



NEOE - Retired

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<https://neoea-r.ohea.us>

<https://www.neoea.org>

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NEOE-R Organizing Committee

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Secretary

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OEA-R NEOEA Representative

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Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R

Valenta Ward-Gravely, East Cleveland EA-R

2025-2026 OEA-R Delegate Elections

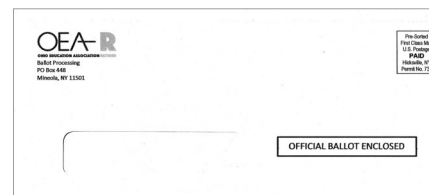


OEA-R delegates will be elected through October 21

The election will be conducted online or by mail in ballot.

OEA-R members should look for a notice titled “*Vote now in the OEA 2025 Elections*” from “Ohio Education Association <help@yeselections.com>” as everyone will get a postcard, envelope or an email with an explanation about the elections process.

The election notice will provide an “**Election Code**” and a “**Voting PIN**” along with a link to the voting page.



**Deadline—ONLINE 4:59 PM ET
October 21, 2025**

Here are the Steps to Vote Online:

- Go to the voting website: <https://www.ohea.org/retired>
- Enter your Election Code and Voting Pin in the fields
- Click on Continue and follow the voting instructions
- Vote for no more than eighteen (18)



Please support the following candidates from NEOEA-R

⇒ Nancy Wonson

⇒ Karen Carney

⇒ Valenta G. Ward-Gravely

⇒ Dr. Samuel Adu-Poku

⇒ Dailas York

⇒ Sandra Peloquin

⇒ Peg Ham

⇒ William Lavezzi

⇒ Marti Franks

⇒ Hank Haynes

Judge Grants Injunction in STRS Board Lawsuit

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Carl Aveni, October 15, 2025, granted a preliminary injunction that will prevent changes to the composition of the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board while the issue is litigated.



The lawsuit — initiated by members of the Ohio Education Association (OEA), the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), and the Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors (OC AAUP) — challenges an unconstitutional provision in the state budget that strips educators of their rightful voice on the STRS Board.

The change in STRS Board composition was amended into the state budget bill (HB 96) during conference committee, the final stage of budget deliberations, leaving no opportunity for debate or public testimony. STRS was the only pension system targeted in this manner. Under the bill, four new appointees would be added to the STRS Board, and members of the



system would be barred from serving as Chair or Vice Chair; effectively silencing the voice of educators in the direction of their pension system.

OEA President Jeff Wensing stated, “We are thankful for Judge Aveni’s ruling to grant a preliminary injunction. This determination confirms what retired and active members of STRS have known since June: this is an unconstitutional power grab by the legislature. Educators, like all other public employees in Ohio, deserve a meaningful voice in our pension plan.”

It is vitally important that OEA members contact their legislators to let them know that this change is strongly opposed by Ohio’s educators.

Please [click here](#) to send a message to your lawmakers today!

OEA-R Representative’s Report

By Jene’ Wilson, NEOEA Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative



NEOEA-R will be hosting the annual OEA-R Spring Conference on **April 2, 2026**. The committee is exploring several ideas for an engaging program that would attract retired members from around the state. Possibilities are endless – from a Zoom health and wellness activity to behind-the-scenes at the Zoo. Stay tuned as details are worked out!

The **OEA Fund for Children and Public Education** (OEA Fund) is the political action committee for members of OEA. The Fund is entirely supported by voluntary contributions from members, members’ families, and OEA staff to strengthen Ohio’s public schools and improve the lives of public educators and the students they serve. Dues dollars are not used to fund candidate campaign contributions.

Decisions about supporting candidates are made entirely based on a candidate’s positions on public education issues, regardless of political ideology or party affiliation.

OEA-R members contributed \$12,804.84 to The OEA Fund over the last year. This all came from only 71 members out of the 7,130 statewide OEA-R members! In these trying times for education, please consider giving to The Fund. You can do so online at <https://www.ohea.org>.

The **50th Anniversary of OEA-R** will be next year, and a celebration is planned in conjunction with the annual OEA Foundation Gala in August 2026. Details to follow!



State Board of Education Update

EDUCATORS LEADING CHANGE: UPDATES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE PATH TO PUBLIC OFFICE

Educators have always been leaders—in classrooms, schools, and communities. But what happens when educators bring their voices to the halls of power? Join us for an inspiring session that explores the critical role educators play in shaping the future of public education and policy. This Zoom event will provide:

- An update on the State Board of Education, with **District 7 Board member Rhonda Johnson**, and what it means for schools and communities.
- A candid look at what it takes to run for office, including both the challenges and the opportunities.
- An introduction to the NEA **See Educators Run** program, designed to support and empower educators ready to step into leadership beyond the classroom.

Whether you’re simply curious about the process or considering a run for office yourself, this session will spark ideas, build confidence, and remind us that when educators lead, students and communities thrive.

Register >>

Join us on Zoom on
Wednesday, October 22nd at 5pm - 6pm



OEA-Retired Racial and Social Justice Book Study



All OEA members are invited to join us on this journey to inspire engaging conversations in books that relate to everyday experiences on the topics of racial and social justice. This helps us learn from each other and grow in understanding.

The last sessions in the virtual group will take place the third Monday of each month from 7pm-8pm. Use the link to register.

