



NEOEA - Retired

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OEA Fall Representative Assembly Report

by *Karen Carney, NEOEA-R Chairperson*

What do passionate educators do on a Saturday morning in December in Columbus? They attend The Ohio Education Association's Fall Representative Assembly. When all was said and done, 704 elected delegates filled Kasich Hall in the Ohio Expo Center, with one goal in mind: to advocate fiercely and tirelessly for Public Education. Having attended numerous RA's throughout my teaching career I am still moved by the compassion and dedication of Ohio's educators! This is my second RA representing NEOEA-R...yes, even retired teachers continue their advocacy for our students and educators!



OEA is committed to a true partnership among federal, state and local governments in the delivery of public educational services in the nation. The association is deeply committed to the success of every student. Thus the core values of Democracy, Collective Action, Fairness, Inclusion, Integrity and Professionalism are the cornerstones of our advocacy. The RA is filled with reports, NBI's (new business items), action items and keynotes addressing the major concerns and successes in education. The procedures and protocols used to conduct these RA's is second to none; allowing everyone involved to have a say in the legislative policies and practices. It is literally quite an experience observing the participants discerning between the yellow, white, red and green cards. The checks and balances are in place and democracy in action is a beautiful thing to behold. There were numerous business and action items brought forward, discussed and voted on-too numerous to list. The robust conversations and the cheers and boos were heard loud and clear. Participants were engaged and encouraged to speak their minds while maintaining a decorum of professionalism. However, the thing that resonated with me as the biggest win is the willingness of educators to continue the advocacy and fight for Public Education!



One of the highlights of the RA was the keynote delivered by NEA VP, Princess Moss. Her first order of business was to shout out our NEA directors and their visionary leadership! Princess came from humble beginnings and was quick to point out that all involved in public education are equally important. Both her parents were school bus drivers in West Virginia-the first point of contact for many students every day. She values everyone in the

"Education Ecosystem." As educators we must fight to keep that ecosystem moving forward as we continue to advocate for Public Education!

"We are stronger together!"

MegaConference is Saturday, March 8



The 2026 Megaconference, will be 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.

 **OEA FUND**
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The event will be held at Corporate College East, in Warrensville Heights. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. The \$25 registration fee covers all sessions, continental breakfast and lunch.

The NEOEA Retired Organizing Committee is sponsoring Sessions 9D Stay Safe Online with Stuart Graham and 11C - Who Continues to Undermine Public Education, will be presented by Dennis Willard.



We'll again offer an optional **NEA/OEA Pre-Retired/Retired** workshop. The benefits of United Education Profession Life membership are reviewed and **Tamala Cole**, Assistant Director of Member Education at STRS will provide information on retirement benefits provided by the system. This session will help keep you informed and to help you explore other vehicles to be financially secure and to consider other obligations you may encounter in retirement.

Lock in OEA-R Lifetime membership at the lowest possible price and continue saving and supporting member advocacy. No matter where you are in your career, your membership will be there when you retire. Payment Options are available to make Lifetime Membership easy & affordable.



[Membership Information - https://ohea.org/retired](https://ohea.org/retired)

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 <https://neoea.org/files/Mega.pdf>

OEA-R Update



By Jené Wilson NEOEA Liaison and OEA-R NEOEA Representative

First year retirees receive a complimentary OEA-Retired membership. However after the first year, members must join NEA and OEA Retired, either annually or at the special one time life basis to receive and maintain services products provided such as legal services, credit cards and certain member discounts.

NEA funds several grants to provide services to members, including Retired members. NEOEA received funding last year to defray some of the costs related to our Pre-retired workshop held after MegaConference in March. NEOEA will again hold a workshop open to active and retired members who would like to receive the continuous afforded by lifetime NEA/OEA Retired membership.

2026 Delegate Elections—OEA-R and NEA Representative Assembly



Your voice is important, and you have an opportunity to have your voice heard on the state and national level. The Ohio Education Association will conduct elections early in April to elect representatives to the OEA Retired Advisory Council and Retired Delegates to the NEA RA.

When you receive your ballot by either e-mail or US Mail, we encourage your vote for the NEOEA candidates seeking election.

OEA Retired Spring Conference



NEOEA-R will host the 2026 OEA-R Statewide Spring Conference at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**.

We are planning a guided tour with the availability of self-guided tours of the grounds and other buildings afterwards. In addition, we will all be able to have lunch in their on-site café.

Stan Hywet was built by the Sieberling family, co-founders of Goodyear Tire and Rubber. The tour will explore the history of the mansion and show what life was like in the early 1900s.

