

President's Message

"NEOE Strong"

By Rob McFee, NEOEA President

Well, congratulations! We made it! I know, we didn't have a choice, time moves on whether we wish it to or not. I am reminded of that every time I count the candles on my birthday cake. But here we are at the end of the most bizarre year recorded in the history of public education. It is hard not to relish in the thought, "We did it, we got to June!!"

This year will always be remembered by terms such as "virtual learning," "asynchronous days," and "quarantine." Conversations have been given extra



fuel when we talk about the unfairness of school funding (technology) and the burden of mandatory state testing. The concept of the "learning gap" created by this pandemic will not even be really understood until sometime in the future. I never even knew what "Zoom" was, let alone "Zoom Fatigue!"

"What did we do as educators? EVERYTHING! We adapted, we learned, we collaborated, and we did the best we could under circumstances that were not even close to ideal."

What did we do as educators? EVERYTHING! We adapted, we learned, we collaborated, and we did the best we could under circumstances that were not even close to ideal. What lessons did we learn? Hopefully more than just how to present a math lesson and engage students who are lying in bed watching TV while turning their Chromebook cameras on and off!

"Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient." – Dr. Steve Maraboli

Hopefully we learned that educators

have a voice. We have to speak up for the safety of our students and our own working conditions. Hopefully we learned how important it is for all communities to have access to Wi-Fi and technology so that ALL of our students can learn. Hopefully we learned to work collaboratively not only with our colleagues but also with our administrators. Hopefully we learned that in the worst of times, that is when our local associations are needed the most.

I know this summer most of us wish to just unwind and relax. Everyone has worked so hard and we all deserve a much-needed vacation. But I would encourage you to also keep in mind that the things we learned this year can help us go forward.

I would strongly encourage you to consider attending OEA's Virtual Summer Leadership Academy this coming June 21-22 (<https://www.ohea.org/event/2021-summer-leadership-academy/>). "The OEA Summer Leadership Academy is designed to help members at all levels of the association realize and develop skills and talents as leaders of their profession and their association while building relationships and organizing for power."

I would also encourage you to attend our virtual NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, July 21-22. Final details are here in this issue. Keep an eye on your email or our newly-designed website (www.neoea.org) for more information on this fabulous event. It is not only a great way to empower your local leadership team, it is also a great way to meet and collaborate with leaders from other associations across NEOEA.

I hope to see you in person again very soon; until then, I hope to see you online at our NEOEA Summer Leadership!

United we are stronger,

Rob



Getting ready for our virtual Summer Leadership Conference this July! Registration is FREE for all NEOEA members. Details on pages 4-7.



Our Environmental Concerns Committee sponsored a Scavenger Hunt during what turned out to be a gorgeous month of April. One of the "something yellow" photos was submitted by Barbara Martini from Champion EA.

Will You Be the Lucky Winner of Our Quarterly Quiz?

Congratulations to **Kathryn Zetts** from **Buckeye EA**, winner of the last issue's "Quarterly Quiz" contest.

In each issue we'll be asking a question. (Often, this one for instance, the answer can be found in the pages of the newsletter itself.) All the entries will be made online, and one winner will be drawn each month to receive a gift card. Answer a few, quick questions, and you

could be our winner!

The fourth question this year is: **Who is the keynote speaker at our Summer Leadership Conference?**

We'll welcome all entries, but to be considered for the gift card, the winner needs to answer by Friday, June 11. To answer, go online to <https://tinyurl.com/NEOEA2021-05>.

Thank you to all who have participated!

Legislative Committee Update

The NEOEA Legislative Receptions were held on February 22, 2021, and this year's event was a virtual event titled "Listen and Learn Legislative Panel." We had a panel discussion with legislators on topics around school funding, COVID-19 concerns, redistricting, and more. The event was well attended by both members and legislators. A fun and informative evening was had by all.

The Committee also sponsored a session titled "Introduction to Lobbying"

at Megaconference this year. This training focused on how to lobby, toolkits that are needed, and generating talking points. NEOEA Past President Kim Richards and other NEA Directors led this session. Attendees learned how to lobby, asked great questions, and learned lots of new information!

The Legislative Committee continues to develop innovative projects that link political leaders with public education employees who advocate for working conditions which drive student success. If you are interested in supporting the political screening process and facilitating increased communication between elected officials and our constituents focused on public education—please consider joining the NEOEA Legislative Committee.

Wednesday-Thursday, July 21-22

NEOEA Summer Leadership

Friday, October 8

NEOEA Day

NEOEA Negotiations Conference

For the most up-to-date information on the NEOEA calendar, go to www.neoea.org.

