



Megaconference 2024

Saturday, March 9, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Corporate College East, Warrensville Heights

NEOEA invites you to our Megaconference, presented by NEOEA's Environmental Concerns, ESP Organizing, Leadership Development, Legislative, Minority Organizing, NEOEA-R Organizing, Personal Welfare and Financial Planning, Public Relations, Professional Development, and Social and Human Concerns Committees.

The 2024 Megaconference will be presented at Corporate College East, located in Warrensville Heights at 4400 Richmond Road. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m., and workshops begin at 9:00. The \$25 registration fee covers all sessions, continental breakfast, and lunch. However, if you use one of the coupons from your local president (each president received three coupons in January), then you may attend for **FREE!**

With twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots, there's something for everyone! For the latest information about Megaconference, including graduate credit, go to neoea.org/files/Mega.pdf.

Two semester hours graduate credit is available for Megaconference 2024 through Lake Erie College. More information is available at neoea.org/files/GraduateCredit.pdf.

We'll again offer an optional pre-retired workshop after lunch. In today's environment, we need to plan for our own future retirement. To help keep you informed of the retirement benefits that you can expect at retirement and to help you explore other vehicles to be financially secure and to consider other obligations you may encounter in retirement, NEOEA is helping to fund a special program for pre-retired members.

9:00-9:50 SESSIONS

9A, The ABC's of AI – What Educators Need to Know: The capabilities and availability of Artificial Intelligence tools have skyrocketed in recent years. It is critical for schools to consider how to best address and use AI in education. In this session we will explore the ABC's of AI including: A) About AI (what AI tools are currently available and how they work), B) Benefits of AI (practical and powerful ways to use AI for teaching and learning), and C) Concerns of AI (how to address potential misuses of this transformative technology).

9B, Connecting the Complicated "Dots" of Ohio's Literacy Laws and Initiatives: Third Grade Reading Guarantee, Dyslexia Law, Science of Reading Requirements, RIMPs, RAMPs, etc. Attendees will put together the pieces and purposes and discover the implications for individual teachers, districts, and the state. And we will continue to answer the age-old question: what is required vs. what may be best practice.

9-10C, Supporting Students on the Gender Spectrum: Are you wanting to better support youth in the LGBTQ+ community, specifically those who are trans or gender expansive? K Pepera, M.Ed., LPCC-S, from Colors+ will be talking about gender and how to be better allies and advocates for all youth. Come with your questions and learn in this interactive training together. *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 10:50 a.m.)*

9D, Who Is Undermining Public Education?: You've probably heard about the Koch family and the Waltons, but the web of families and organizations working to undermine our work as public educators is much broader than you may realize. This session provides a look into the systemic way many well-funded corporate entities are working to undermine public education and weaken labor unions and how we're fighting back.

9E, Ohio 457 – It's Not an Area Code...A Savings Plan You Should Know About: Established in 1976, The Ohio Deferred Compensation 457(b) is one of the largest and most well-known public sector supplemental retirement plans in Ohio but the least known among public education employees. Their mission is to help public employees achieve their retirement savings goals and help bridge any financial gap in retirement utilizing their STRS/SERS pension. Public school district employees may contribute to a 457(b) in place of or in addition to a 403(b).

9F, Final Destination – Documents and Designations: The topic may be macabre but, without proper planning, the State of Ohio has its own plan for what might happen to you after a catastrophic event. And some of them might result in incapacity rather than the end. Learn about wills, trusts, succession designations, probate avoidance, and powers of attorney.

9G, Legal Update: Find out the latest developments on the legal front. You will hear an OEA attorney versed in the latest ways to protect yourself and your members. The content of legal updates depends on legal developments at the time of the update.

9H, Grant Writing (Empowering Your Vision, Funding Your Mission): The session will introduce members to a wide range of available grants from OEA. Learn how to enhance classroom projects, boost your local's image in the community, and build membership involvement.

9 I, ABC's of Bargaining: During this session participants will look at key factors to strengthen their contract. What essential provisions and elements should you have in your contract? What are some key factors in bargaining? Learn the answers to these and other questions about effective bargaining.