Save the date and we'll have registration details in the spring – Yes – hard to believe, but there really will be a spring this year!



Are You Ready for some Baseball?



Join the Retired Organizing and active NEOEA members on Tuesday, June 9 for a night of baseball and fun! The Guardians will be playing the New York Yankees at 6:40 p.m. We have reserved a block of seats at \$75 each. Last year this event sold out quickly so watch for updated ticket purchase information.

Your Community Vote Matters

Please make sure that you vote either in person or during early voting prior to the **May 5 primary election**. Many districts will have levies on the ballot.

Public educators support public education!

A new change requires absentee ballots to be **received BEFORE election day**. There no longer is a grace period for mailing.



Key Dates for the May 5 Primary

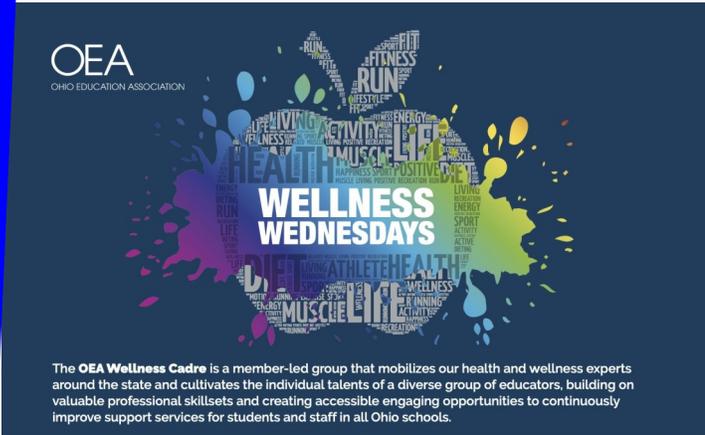
- April 6: Voter Registration Deadline
- April 7: Early Voting Begins
- April 28: Absentee Ballot Request Deadline
- May 5: Election Day

OEA Wellness Cadre

The OEA Wellness Cadre has created another year of virtual opportunities to connect, collaborate, and celebrate with fellow educators.

The next session is **Virtual Paint and Sip** on February 18, 2026 from 6:00pm -7:00pm.

And on May 26, attend the **End of Year Let it Go Party**



The OEA Wellness Cadre is a member-led group that mobilizes our health and wellness experts around the state and cultivates the individual talents of a diverse group of educators, building on valuable professional skillsets and creating accessible engaging opportunities to continuously improve support services for students and staff in all Ohio schools.



FEBRUARY 18, 2026 AT 6PM-7PM
Virtual Paint and Sip
Join us for a night of fun, laughter, and creativity! Grab a glass of wine or a mocktail and follow along with an OEA Art Teacher, for some relaxing painting fun!



MAY 27, 2026 AT 6PM-7PM
EOY Let it Go Party
Join us for a night of fun and laughter featuring a virtual scavenger hunt, trivia, and dance off.



https://www.ohea.org/wellness/

OEA Retired Racial and Social Justice Committee Book Study



All OEA members are invited to join us on this journey as we aim to inspire engaging conversations in books that relate to everyday experiences on the topics of racial and social justice.

All sessions via Zoom and take place the 3rd Monday - 7-8 pm

Book Reading Schedule:

- February 23 – Why We Can’t Wait by Martin Luther King Jr.
- March 23 – April 20—Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- May 18 – June 15—Bloody Lowndes by Hasan Kwame Jeffries
- July 20 – Aug 17—The Third Reconstruction by Peniel Joseph
- September 21 – Slave Ship by Marcus Rediker
- October 19 – Slave Ship by Marcus Rediker
- November 16 – Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Eric Dyson

2026 Book Study Flyer



Read Across America Kickoff



Kick off Read Across America, led by naturalist and educator Aaron Campbell, with an inspiring and interactive session that connects reading, curiosity, and care for our planet! Join us for “Save Our Earth —It’s Up to Us! Be a Nature Nerd”, a lively presentation that encourages students and educators to explore the natural world, ask big questions, and take small actions that make a real difference.

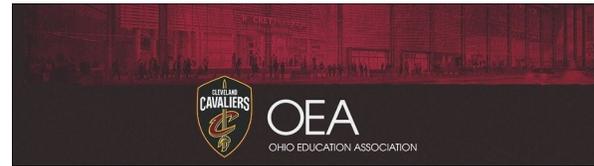
This session blends storytelling, science, and real-world experiences to spark environmental awareness and a love of learning.