Web Resources

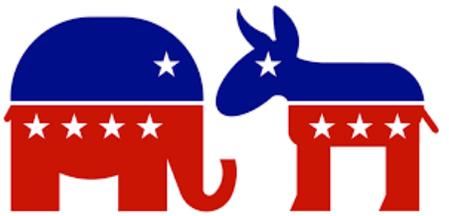
at www.neoea.org

Click "Join NEOEA Online" button in the upper right-hand corner of the website. In order to access the membership level, you will need your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER to create a log-in. A random password will be assigned to you.

- Best Benefits Club
- Bright Now! Dental discount
- Committee Volunteer form
- Communications Contest
- NEA Member Benefits
- Summer Leadership Conference

Social Media

-  facebook.com/NEOEA
-  [@neoea44124](https://www.instagram.com/neoea44124)
-  [#NEOEA](https://twitter.com/NEOEA)



Environmental Concerns — We Love to Be Green!

The Environmental Concerns Committee has been holding a virtual meeting annually for the last few years. However, prior to it becoming the norm, we called it a phone conference and our intent was to lessen our carbon footprint as our committee members traversed the entirety of NEOEA's region. It has definitely been different holding ALL of our meetings virtually this year, but we have, as everyone else has, made the best of it and gotten the work done.

We still had OUTSTANDING submissions for the Green School Award. Albeit fewer applicants, the quality of the

programs were TOP NOTCH! The winners have even agreed to hold NEOEA Day programs for us on October 8, 2021.

As Spring Breaks had varied across the region, we hosted an "on your own" Green Tour Scavenger Hunt. We awarded prizes for the families who entered pictures of themselves while hiking in the park of their choice.

We are looking forward to holding in-person programs as health departments allow the state to open up. Please be on the lookout for future programs offered by the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Fun Fact

Our 28,000+ members are education employees working at 146 educational institutions in northeastern Ohio.

Labor Lines

I look back at history, and some of the worst governments we've ever had, you know one of the first things they ever did? They went after the trade unions.

— US Senator Sherrod Brown

North Eastern Ohio Education Association
is affiliated with the
Ohio Education Association
and the
National Education Association

Rob McFee, President
Lillian Tolbert, Past President
Melanie Hameed, President-elect
Suzie Neff, Recording Secretary
Mary Alice Conkey, Executive Director
Linda Grunden, Executive Assistant and Editor

Address all correspondence to the NEOEA Office, 6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-4190. Views are not necessarily those of NEOEA, the editor, or the officers and Board of Directors.

Address e-mail for *News & Views* to desk@neoea.org.

Summary: NEOEA Representative Assembly Virtual on Saturday, April 17, 2021

NEOEA's Representative Assembly held its spring meeting virtually on Saturday, April 17. The RA considered new business items, recognized award recipients, adopted a budget, and elected Association officers from northeastern Ohio. In preparation for the May 8 session of the OEA Representative Assembly, delegates endorsed candidates for several statewide OEA offices and took positions on issues to be considered at the OEA RA. NEOEA President Rob McFee, a mathematics teacher at Success Academy in Willoughby-Eastlake, presided.

President McFee greeted delegates and recognized veterans, guests, and Past Presidents. He reflected on his opportunity to see *Hamilton* and likened this RA to "the room where it happens." He thanked all delegates for being the voice for public education.

President McFee recognized several ESP of the Year recipients: Barb Armour (Brunswick ESP Assn.) was the OEA ESP of the Year 2020, and she shared how she became involved at the local level. Karen Wright (Wellington Support Staff) is the OEA ESP of the Year 2021, and she spoke about becoming involved beyond her local at the NEOEA and OEA levels. NEA ESP of the Year 2020 (and OEA ESP of the Year 2019) was Andrea Beeman (Maple Organization Support Team) who shared her story of becoming involved at the national level.

State Teachers Retirement System Board of Directors candidate Carol Correthers addressed the RA and asked for their support in her re-election

campaign. She also asked for support for retired candidates Rita Walters and Robert Stein.

Delegates from several of NEOEA's electoral units elected Unit Representatives. Delegates re-elected Julie Garcia (Lorain EA) and Sue Messinger (Parma EA) from Units 1 and 2. Delegates also elected new Directors Trish Duncan (Bedford EA) from Unit 3, Nicole Stratton (Copley TA) from Unit 4, Bryan Bain (Willoughby-Eastlake TA) from Unit 6, and Keith Troia (Conneaut Classified Employees Assn.) from Unit 10. Several current Directors moved to new positions: Samuel Adu-Poku (YSU-OEA) will be NEOEA's Higher Education Representative at-large, Jonetta Reed (Euclid TA) will be NEOEA's Minority Representative at-large, and Mike Farren (Barberton EA) will be the OEA/NEOEA Unit 7 Representative. OEA/NEOEA Unit 9 is a contested election, and the Director will be elected by a delegate-mailed secret ballot process.

