



NEOEAFUND -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <https://www.neoea.org/> -- <https://neoea-r.ohea.us/assets/uploads/2022/01/Walters-STRS-Board-flier.pdf>
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Hank Haynes, Editor

NEA-Retired Delegate Elections and OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections

The **OEA-Retired election for Spring 2022** is being conducted by Election America. Online voting opens on March 1, 2022, and closes on March 30, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (eastern).

Election notices will be mailed (and emailed, if on file) to OEA-Retired members with an individual Election Code and Voting PIN (you will need these to vote). For technical assistance with the voting process or to request a paper ballot, please contact Election-America at Help+OEAR@election-america.com or call (877) 466-7875. For questions regarding your membership or election guidelines, please contact William Baird at bairdw@ohea.org.

The Ohio NEA-R delegation consists of eight delegate seats, the Chair, Mary Binegar, is a delegate by virtue of office. There are 16 candidates running for the remaining 7 seats. Four candidates are from NEOEA; four from SWOEA; three from ECOEA; two from WOE; one from NCOEA; one from Central; and one from Capital.

The candidates from **NEOEA for NEA-R Delegate** are: **William A Dorsey; Peg Ham; Donna Smoot Walters; and Jené Wilson.**

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Positions

- **OEA Board of Directors – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative**—Four candidates: **Jené Wilson, NEOEA;** Deloris Rome Hudson, SWOEA; Barry Alcock, Central; and Chuck Steinbower, Central.
- Positions with only one or no candidates:
 - **ESP – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative—Vacant**
 - **Higher Education – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative—Vacant**
 - **NEOEA – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative—Donna Smoot Walters**
 - SWOEA – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative—Becky Brown
 - WOE – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative—Joni Watson
 - **To be considered for appointment to vacant positions, contact OEA-R Advisory Council Chair Mary Binegar**

Download the candidate biographical information for **2022 NEA RA Retired Delegate Candidates and OEA-Retired Advisory Council Candidates:** <https://www.ohea.org/retired/>.



OEA Endorses Rita Walters for Retired Seat on STRS Board

Here is a link to a flyer for Rita Walters: <https://www.ohea.org/cms/assets/uploads/2022/01/Walters-STRS-Board-flier.pdf>.

Here is the OEA Endorsement: <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/oea-strs-board-endorsements/>.

Please encourage all STRS Retirees to vote for Rita Walters for the STRS Board when ballots are sent in early April. She is a strong leader, dedicated to secure benefits and a safe retirement. Unlike other candidates for the Retired seat, Rita is committed to acting in the best interest of all STRS members and ensuring that STRS is strong and stable for the long haul.

Rita Walters is an experienced Board member dedicated to acting in the best interests of all STRS members—active and retired. While some have attacked STRS at every turn, Rita knows that strong investments and shared sacrifice of members have brought STRS back from the brink.

Restoring COLA - After the Great Recession, STRS was projected to run out of money. Since Rita has been on the Board STRS funding has improved greatly. This means that STRS is now in a position to begin restoring benefits.

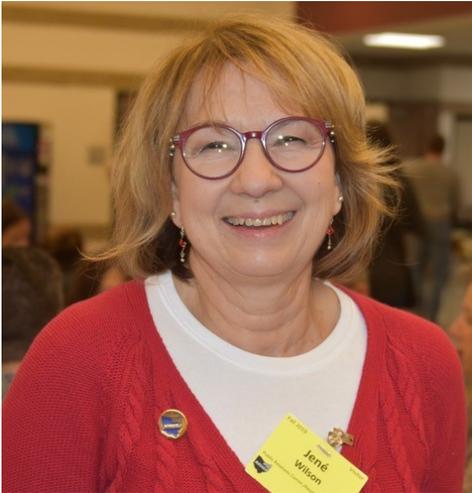
Securing Health Care - Once projected to run out of money, the STRS Health Care program is now fully funded and retirees have received premium rebates for the past two years.

Protecting Our Pension - Some Board members are pushing to invest as much as \$65 billion with a firm with no assets under management and no track record. Rita is fighting against unproven investment schemes targeting our pension assets.

Rita Walters retired with 35 years of experience as a language arts teacher from the Switzerland of Ohio School District and a member of OEA-R. As an active teacher she also served as president of her local association and on the OEA Board of Directors for 12 years. Walters was originally elected to the STRS Board in 2017.

Please also encourage your friends and colleagues that are still in the classroom to vote for the active retirement board candidates, Robert McFee and Jeffrey Rhodes.

View the February STRS Report: <https://www.strsoh.org/emails/news/eupdates/members/2022/2022-02-18.html>



**Jené Wilson for
OEA Board of Directors –
OEA-Retired Advisory Council
Representative**

Platform Statement:

“This is how we used to do it,” should NOT be a rationale for how things should work presently. We all need to continue to be open to new structures and ways of doing things. However, I do believe the retired members have the experience to provide the necessary historical and institutional knowledge to help inform the current organization. They also have the ability to learn new things and new ways, as well as the time and energy to continue to help the Association succeed and grow at all levels. I am running for the OEA-R Board of Directors seat to bring this to the larger Association and to encourage seeing and using the Retired members as the valuable resource they are.

