter change was debated for a while and passed by a few votes.

Toward the end of the meeting, during closing remarks, President DiMauro noted what everyone else had heard via assembly conversations and shared phone screens: all three OEA-Endorsed candidates for STRS Board seats had been defeated.

And, as we hear often at these Assemblies, that is my report.

Submitted by: Barry Alcock



THE OEA FUND

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

OEA-Retired ELECTIONS INFORMATION

2023 ELECTIONS July 15, 2023 to July 14, 2026

Unit Representatives

CENTRAL
ECOEA
SEOEA
AT-LARGE

Declarations of candidacy forms for these positions are due by February 15, 2023 to OEA.

NEWLY ELECTED ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Smoot Walters – NEOEA
Becky Brown – SWOEA
Joni Watson – WOEА
Deloris Rome Hudson - OEA-Retired OEA Director



PROGRAM AND SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Charges:

- A. **STRS/SERS attendance:** Members are encouraged to attend meetings of STRS.
- B. **Pre-retirement workshop sessions in each District:** virtual/in-person. The following Districts used STRS and NEA Member Benefits: Central-R, EOEA-R, ECOEA-R, SEOEA-R, SWOEA-R, WOEА-R for sessions in 2022. **Each District is encouraged to use the STRS and NEA Benefit offerings in 2023.**
- C. **Read Across America: CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: READ** Committee: Dorothy Wilson(Capital-R), Kathleen Purdy(ECOEA-R), Val Roldan(WOEА-R), Nanci DiBianca(NEOEA-R), Becky Brown(SWOEA-R), Barry Alcock(Central-R), Becky Mayer-Radel(NCOEA-R) Rita Walters(EOEA-R), Christine McVicar(SEOEA-R), Lisa Scott-Marshall(NWOEA-R), Judy Buschle, Mary Binegar, Phil A. Long, Chair. OEA-R offered around 22 book readings in 2022. The OEA-R Video Library is available and has been enlarged. We are pleased to report that the theme of CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: READ follows the OEA strategic goal #4 – to advocate racial, social, and economic justice. OEA staff: Makia Burns and Joel Kohler have provided tremendous assistance.
 1. Theme for 2023: **READ LOCALLY – ACT GLOBALLY** – use OEA/OEA-R/Ohio authors
 2. Theme for 2024: **READ FOR DEMOCRACY** - books about voting, leaders of democracy

OEA-R Virtual Library

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

Through the NEA Grant, books have been purchased for the OEA-R display table. OEA-R is also cooperating with Kids Voting Ohio to share information about Read Across America and utilizing books for the Kids Voting Ohio display table.

- D. **2021 Fall Conference:** As a result, the OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee has formed with Jeff Corbin as Chair, Bob Maher as Vice Chair, Becky Brown as OEA-R liaison and Joni Watson as an NEA liaison. Members include: Bev Woolridge, Barry Alcock, Charles Steinbower, Doris Moore, Rhonda Braylock, Valenta Ward-Gravely, Marsh Buckley.
- E. **Spring Conference 2022** – hosted by ECOEA-R, SEOEA-R, EOEA-R on May 17, 2022.
- F. **SPRING CONFERENCE APRIL 2023 – NCOEA-R and NWOEA-R as hosts.**
- G. **Strengthening OEA-R District organization pilot project:** Each District Rep was asked to complete the chart indicating what their District has in place already and what needs to be looked at for the future. All 10 Districts need to support each other and share ideas and best practices – what works. This will be an ongoing project. The goal is to have an organized functioning retired organization in each of the 10 Districts.
- H. **OEA-R Roundtables:** The Roundtables were completed throughout January and February. The summary for each District was compiled. The committee has added a list of recommendations to the end of the summary following a discussion/evaluation. Districts are encouraged to continue Roundtables during the coming year.
- I. **2022 FALL CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 at the OEA Building – details to follow.**

Committee members are: Judy Novak, Vice Chair; Donna Smoot-Walters; Kathleen Purdy; Joni Watson; Phil A. Long, Chair

Submitted by: Phil A Long.



GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

Our NEA-R Grant for the 2021-2022 year focused 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 done this past year and working on this summer. The following is a list of some of our activities and 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 in January and February 2022, 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 several districts held them in the fall and this 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.
- Many of our retiree members have attend Leadership Councils and has provided information and support throughout the year to our actives.
- We have been engaged with our O.N.E. members throughout the year and they were great in helping to facilitating a technology workshop in teaching our members how to access different types of applications and how to use them effectively.
- As in the past couple of years we have had great volunteers in supporting "Read Across America" in March. We continue to build a video library accessible to our OEA members.
- In April we participated in the Aspiring Educator and O.N.E. at their Unity Conference in providing raffle baskets and having an OEA-R table display and Kids Voting Ohio table with information.