NEOEA's Legislative Committee traditionally conducts a campaign to allow delegates to contribute to the state political action committee, the OEA Fund. The 228 delegates attending this spring donated \$4,343 and were encouraged to add to this total at the OEA RA in May.

Delegates endorsed candidates for statewide positions to be elected by the OEA Representative Assembly on May 8:

- Mark Hill for OEA Secretary-Treasurer;

- Cassandra Daniels for OEA Director at-large;
- Dan Greenburg for Ohio NEA Director #5; and
- Adrienne Bowden for Ohio NEA Director #6.

The Association recognized NEOEA's Friend of Education winner – Ohio Congressman Joe Miller – who spoke about the passion educators have for education and the importance of our voices in public education.

Irene Spraggins, Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, presented the proposed amendment to realign the electoral units on the NEOEA Board of Directors and addressed the reasons for this alignment. Delegates will vote on this amendment using an electronic ballot.

One New Business Item was brought before the assembly: "To move support of Proposal #1 on the ballot at the OEA Spring Representative Assembly to amend: Constitution Article V, Section 1 (a) to increase ESP representation on the OEA Board of Directors." The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Northeastern Ohio delegates to the Ohio Representative Assembly met in caucus to review procedures before the OEA RA when it meets on May 8.

Delegates received reports from OEA President Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing, and OEA Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hill.

The Representative Assemblies for 2021-22 will meet on November 6, 2021, and April 9, 2022.

Brag Box

We Have Winners!

At our Spring RA, we recognized the amazing members and locals who applied for and received the following awards.

Green School Award

NEOEA's Green School Award honors schools within local affiliates that are leaders in environmental education. The winning schools will receive a cash award.

Madison EA will receive \$300 for Madison High School submitted by **Tim Pira**.

Euclid TA will receive \$200 for Bluestone Elementary submitted by **Sue Galandiuk**.

Positive Image Award

Positive Image Awards are presented to locals that enhance the image of their members, schools, school districts, or

public education in general in the community.

Sandra Knight from Fairport Harbor EA spearheaded an unbelievable fundraising and community awareness project—rehabilitation of Cardina Softball Field.

Garfield EA stepped up in a multitude of ways to try and spread a little joy to their students through signs, books, parades, food, and fireworks.

Workshops and Conferences



Summer Leadership Conference July 21-22, 2021

Join other local leaders from around northeastern Ohio in an intensive program of professional development, leadership training, and networking. Registration is FREE for all 30 sessions!

Summer Leadership will be held virtually through the Whova app, which is an all-in-one event

management software application that engages our attendees before and after the SLC.

With virtual meet-ups, discussion topics, and gift drawings we're sure you'll have a great time at *YOUR* NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference.

Our Keynote Speaker — Noel Candelaria, NEA Secretary-Treasurer

A special education teacher and former teacher's aide from El Paso, Texas, Noel is secretary-treasurer of the NEA.

Noel is the first-generation son of Mexican immigrants who instilled within him the value of a quality public education. As a result, Noel learned firsthand about the transformative power of public education, how the influence

of one educator knows no limits, and that when woven together the two form a direct pathway toward the American Dream.

A tireless advocate for educators and students, Noel believes in the value and power of relationships that are based on trust, whether they are formed in the classroom, the community or the halls of political power. Noel relies on those

relationships— at the local, state, and national levels—to keep the doors of success open and accessible to all students.



Save the Date! Wednesday, July 21, and Thursday, July 22



It is time to start thinking about NEOEA Summer Leadership! The members of the Summer Leadership Subcommittee wish we could tell you that we will be back at a hotel having beverages by the pool. Alas, this is not the case. Even though we still have to think about COVID, we can also think

about great Summer Leadership programs, too. Once again, Summer Leadership will look different than in previous years. We hope you like the upgrades from last year. We think it is the next best thing to being there.

We have been working hard to continue to bring members high-quality training even during a global pandemic. We are working to offer you as much of the Summer Leadership experience as we can. We will be utilizing the Whova platform that was used for Megaconference in March. This allows us to offer the 30 session choices like we do when we are in-person.

All your favorite classes like Treasurers' School, New Presidents' Track, bargaining training, and legal updates will be returning this year. We also have new classes like Secretaries' School, Social Media and Advocacy, and Intro to Social-Emotional Learning Skills. There will be sessions to interest everyone from the new union advocate to the seasoned leader. You won't want to miss all the great content at this year's conference on July 21 – 22.

Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this great summer opportunity.

New Format for Summer Leadership Conference

The 2021 Summer Leadership Conference will be presented virtually and is open to NEOEA members only. Summer Leadership Conference is **FREE** for our members and features 5 sessions on Wednesday and 25 sessions on Thursday.