Jené Wilson is a leader from NEOEA. Jené retired in 2009 and continues to work part-time, first at Notre Dame College and currently at Cleveland State University.

While working in her career job at the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 36 years, Jené was an active part of the Association from the beginning, at the local, district, state, and national levels. She was local President, Vice-President, Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Contract and Grievance Chairperson, and served on the Labor Relations Committee and the Negotiations Committee for much of her time at the County Board. She was also a delegate to the NEOEA, OEA, and NEA

Representative Assemblies for over 30 years, and served on the NEOEA Board of Directors.

Currently, she continues to serve on several committees at NEOEA, including NEOEA-R Organizing Committee and chairing the NEOEA Public Relations Committee. She is also on the OEA Organizing Strategy Committee, after having served on the OEA Resolutions Committee and the OEA Local Development and Training Committee.

She is one of the founding members of the Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals (OASNP), a Department of OEA, (formerly the Ohio Association of Professionals for the MR/DD (OAPMR/DD) and the Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals (OADDP)) and continues to be active in the organization.

OEA Legislative Watch

OEA Legislative Watch is the association’s newsletter covering the legislation and policies that affect public education employees. <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/legislative-watch/>. Open an article and click on the “OEA Action Alert” link to send a message to your legislator.

Legislative Watch – February 16, 2022— <https://www.ohea.org/legislative-watch-20220216/>.

- HB 327 would force educators to whitewash our history and distract from the real issues facing Ohio’s schools.
- HB 290, is the so-called ‘Backpack Bill’ that would create a universal voucher program to divert state funding from public schools and force districts to rely even more heavily on local property taxes.

OEA Retirement Systems Update
<https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/>

Full December 2021 OEA Retirement Systems Update at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/dec-2021-oea-retirement-systems-update/>

NEOEA-R Spring Conference

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 9:00-12:30
Registration form due March 18: <https://neoea.org/files/RetiredSpringConf2022.pdf>.

Join us for our VIRTUAL and INTERACTIVE format — your opportunity to participate in a variety of topics — and all from the comfort of your own home.

Our conference will start at 9:00 a.m. with a few welcoming words and announcements. Then we’ll begin our sessions and end with some door prizes!

- Sarah Borgman, President, NEA-Retired
- Legislative Update by OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing
- Internet Safety by OEA staff
- STRS Update by Tamla Cole
- NEA Member Benefits by Guy Kendall-Freas
- Karen Long from Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

OEA-R – Read Across America

To celebrate Read Across America, OEA-R members have recorded themselves reading books for school kids. Enjoy! <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-r-read-across-america/>

If you are interested in recording a reading, please contact OEA-R Vice Chairperson – Phil A. Long, palcisv13@roadrunner.com.

More information and ideas at: <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/read-across-america/> and <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>.

**OEA-Retired OEA Board of
Directors Report**

by Carol Kinsey, OEA-R Representative to the OEA Board of Directors

OEA is gearing up to engage and organize our members to elect pro-public education candidates to the US Senate, Ohio General Assembly, Governor and statewide officials, Ohio Supreme Court, and State Board of Education.

OEA-Retired Spring Conference

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Ernest Warther Museum and Gardens, 331 Karl Ave., Dover, OH 44622 (Exit 83 off I-77) – <https://thewarthermuseum.com/>

Hosted by Region 2 District Retired Representatives:

- East Central OEA-R, Kathleen Purdy;
- Eastern OEA-R, Rita Walters;
- Southeastern OEA-R, Jane Miller.

You are invited to slow your pace and relax in the Gateway to Amish Country with a tour of the Warther Museum and Gardens.

Guest Speaker will be Frank Cilona from the Better Business Bureau on the topic of Senior Scams and Senior Safety. Also STRS and SERS Update.

Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. with a complimentary continental breakfast. The Conference will begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m.

A limited number of double rooms (self-reservations) are available at the Carlisle Inn Sugarcreek where they serve a complimentary hearty breakfast for their guests. Carlisle Inn Sugarcreek Hotel Registration” <https://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2022/02/Carlisle-Inn-Hotel-Registration.pdf>. May 16, 2022. Deadline April 16.

Registration is only \$25.00 to include a delicious boxed lunch, tour of the Warther Museum and Gardens, and more. Conference Registration Form: <https://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2022/02/Warther-Museum-Registration-FormAA.pdf>. Deadline April 29.

OEA-R Spring Conference page: <https://oea-r.ohea.us/events/spring-conference/>
Flyer: <https://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2022/02/OEA-R-2022-Spring-Conference.pdf>

OEA-R 2022 STRS Informational Webinar

Did you miss the STRS Webinar? View it here: <https://www.ohea.org/oea-strs-2022-webinar/>

Playhouse Square Discounts

Savings Are In the Spotlight. North Eastern Ohio Education Association Members can save up to 55%* off the hottest Broadway shows coming to Cleveland as part of Playhouse Square’s Corporate Exclusive Online (CEO) Ticketing Program.