9J, Dust off Your Old Constitution and Bylaws: A local's Constitution and Bylaws is the second most important document after its collective bargaining agreement. This session will review the important provisions of a local's C&B and provide guidance utilizing OEA's Model Constitution and Bylaws.

9K, Native Pollinator Gardens: at Home and at School: Want to learn what the "buzz" is all about around the importance of pollinators and planting native plants? Learn from a local native plant nursery about how to get started with your own native garden (or native flower pot if you want to start small!) and how you can make a positive environmental impact on your local ecosystem. We will also be discussing how you can incorporate native plants and pollinators into your curriculum and how to build a native plant and pollinator garden at school by involving your students in the process.

9L, Validate Your Professional Expertise through NEA Micro-credentials: The NEA ESP Professional Growth Continuum (PGC) is a first-of-its-kind framework to help Education Support Professionals (ESPs) raise their professional standing at every stage of their careers. The PGC outlines standards for what ESPs should know and be able to do to elevate their professional knowledge and skills at any stage of their careers. Join this session to learn how to validate what you know and do on the job with the ESP PGC micro-credential stack. You will learn about NEA's micro-credentialing program, the steps you will take, and how to use your badge to strengthen your resume and demonstrate your professional commitment to supporting student and school success, making a case for better pay and a stronger union.

10:00-10:50 SESSIONS

10A, Artificial Intelligence/Natural Misuse – Managing AI in Schools: As beneficial as AI is, it also comes with challenges and the potential for misuse. In this session we will explore tools and strategies to help monitor AI use, proper citation for AI-generated content, ways to encourage positive use of AI in the classrooms, developing your own class set of AI guidelines for students, alternative assessment options, and more.

10B, OTES 2.0: 101: An introductory-level presentation for those who are new to the profession and/or those who just want to reinforce their knowledge of the basics for personal, professional, or bargaining purposes. The session will cover the requirements of the law and framework, including the implications for those employed under a limited contract.

9-10C, Supporting Students on the Gender Spectrum *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 10:50 a.m.)*

10-11D, Run, Hide, Fight: Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Because active shooter situations are often within minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation. Learn how you can bring the strategy of Ride, Hide, Fight to your school district. *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

10E, STRS Update – Keeping You Informed: An STRS Senior Staff Official will provide timely information related to issues the system is undertaking including the financial health of the system, funding levels, and potential changes in benefits.

10F, An Introduction to Financial Planning: A primer on personal finance for educators. Basic information on investing to supplement retirement and build wealth, meeting needs for retirement, future expenses, college education, and other goals.

10-11G, True Colors: Sometimes working and collaborating with a team of many personalities can be a challenge to navigate. True Colors Local Leadership training helps leaders and professionals understand their colleagues' leadership and working styles so they can develop an effective local organization to help build capacity and work cohesively as an effective leadership team. The training will aid members in self-discovery of leadership strengths and what it looks like when our esteem has been drained and support is needed. Throughout the experience, one will also discover the color spectrum of their teammates and how they can use True Colors to lift the team up and get the work done! *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

10H, Union Voice for All Leaders: Finding your voice as a union member may not come naturally, but it is in all of us. This session will not only help you clarify your own union message, but explore ways to communicate the message most effectively in your local and in your community.

10 I, Health Insurance Updates – Understanding the Basics for the Best Coverage: This session covers basic health insurance terminology and addresses key health insurance considerations at the bargaining table. Attendees will advance their understanding of how health insurance works and how their local associations can influence health insurance decision-making in the workplace.

10-11J, ABC's of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion): Take your DEI work and knowledge to the next level. This session will allow participants to explore six interrelated philosophies (social justice, business results, oneness and unity, compliance, valuing differences, advocacy and allyship) that support DEI efforts. Participants will be able to connect DEI to workplace success. *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

10K, How Your Local Can Win the PR Game: Learn about NEOEA grants and awards, along with other ways to communicate with membership.

10L, ESP Bargaining and More: This session is for those ESPs who would like to learn more about bargaining language specific to ESPs. Our labor relations consultant and local leader will share first-hand experiences and knowledge when it comes to bargaining for various job classifications within your local.

