



# NEOEERetired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>  
6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D, Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124-4190 -- 216-518-0200 - [retired@neoea.org](mailto:retired@neoea.org)

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Hank Haynes, Editor

## OEA-Retired Delegate Election – CANCELLED Delegates Elected by Acclamation

There will not be a 2021 OEA-R election for Delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly due to receiving fewer candidate forms than the allotted number of delegates. All candidates have been elected by acclamation. The candidates for the Capital and Western representative positions on the OEA-R Advisory Council have also been elected by acclamation. The only district holding an election for their representative to the Advisory Council is Southwest. Ballot information for that election was sent out Oct 1.

The following retired members were elected by acclamation as delegates to the 2021-2022 OEA Representative Assemblies:

**Tina Adams, NEOEA;** Becky Brown, SWOEA; Jeff Corbin, CAPITAL; **William Dorsey, NEOEA;** Marti Franks, NEOEA; **Peg Ham, NEOEA;** Hank Haynes, NEOEA; **Cheryl Hill, NEOEA;** **Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA;** Becky Mayer/Radel, NCOEA; **Steven Mitchell, NEOEA;** Sam Radel, NWOEA; Deloris Rome Hudson, SWOEA; Karen Shires, ?????; Jeff Slattery, SEOEA; Chuck Steinbower, CENTRAL; Chris Wall Swank, NCOEA; Willie A. Terrell Jr., WOE; Wil Vickery, NCOEA; Gretchen Washington, SWOEA; **Jene Wilson, NEOEA;** **Nancy Wonson, NEOEA;**

Additionally elected by acclamation to the OEA-R Advisory Council were: Capital: Deborah Huffman-Mirib and WOE: Joni Watson

There is currently an election ongoing for the SWOEA Advisory Council seat. The election is between Deloris Rome Hudson and Becky Brown. The election will conclude October 31 at 5:00 p.m. Only retired members from SWOEA are eligible to vote in the ongoing election.

The 18 OEA-Retired Advisory Council members are automatic delegates by virtue of office, for a delegation of 40 delegates.

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring OEA Representative Assemblies. On the day before, the OEA-R Delegate Assembly meets to carry out the business of OEA Retired and for a briefing with the OEA officers and reports from the OEA-R Advisory Council. Delegates from NEOEA also attend the Fall and Spring NEOEA RAs.

The OEA Representative Assembly will be December 4, 2020 at 9:00 AM and the NEOEA Representative Assembly will be November 6. Both will be virtual. The OEA-R delegates will also meet virtually the day before the OEA RA.

Please check for meeting summaries and minutes of the OEA-R Advisory Council, OEA-R Delegate Assembly, and the OEA Board of Directors on the Documents/Reports page of the OEA-R website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

## OEA's Redistricting Testimony

OEA President Scott DiMauro and OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing delivered testimonies to the Ohio Redistricting Commission. View videos and submitted testimony: <https://www.ohea.org/redistricting-commission-testimony/>.

## November 2, 2021 General Election

- **Voter Registration closed 10/4 for November 2, 2021 Election**
- **Vote By Mail began 10/5; application deadline was 10/30**
- **Get Information on School Board Races and Levies:**

Please research School Board candidates in your area. Many anti-public education candidates are running—know who's who! Please support tax levy issues.

Check your county—<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>.

## Fall 2021 OEA COVID FAQ

As part of OEA's commitment to monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on our members, we want provide ways to advocate for yourself during this public health crisis. OEA strongly recommends that members contact their local association presidents and LRC's when they have questions and/or concerns regarding any educational, workplace, or health and safety issue during the mandated COVID-19 school closure.

- **Full sections on:**
  - Health and Safety
  - Professional Issues
  - Serving Students With Disabilities
  - Early Learning Considerations
  - Additional Resources
  - <https://www.ohea.org/oea-coronavirus-faq/>
- **OEA Statement on Latest Mask Wearing Guidance—<https://www.ohea.org/press-releases/2021/oea-statement-on-latest-mask-wearing-guidance/>**

## Show Your District Pride! NEOEERetired T-Shirts

Show your district pride! NEOEA's ESP Organizing Committee has red long-sleeved t-shirts for sale—USA-made/union-printed. T-shirts are available for \$25 and can be picked up at the NEOEA office (sent to you by mail, please include an additional \$5). Information and order form at <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ESPTshirt.pdf>

### 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. Go to the OEA website to view sample letters you can edit as you wish before sending to your legislator. <https://www.ohea.org/action/>

### OEA Legislative Watch September 29, 2021

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.