Whether your ideal night out includes a reimagined piece of classic theater (*My Fair Lady*), a Tony Award®-winning hit musical (*Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations*), or a beloved family favorite (*Disney’s Frozen*), the KeyBank Broadway Series offers something for everyone.

Great seats to these fantastic shows and our Huntington Bank Featured Performances (*An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Waitress*) are still available! Use promo code NEOEA and your unique link below to unlock your discount:

GET TICKETS (Link: <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>)

*Discount is online only and applies to select performances and seating locations. Subject to availability.

NEA & OEA Discounts

- **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.org/member-center/member-benefits/>.
- **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral and Discount Information:** <https://neoea.org/files/ARP.pdf>.
- **NEOEA Member Benefits:** <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>.

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/>. Use activation code **NEOEA0613** and company name **NEOEA**. Benefit flyer <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/e-news6.3.pdf>.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** <http://www.brightnowdental.com/>. <https://neoea.org/files/BrightNowFlyer.pdf>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea?src=aff_4wpb_m_0006967_neoea.
- **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ohecu-loan.pdf>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking: <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **Playhouse Square:** <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp> (promo code NEOEA).
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>.

Retirement System Updates

- STRS <https://www.strsoh.org/>
- SERS <https://www.ohsers.org/>
- PERS <https://www.opers.org/>

OEA Retirement Systems Updates can be found at: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/>.

Need to Update Your Contact Information?

Update your OEA & NEOEA contact information at: 1-844-OEA-info (1 844 632 4636) or membership@ohea.org. Also online: <https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/>.

OEA COVID FAQ

<https://www.ohea.org/oea-coronavirus-faq/>



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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R; Chairperson
Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R; Vice Chair
Sherri Koncilja, Painesville City TA-R; Secretary
Gary Hollow, Bristol-R; Past Chair
Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R; NEOEA
Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative
Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R; OEA-R ESP
Representative
Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R; web/newsletter editor
Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
Marsh Buckley, Mentor TA-R
Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R
Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
Sue Fatica, Painesville City TA-R
Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R
Patricia Frost-Brooks, East Cleveland EA-R
Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
Martha Harper, Ashtabula ACSE-R
Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
Teri Mackey, Wadsworth EA-R
Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R
Jené Wilson, ACCESS-R
Beverly Woolridge, Akron ACP-R

**Join us at Playhouse Square for
To Kill a Mockingbird**

Join us to see “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” at Playhouse Square on Saturday April 30. After the show, we’ll have a special behind-the-scenes event. Tickets are \$40 (orchestra seats) for the show (plus an optional parking pass for \$18) are available from the NEOEA office. Only a limited number of tickets are available – reserve yours soon! Deadline April 15 or until tickets are gone. Download Registration Form: <https://neoea.org/files/Mockingbird.pdf>

All rise for Academy Award® winner Aaron Sorkin’s adaptation of Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork. The New York Times Critic’s Pick *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* is “the most successful American play in Broadway history. It has not played to a single empty seat” (60 Minutes). Rolling Stone gives it 5 stars, calling it “an emotionally shattering landmark production of an American classic,” and New York Magazine calls it “a real phenomenon. Majestic and incandescent, it’s filled with breath and nuance and soul.” With direction by Tony Award® winner Bartlett Sher, *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* — “the greatest novel of all time” (Chicago Tribune) — has quickly

become “one of the greatest plays in history” (NPR)

Please check their website for covid protocols: <https://www.playhousesquare.org/plan-your-visit-main/health-safety>

NEOEA Calendar

- March 21** NEOEA Legislative Receptions
- March 25-27** NEA ESP National Conference, New Orleans
- March 29** NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference, Virtual
- April 9** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Mayfield HS
- May 7** OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus Convention Center
- May 17** OEA-Retired Spring Conference, Dover OH

OEA Action Alerts

Take Action! Every day OEA works to improve public education for our students and our members. Our strength lies in collective action. With over 122,000 members, we can

affect policy to improve public education for students and the educators who serve them. Letters, emails, petitions, and phone calls from you often make the crucial difference. <https://www.ohea.org/action/>

**A Night with Our
Legislative All-Stars**

Interested in attending our Legislative Reception--A Night with Our Legislative All-Stars--on Monday, March 21, 2022? Please let your local association president know. Up to five people from your local may attend.

We are thrilled to welcome:

- **Senator Sherrod Brown** – our senior U.S. senator, a seat which he has held since 2007.
- **Congressman Tim Ryan** – our U.S. representative for Ohio’s 13th congressional district since 2013, and our endorsed candidate for U. S Senator.
- **State School Board Member Christina Collins** – an adjunct professor at Kent State University; elected in 2020.
- **State School Board Member Meryl Johnson** – retired teacher from the Cleveland Public Schools; elected in 2016.