Oct 20 & Nov 17 – **Four Hundred Souls** by Ibram X. Kendi
<https://oea-r.ohea.us/events-programs/book-study/>

OEA Wellness Wednesdays



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

- **JANUARY 21, 2026 AT 6PM-7PM Slow Cooker Simple Creations.** Join us for a live demonstration of easy, delicious, and healthy slow cooker recipes. Save time with

these savory and freezer-ready meal preparation ideas.

- **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>

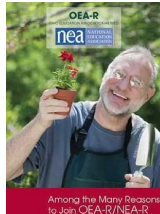
Did Your Active Colleagues Retire This Year?

Please inform your soon to retire active and recently retired friends that OEA provides a one year membership to OEA-Retired at no charge when they head for the exit. In order for the membership to be activated, OEA needs to know of the retirement event. Although a member's retired status will be reported by their local during the annual membership drive members may notify OEA to convert their status by contacting the OEA Member Help Line and providing details regarding their last work day as an active member and their non-school e-mail address to get a jump on Retired Membership process.



OEA Member Help Line

1-844-OEA-INFO (1-844-632-4636)
membership@ohea.org



Retirees in Northeast: Are You an OEA-R/NEA-R Member?



Although NEOEA-R and the first year of OEA-R membership is provided at no additional cost, membership in NEA-R and ongoing OEA-R membership is only available through enrolling in NEA-R and OEA-R Unified membership.

If you are retired and never enrolled in OEA/NEA Pre-Retired or have not yet joined NEA-R and OEA-R, now is the time with an OEA-R and NEA-R life membership. If you currently enjoy any of the NEA Member Benefits—credit cards, insurance, investments, discounts, etc.—you need to maintain your membership into retirement to maintain those benefits. Planning to substitute? NEA provides a \$1 million liability protection policy. OEA benefits are important, too! In retirement, you may need the Attorney Referral Program as you update legal documents. The Educator Access discount program will help you extend those precious fixed-income dollars. Stay in touch with professional development and your colleagues through NEOEA-R, OEA-R, and NEA-R newsletters, publications and workshops. In addition, your interests at the statewide level are represented by the OEA-R Advisory

Council, a governing body committed to protecting and enhancing your STRS, SERS, and OPERS retirement and health care benefits.

Unlike other educator retiree organizations, we are the only organization of retirees affiliated with OEA and NEA.

Visit the OEA-R website for information on the various enrollment types, extended payment plans and OEA/NEA Pre-Retired membership to establish retired membership while service as an active servant in our public education institutions.

<https://www.ohea.org/retired/>

Your Vote Matters!



Please make sure that you vote either in person or during early voting prior to the **November 4 election**. Many school board races will be taking place, and many districts will have levies on the ballot. *Public educators support public education!*

End of Summer Event



NEOEA-Retired colleagues attended an **End of Summer Celebration** in September at the John Crist / Laughing Bomb Brewery and Vineyard in Avon Lake.

OEA-Retired Chair Mary Binegar and OEA Vice-President Dan Greenberg joined us on the open air patio social event and provided brief updates on some of the issues OEA-Retired and OEA is working on to assist retirees and educators still working in Ohio public schools.

OEA Governmental Relations Update Calls



OEA's Government Relations team hosts a monthly, one-hour update call on the last Thursday of each month. These briefings keep you plugged in on fast-moving Statehouse activity and make it easy to share your stories and take timely action to ensure your voice is heard at the Statehouse. *You'll get:*

- What's moving at the Statehouse in plain English
- A Spotlight Issue (vouchers, STRS governance, taxes)
- What can you do to help now on issues impacting education (actions, engaging legislators)

When (Fall 2025) Thu, Nov 20 | Thu, Dec 18 at 5:00 PM

Register here: <https://ohea.zoom.us/meeting/register/>

NEOEA Discounts at Playhouse Square



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

- ♦ Oct 10—Nov 1 | Hell's Kitchen ■ KeyBank State Theatre
- ♦ Nov 11—17 | Six ■ Connor Palace
- ♦ Dec 1—6 | Monte Python's Spamalat ■ Connor Palace
- ♦ Dec 10—14 | Dr. Seuss's Grinch ■ KeyBank State
- ♦ Jan 6—26 | Stereophonic ■ Connor Palace
- ♦ Feb 2—22 | Suff's ■ Connor Palace

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/>



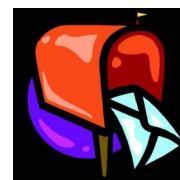
Tue, Feb 3 NEOEA-R Organizing Committee
Wed, Mar 7 MegaConference
Thu, Apr 2 NEOEA-R/OEA-R Spring Conference
Wed-Thu, Jul 22-23 NEOEA Summer Leadership

NEOEA Calendar

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

OEA News Updates

Your advocacy is especially important during the present political environment in our state and Nation.



Subscribe to OEA emails and newsletters for the latest updates and alerts where you can take action on topics of interest which include:

Legislative Watch – OEA offers insight and analysis of the issues and legislation that affect public education.

OEA Action Alerts – News for activists committed to advancing education policies focused on building great public schools for all students.

Events and Promotions – Emails about special discounts and events offered exclusively to OEA members.

OEA Updates – Important information about OEA operations and services.

OEA-R Newslite – A quarterly newsletter from the OEA-Retired Advisory Council.

<https://mc71vg027km1wphy7-4k57j82yc4.pub.sfmcontent.com/530oawg5gl1/u5hsq41p1xs>

Subscribe

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/>