11:00-11:50 SESSIONS

11A, Google Tools to Support All Learners: There are many Google tools, apps, extensions, and features available to assist all learners. In this session we take an in-depth hands-on look at a wide range of technology tools to assist any and all learners. These can include text-to-speech, speech-to-text, readability, reading comprehension, audio support, organization, focus, and more. Learn what tools are available and how to access and use these free tools with your students.

11B, OTES 2.0: Change, Chafing, or Ridiculous Churn – Protecting Your Evaluation Growth Model: Change in the form of growth benefits teachers and students. And maybe your OTES contract language limits the chafing. But how might “churn” from national and state level anti-free speech, suppression of educational autonomy, and mandated curriculum procedures sabotage your OTES 2.0 cycle?

11C, Protect Yourself Online (Enter your password here to find out how!): The Internet is fraught with danger. Professional hackers and even nation-states are trying to get your school AND personal data. Keeping yourself secure online does not have to be complicated though! Come and learn some of the best ways to stay safe from today's online threats.

10-11D, Run, Hide, Fight *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

11E, STRS 101: Basic information on how the retirement system works, collects contributions from members and employers, invests to provide benefits, operates through the staff which is governed by a volunteer Board, and key steps to take at every career stage to build a financially-sound retirement.

11F, You're an Education Employee – Financial Benefits Available for You: The United Education Profession provides many benefits to education employees through NEA, OEA, NEOEA, and NEA Member Benefits. These include various life, health, auto and home and pet insurance, home financing, student loans, credit cards as well as discounts on

hotels, car rentals, and vacation travel, tickets, wireless service, Costco membership, on-line shopping, and more. Learn how these partnerships can save you money – often more than the cost of dues – and how to access your member benefits!

10-11G, True Colors *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

11H, Clear Channels of Communication: From media interviews to ten-minute meetings with fellow members to quick conversations with parents at the grocery store, educators are being asked to weigh in on the big issues every day. Learn how to develop a powerful message for any situation and how to effectively deliver it to a wide range of internal and external audiences.

11 I, Legal Update (AI): Find out the latest developments on the legal front when artificial intelligence is front and center. You will hear an OEA attorney versed in the latest ways to protect yourself and your members. The content of legal updates depends on legal developments at the time of the update.

10-11J, ABC's of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) *(Must attend both parts; this session concludes at 11:50 a.m.)*

11K, Legislative Watch: Take off Your Rose-colored Glasses!!!: Public education is under attack. Universal vouchers are depleting public school education funding, putting your job at risk. Ohio's State School Board has been dissolved and is under executive control, taking away your voice. Curriculum decisions are being made by politicians, not professional educators, and dictating what you do at your worksite. And what's on your mind? This session will be hosted by OEA legislative consultants and the NEOEA Legislative Committee and will address key legislative issues along with an opportunity for questions.

11L, Human Trafficking: What You Need to Know: Ohio is 5th in the country for prosecuted cases of human trafficking and has held that position for several years now. The average age of victims is 14 to 20 years old, with some as young as 9. Parents are the #1 trafficker of children—their children. Attendees will learn about human trafficking in sex and labor, the effects on victims, and the warning signs of trafficking.

Megaconference – March 9, 2024

Registrations due by Wednesday, February 28

Registration process:

A) Registration is online. Please go to the link at <https://vireopay.net/transact/NEOEA/Mega2024>. You will need to provide the following information:

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| 1) Name | 7) 9:00 session choice |
| 2) Local association | 8) 10:00 session choice |
| 3) Non-work email address | 9) 11:00 session choice |
| 4) Cell phone | 10) Will you be staying for lunch? |
| 5) Are you a first-time attendee? | 11) Will you be joining us for the pre-retired workshop? |
| 6) Will you be joining us for breakfast? | 12) Coupon number (from your local president) or send check for \$25 |

Once you've made your selections, you'll be able to print a receipt.

B) Within two business days, an email confirming your enrollment for the NEOEA Megaconference will be sent to you. If you are not using one of the coupons from your local president, please make your \$25 check payable to NEOEA and mail it to NEOEA Megaconference; 6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D; Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-4190.

C) On Thursday, February 29, you'll receive an email with all the details that you'll need to attend Megaconference.

Questions? Please email us at desk@neoea.org.

Presenters and topics can change due to circumstances beyond NEOEA's control.

Cancellations accepted up to 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 4.