- Our final big push this spring was to get our OEA endorsed STRS candidates elected, and our retirees throughout the states responded overwhelmingly, especially in promoting our own Rita Walters.

With the year slowly winding down the grant committee is asking all our district advisory council reps to connect with their district local membership chairs about potential retirees and invite them to join OEA-R.

Submitted by: Judy Buschle, Grant Chair



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT



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Thank you for your continued interest in OEA-Retired. Current membership information is essential if Chapter/Districts records are to coincide with state records regarding individual membership status for determination of delegate entitlements as well as communicating with the members.

If you need to update your contact information, please use the OEA Membership Update Form below.

For additional membership questions, contact OEA membership at: membership@ohea.

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DISTRICT REPORTS



ECOEA:

Our OEA-Retired Basket Raffle was well-attended by volunteers Kathleen Purdy and Jeff Corbin (Capital OEA-R).



The OEA-Retired Spring Conference was hosted by Region 2 at the Ernest Warther Museum and Gardens. Jane Miller, Rita Walters and Kathleen Purdy developed a warm and relaxing atmosphere to the delight of the attendees. The Presenters were excited to bring their “A+” skills to entertain us with Magic by Tim, Senior Safety Tips and resources to keep us alert by Tiffany Nichols and Better Business Bureau President and CEO Frank Cilona and Tamla Cole, Education Group Member Assistant with State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio.

Many plans are being made to continue to use the conversations from the OEA-Retired Roundtables to shape the next steps. We value your suggestions on how the Retired Members’ involvement has meaning to the work of organizing.

Each Ohio District is encouraged to use as many retired members, as possible, who are interested in being on short-term committees, boards and councils. Presently, we are in looking for District Retirees to serve on House and Senate Screening Committees. We are also inviting our District Retirees to contribute to the former Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) to support candidates that are deemed friendly to educational issues and concerns. Why? Because we must influence the work that addresses our mission and values, politically.

www.ohea.org/donate.

Because of the 2021 and 2022 Read Across America successes, East Central OEA-Retired is asking for volunteers to help read a book for RAA. We have developed a reading library, which both actives and retirees might use for students. Please visit

<https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-read-across-america/>.

Submitted by: Kathleen Purdy

EOEA:

Eastern did plan a Roundtable Discussion. We sent out invitations and planned to do it via ZOOM. We had no one participate. We tried to select individuals who were very active before they retired but are no longer participating. Jack and I had a discussion with Mary and Phil and suggested that we might try to have one in person during the summer. We have not given up on the idea to solicit feedback on what they would like to see OEA-R doing that might interest them.

Even though Eastern was one of the sponsors of the Spring Conference I did absolutely nothing to help Kathleen organize the conference. She had no help from me because I was caught up in the STRS Board Election. (You know what they say about a poor excuse is better than no excuse at all.) I apologize to her. My understanding is that she did an outstanding job on the conference. I am so grateful to her for having done the leg work on the planning and organizing. Thanks to all who attended. I hear that it was a very worthwhile conference.

I hope everyone has a healthy, happy summer. Stay safe and well. I am looking forward to seeing you guys in the fall. Thanks again for all the help I received during the election from OEA-R. You all did such a wonderful job on my behalf.

Submitted by: Rita Walters



NCOEA:

Several members attended the OEA Spring Representative Assembly which took place on May 7th. Members were given the option of attending virtually or in person.

We attended the NCOEA district Awards Banquet on May 13th. The “Friend of Education Awards” were given to Former Governor Ted Strickland and State Board of Education member Dr. Antoinette Miranda.

We are looking for retirees to serve on screening committees for Senate and House of Representatives. More information will be coming once districts are finalized. We need to support candidates who are friendly to educational concerns and issues.

We are actively seeking new members. Active members can join as “pre-retired”. Check on the OEA or NCOEA-R website for more information (<http://ncoea-r.ohea.us/>). Active members are now able to have dues payments deducted from the payroll checks.

Future dates to remember:

“Not Back to School” Brunch will be held on August 17, 2022 at 11:30 at “The Blueberry Patch” located at 1285 Hanley Rd. W., Mansfield, OH 44904

Submitted by: Judy Novak



NWEOA:

NWEOA - R is looking for ways for our members to get together for some fun. Save the date for a “Back not to School Breakfast” on Tuesday August 23 at 9:00 am. The place is still to be determined. Look for an email with more details in July. Come join us for some fun, prizes, and an update on OEA -R.