Meeting Registration - Zoom

Event Flyer

OEA Educator Appreciation Night—March 27



Join us for Ohio Educator Appreciation Night at the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday, March 27th vs the Miami Heat at 7:30PM.

The Ohio Educator of the Year will be recognized on the court during the pregame and several educators will have the opportunity to hold the Big Flag during the National Anthem.

Every educator that purchases a ticket will receive a Cavs/Ohio Educator Co-Branded Hat.

Other games included for discount for educators are:

- Sunday, November 23rd vs Los Angeles Clippers
- Friday, January 23rd vs Sacramento Kings
- Sunday, Match 8th vs Boston Celtics
- March 15th vs Dallas Mavericks



NEOEA Discounts at Playhouse Square



NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows in the KeyBank Broadway Series.

- ◆ February 2—22 | Suffruss ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ March 3—8 | The Choir of Man ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ March 10—29 | Water for Elephants ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ April 21—26 | The Sound of Music ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ April 28—May 17 | The Outsiders ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ June 9—28 | The Great Gatsby ■ Connor Palace
- ◆ Feb 6—22 | The Heart of Robin Hood ■ Hanna Theater
- ◆ March 20—April 4 | Macbeth ■ Hanna Theater
- ◆ Apr 24—May 10 | Ms Holmes & Ms Watson Apt2B ■ Hanna
- ◆ Jul 8 —Aug 2 | The Lion King Presale ■ KeyBank State

Use the promo code listed in the Playhouse Square area of Announcements at neoea.org, accessible after logging in, and save up to 65% off select performances and seating locations with reduced handling fees! GET TICKETS: <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>

NEA & OEA Discounts



<https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>

- ◆ **NEA Member Benefits:** For questions call 1.800.637.4636 (toll free); <https://www.neamb.com/>
- ◆ **NEA Student Debt Navigator:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-student-debt-navigator>
- ◆ **NEA Travel Dollars**—Enroll in NEA Travel and receive \$500 Travel Dollars to use like cash when you book a vacation. <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-travel-dollars>
- ◆ **NEA Discount Marketplace:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-discount-marketplace>
- ◆ **OEA ACCESS:** <https://ohea.accessdevelopment.com/>
- ◆ **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral and Discount Information:** <https://neoea.org/files/ARP.pdf>
- ◆ **NEOEA Member Benefits:** <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>
- ◆ **Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse:** <https://www.rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/group/detail/fieldhouseplus> Code: OEA22

NEOEA Discounts

Visit <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>

- ◆ **Bedrooms Today:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/2019-01-BedroomsToday.pdf>
- ◆ **Best Benefits Club:** <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/>
- ◆ **Bright Now! Dental:** <https://www.brightnow.com/>
<https://neoea.org/files/BrightNowFlyer.pdf>
- ◆ **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ohecu-loan.pdf>

- ◆ **Park Place/The Fast Park:** Discount airport parking: <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ParkPlace.pdf>
- ◆ **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>



NEOEA-R Calendar

<http://neoea-r.ohea.us/calendar/>

- Wed, Feb 25** Read Across America Kickoff
- Sat, March 8** MegaConference
- Mon, March 26** Ohio Deferred Comp Financial Webinar
- Tue, April 21** NEOEA-R/OEA-R Spring Conference
- Tue, June 9** NEOEA Guardians vs. Yankees

NEOEA Calendar

<https://neoea.org/Education-Union/NEOEA-Calendar>

Ohio Deferred Compensation: The Hidden Advantage for School Employees



Join us **March 26**, for a webinar hosted by the NEOEA **Personal Welfare & Financial Planning Committee**, presented by Ohio Deferred Comp. expert Mike Pacak.

The Ohio Deferred Compensation 457(b) is one of the largest and most well-known public sector supplemental retirement plans but the least known among public education employees. Employees can contribute to both 457(b) and 403(b) plans.

This session will help in understanding this low-cost option and show how to achieve retirement savings goals by bridging any financial gap between STRS/SERS pensions retirement income needs/wants.

Look for registration information that will be provided at a later time. Members who have separated from service without an account may benefit from the financial educational information provided in the webinar.

NEOEA/OEA Information Update



Change of address, phone, or email? Let the Membership Department at OEA know.

<https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/>

Markus Winkler from Pixabay

Additional membership questions? membership@ohea.org or InfOEA at 1-844-632-4636.

NEOEA will receive updated information from OEA.

However, should you **Unsubscribe** from ANY of NEOEA's e-mails, you will have unsubscribed from ALL of NEOEA e-mails. You can re-subscribe using the link in an NEOEA Constant Contact e-mail or re-register at <https://neoea.org/>