Recent issues:

- September 29—SB 1 – Ohio House Passes Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement and Extends Substitute Teacher Hiring Flexibility
- September 24—
  - OEA Opposes HB 322 AND HB 327 –“OEA leaders, members lead challenge to bills designed to kill academic freedom and honesty in the classroom” (includes links for President DiMauro’s opponent testimony and video);
  - Lawsuit Challenges General Assembly Maps as Unconstitutional;
  - SB 1 – Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement and Substitute Teacher Flexibility
- September 10—Redistricting Commission Produces a more Gerrymandered Map than Current One, Defying the Will of the People
- September 3—Redistricting Commission Blows by First Deadline for District Maps
- August 17—Redistricting Commission Releases Schedule for Regional Hearings
- July 9—OEA Analysis of Recently Signed State Budget
- June 29—Final Budget Bill Includes Fair School Funding Plan, Pathway Out of State Takeover

### NEA ESP National Conference

Mark your calendars. The annual NEA ESP National Conference is scheduled to take place this year on March 25-27, 2022, at the New Orleans Marriott in Louisiana! NEOEA will make available three \$900 scholarships for NEOEA Education Support Professional members to attend the conference. Scholarship application at [https://neoea.org/MemberData/ESP\\_Scholarship.pdf](https://neoea.org/MemberData/ESP_Scholarship.pdf).

### STRS News

#### Board Elects Walters to Fill Retired Member Seat.

At the August meeting, the board elected Rita J. Walters to fill the retired member seat for the term of Sept. 1, 2021, through Aug. 31, 2022. Walters, a retired language arts teacher from the Switzerland of Ohio School District, just completed her first term on the Retirement Board. Board members receive no compensation for service on the board other than reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses.

#### Stein Recognized for Board Service.

The Retirement Board recognized Robert Stein for his 12 years of service as a board member, including three terms as board chair and three terms as vice chair. Board chair Rita J. Walters thanked Stein for his interest in staying current with many of the latest trends in institutional investment and his tireless work ethic.

More news at <https://www.strsoh.org/news/>.

### Mentorship Program at KSEA

By Beryl Burkle, [berylburkle@gmail.com](mailto:berylburkle@gmail.com)

We are going to continue the Mentorship Program at Kent State University this year because we had a successful year with students going virtual with us last year. We contacted them by email, phone, and some of the facetime ventures. They have been very enthusiastic to have retired members as their professional friends. We are the only Association Mentorship Program for students that survived in the state.

We are inviting you to join us because we will need new Mentors to help us in another year of virtual Mentoring. You do not have to go to

Kent State during this year. They just want to have someone to listen to them and give them helpful suggestions. You all have expertise to share with them. Later on you might be invited to an online meeting with all KSEA Students. KSEA just showed us last year what online teaching was and how to interview for a job. We were just observers. It sure opens your eyes how the world is changing.

We have been invited back this year by their President, Bailey McKarns and she will sign up those students that would like a virtual professional friend. I will match you with students that are in the same type of situation you retired from if possible.

To become a Mentor I need your: Name and grade levels taught or any other concentration (if that applies to you)! You can call me at 216-905-7971 with any and all questions. We need you!

### OEA-Retired OEA Board of Directors Report

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

#### REPORT of the OEA BOARD of DIRECTORS JULY 25-27 MEETING and RETREAT

As I write this report, I begin my 6th and final year of representing OEA-R on the Board of Directors. I will be term limited next July. Serving in this position has been both a fabulous privilege as well as quite a responsibility which I have taken seriously.

I am always promoting the advantages of pre retired membership wherever I am. I was honored to be recognized by President DiMauro and then surprised and humbled beyond words as I received a standing ovation from the entire Board at the recent July 25 Board meeting for my continuous involvement in and advocacy for OEA.

I followed that of course with asking each of them to become a pre retired member. As always, if at any time you have questions or concerns or anything I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-495-2318 or [Cskinsey@aol.com](mailto:Cskinsey@aol.com).

There were several NEA staff persons present to facilitate some of the Retreat

sessions in their areas of expertise. Topics included a review of OEA Strategic Priorities with member feedback and next steps to determine if they are they still relevant as written and being evaluated. Considerable time was devoted to Checking in on our Racial, Social, and Economic Justice work. There was also an outstanding presentation on Campaign 2022. Other topics related to moving OEA forward were discussed. It was an intense, comprehensive, and informative Retreat.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

There were two (2) Board action items relevant to OEA-R. These were made in OEA Policy 340.040—OEA-R Guidelines.