NWOWEA has a new logo and NWOEA-R has an updated membership form that is on the website under the tab of NWOEA-R. Our NWOEA-R Newsletter will be out soon, and you can also find it under that tab as well. Check out the new logo and other info for NWOEA at <http://nwoea.ohea.us/> .

Submitted be: Lisa Marshall-Scott



SWOWEA:

At the general membership meeting held on May 24 SWOWEA-R members elected the following members to serve as officers for the next two years starting September 1.

President: Deloris Rome Hudson
Vice President: Gretchen Washington
Secretary: Haven Reardon
Treasurer: Johnnie Huston

Throughout the “school year” SWOWEA-R planned events to increase member engagement. Members visited the Vinoklet Winery, local restaurants, and the Heritage Village Museum in Sharon Woods. SWOWEA-R in conjunction with SWOWEA is planning an event at the Mt. Carmel Brewery in order to increase member involvement in the eastern district of SWOWEA/SWOWEA-R.

Our members participated in Read Across America! Becky Brown, Judy Buschle, Marti Huss, and Haven Reardon were our readers for 2022! We held a RoundTable discussion to see what our members wanted and needed. There was a resounding response of more information! Especially about Legislation that has an impact on public education. We are pushing members to sign up for OEA alerts. We held an online event featuring Guy Kendall-Freas (membership benefits) and a representative from STRS (retirement information). We look forward to more events like these to educate our members. Our Communications Chair, Marti Huss, sends out timely notices and SWOWEA-R newsletters. We are working on getting a link to the SWOWEA web page.

Deloris Rome Hudson is the SWOWEA-R delegate to the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA). Becky Brown in the alternate. Deloris attended the ARA convention in Columbus 4/26/22. The conventions are held in the Spring and Fall.

Deloris was recently elected to serve as the OEA-R At Large member of the OEA Board of Directors.

Deloris Rome Hudson and Becky Brown will represent SWOWEA-R at the NEA-R Conference and the NEA Representative Assembly in Chicago. Deloris will attend in person. Becky will attend virtually.

SWOWEA-R continues to make an impact on Public Education by being involved with SWOWEA Legislative Projects such as Virtual Lobby Days and postcard writing events.

Submitted by: Becky Brown



WOEA:

WOEA-R has had a very busy spring. We had numerous members who videotaped themselves to read for Read Across America. Our March event was held at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Dayton and our speaker was Susan Greenburg who talked about missing children posters and human trafficking.

Our April meeting was held at TJ Chump's in Englewood and the speaker was the President of the NAACP Dr. Derrick Foward.

Our May meeting will be at Ray's Wine Spirits Grill in Clayton. The speaker is Kristin Sanderson, a Northmont graduate, who is a published author whose first novel, *Inquire of the Dead*, a paranormal thriller, was printed in 2021. Kristin will share with us the process of producing a novel from inception to publication and beyond. She might even share with us her plans for her second book, a sequel to her introductory novel.

Just a side note: Kristin's parents, Weslyn and Ed Miller, are Northmont High School retirees. Ed served as NDEA president and also attended OEA, WOE, and NEA RA's.

We've had a busy year and wish you all a great summer,

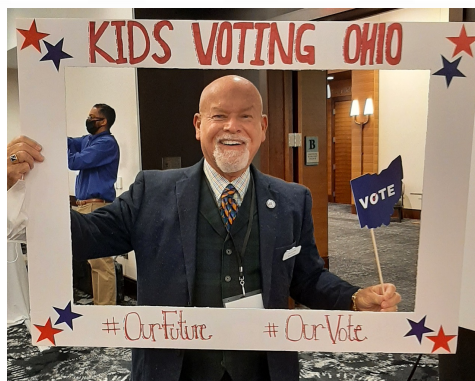
Submitted by: Joni Watson

FROM CAROL:

I am now term limited after having the privilege and responsibility to represent and serve OEA-R on the Board of Directors for the past six years. THANK YOU for your confidence in me with your votes and the communicating of your concerns and suggestions. I addressed each one I received. I was always available to attend the meetings and never asked to have an alternate attend for me. This specific position has been the highlight of my involvement with OEA along with my 50+ years of passionate political activity a close second. For now, I will continue my "official" involvement as a member of the OEA Legislative Committee and wherever else I can make a positive difference. Please know I am always available to talk or assist with ideas or projects in your District if requested. I have been a member of OEA since 1967, so I've been part of many things over the years. As the OEA officers have said, they are not letting me go away; I wasn't planning to! I won't allow my mobility to be an issue—I know my limits.

Be good to yourself and enjoy life in whatever manner makes you happiest!

Submitted by Carol Kinsey, OEA-R Board of Directors Representative



Editor's note – Our very own Phil A. Long is President of the Board for Kids Voting Ohio