- Added—Recall procedure for Advisory Council members – Article VIII, Sec I.
- Changed—Term of Appointed members of the Advisory Council from one year to three years – Article IX, Sec A.2.

<http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2021/08/340.040-Guidelines-for-OEA-R-Rev.-7-25-21.pdf>

### OEA FCPE is Now The OEA Fund

The name has changed. “The OEA Fund for Children and Public Education” is now simplified to “The OEA Fund”. Some will remember when it started many decades ago as “Educators Political Action Committee (EPAC)”.

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

### 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](mailto:membership@ohea.org). Also online: <https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/>.



### Retired POP5 Protect Our Pensions OEA Report—Lavezzi Analysis

It’s that time of year again. Many members have again received a solicitation from an organization called Protect Our Pensions, also known as POP5. OEA and OEA Retired want you to know that while there does not appear to be any inherent conflict between the stated goals of POP5 and OEA, it is important to note that there is nothing that POP5 is seeking to accomplish that OEA and our allies are not already working on.

Download the POP5 - OEA Report: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2017/09/POP5-OEA-Report.pdf>.

For an in depth analysis check this October 2020 post from former NEOEA Executive Director, Bill Lavezzi: <https://lavezzi.us/education/a-parliamentarian-looks-at-pop/>.

### NEA Member Benefits Complimentary Life Insurance Plan.

Have You Taken Care of Business?

Back in 1987, the NEA Members Insurance Trust created the NEA Dues-Tab Life Insurance Program which we now know as the NEA Complimentary Life Insurance Plan. NEA Complimentary Life Insurance is life and AD&D insurance guaranteed to active, staff, reserve and life members at no cost to you. Coverage is automatic; however, members are strongly encouraged to register a beneficiary with NEA Member Benefits. Registering your beneficiary ensures that any benefit will be paid as you wish and it increases the likelihood that a claim will be filed if needed by making a paper trail for your family.

The problem is that nearly 19,000 NEOEA members have never designated a beneficiary. And, some of the 10,000 or so members who have done so have experienced life changes but neglected to update their beneficiary. NEA Member Benefits tells us that they regularly have to pay benefits to ex-spouses of members who do not keep their beneficiary current.

NEOEA-R will be participating in a project this fall to remind members to review or update their beneficiary. Only you will know if your

beneficiary is current. But it is easy to designate a beneficiary or make a change. Simply go to <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-complimentary-life-insurance> today!

### Playhouse Square Discounts

Playhouse Square’s CEO Season Pre-sale is the biggest on-sale day of the year for NEOEA members! Beginning Monday, August 30, at 11:00 a.m. NEOEA members receive pre-sale access to four highly-anticipated shows in the upcoming 2021-2022 KeyBank Broadway Series.

Use promo code NEOEA (<https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>) and save up to 65% off select performances and seating locations with reduced handling fees! These in-demand shows will be making their Playhouse Square debut—be sure to purchase your tickets before the general public on-sale happening September 10!

Pre-sale Access: *The Prom*, *Pretty Woman*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations*. Also Available: Disney’s *The Lion King*, *Wicked*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *My Fair Lady*.

### OEA-Retired on the Web

OEA-R has a new presence on the OEA website at: <https://www.ohea.org/retired/>. If you get lost, pull down the “MEMBER CENTER” tab and click on “OEA Divisions, Affiliated Departments and Associate Organizations”, then “Divisions”, then “OEA-Retired”.

On the page is a link to the original OEA-R website containing all the essential OEA-R information <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

### 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/>.



North Eastern Ohio Education Association  
6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D,  
Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124-4190

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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  
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Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R  
Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R  
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Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R  
Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R  
Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R  
Jené Wilson, ACCESS-R  
Beverly Woolridge, Akron ACP-R

**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**

Check the NEOEA.org website for complete information on these valuable 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](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>.
- **PlayhouseSquare:** <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp> (promo code NEOEA).
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** <http://greatscience.com/educators>.

**NEOEA Calendar**

- October 8** NEOEA Day Programs
- November 6** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Virtual
- December 2/3** OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly, Virtual
- December 4** OEA Representative Assembly, Virtual
- January 25** NEOEA Leadership Summit
- February 5** ESP Virtual Conference
- March 5** NEOEA MegaConference
- March 21** NEOEA Legislative Receptions
- April 9** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Mayfield HS
- May 6-7** OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus

**Miss Your News and Views?**

Each issue of the *NEOEA News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. First register at <https://neoea.org/joinreg> — it's easy and free. Once registered, you'll have access to the Members-Only page, which has recent issues and member-only information for download.