Participation requires downloading Whova, which is an all-in-one event management software application that engages our attendees before and after the SLC.

After you receive confirmation of your registration (Tuesday, July 13), sign in

and download the app ahead of time which not only sets you up for success this at the event but also allows you to access the opportunities to connect, share, and learn in the days leading up to the conference, making this more than just a two-day experience!

Summer Leadership Conference — July 21-22, 2021

WEDNESDAY—SESSION ONE—2:30-4:15

1A: Rethinking NEA Member Benefits and the Opportunities They Create for Your Local

NEA Member Benefits is more than insurance, financial services, discounts, travel and professional tools. It can be an organizing tool, a membership recruitment opportunity, a community outreach project, a member engagement experience, and more. In this session, participants will learn of some of the many ways locals in Ohio and other states use NEA Member Benefits to help build stronger locals and deeper relationships with members and with their communities. Following sharing by NEA Member Benefits, participants, working with members from the same or nearby locals, will plan at least one way they will use NEA Member Benefits during the upcoming membership year.

1B: Dare to Be a Leader (Brené Brown's work)

Leadership is not about titles. It is about your willingness to stand up at school, in a meeting, and in your own life. This session will be a structured conversation around the work of Brené Brown and her book *Dare to Lead*. Leadership is four skill sets that are teachable, observable, and measurable. Participants will be sent the book in June in order to read before the conference. *Limited to 25 participants.*

1C: Time Management: We All Need Help

Time management skills are essential for professional success in any workplace. Those able to successfully implement strategies are able to control their workload and personal productivity soars! Learn strategies to focus on the tasks with the greatest impact for you and your organization. Finally, this session will help you identify steps you can take to better manage your priorities.

1D: Title IX: Updates to Know

Is there a balance of Title IX protections for the accused and victim? In August 2020 Title IX investigations were changed, and the result is many situations involving relationships with colleagues, administrators, and students have turned into lengthy interviews, numerous persons' involvement, and a new system to resolve the complaints. This session will explain the new Title IX procedures and how they may impact members.

1E: New Treasurers' School (treasurers and presidents with five years of experience or less)

The responsibilities of the local association treasurer can seem ominous, especially for the first-time treasurer. OEA Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hill will give you the knowledge you need to do the job for your local and its members. This session will be tailored to the needs of treasurers who have five years or less experience on the job. Participants will focus on fiduciary duties, membership, and accounting issues, along with cybersecurity.

Wednesday afternoon join us at 4:30 for our keynote speaker—Noel Candelaria!

THURSDAY—MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS—8:45

SESSION TWO—9:00-10:15

2A: Fair School Funding and State Aid: Learn the Ins and Outs

Funding of Ohio's public education has been inadequate, unequal, and deemed unconstitutional for decades. Participants will learn how their own local school district is funded and steps to take in order for all public schools to have fair funding. Properly funding Ohio's public schools is a top priority for OEA members.

2B: Bargaining 101: It's About Our Job

This session is designed for members who are NEW (or fairly new) to bargaining. The session will look at what it means to collectively bargain and will offer practical, real-world examples that will allow participants to be actively engaged as a member of their bargaining team.

2C: Intro to Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills

Wraparound service providers are invited to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding mental health programming, trauma-informed practices, and the implementation of programming and professional development for all members regarding the growing social-emotional needs of students and schools. Social-Emotional Literacy, wellness programming, wraparound services, PBIS, behavioral health support, and trauma-informed schools and practices are explored.

2D: Legal Update (repeated in the next two sessions)

Find out about 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.

2E: Secretaries' School: It's a Learned Skill

The Secretary has a special role to play in the operation of the Association. Like the other officers, the Secretary needs to work effectively in the leadership team, but the Secretary also is instrumental in communicating with membership and has the specialized skill of taking the minutes that serve as the Association's official record. If you've taken on this role (or you're thinking of doing so), learn how to do it better – including taking minutes and strategies for collecting email addresses, sending out member requests, announcements about bargaining and elections. The list of correspondence goes on and on.

2-4F: New Presidents' Track (from OEA)

Participants will learn about the roles and responsibilities of a local president, the essential knowledge and skills needed to be successful, as well as build connections with other local presidents from across the state. *(This session ends at 1:45 p.m.)*

2G: Communication School: Social Media and Advocacy—Putting Platforms to Work

This session will provide participants with a brief overview of social media platforms that can help engage members and decision makers, while expanding their online presence. Members will learn to use their online presence to help promote the message of great public schools.

2H: Community Involvement and Crisis

So you know you have a crisis on your hands in the local, but what are the solutions? Hear first-hand strategies and ideas on how to mobilize members around the problem and find your footing as a union within the community.

2 I: ESP Track: Look at the Union Opportunities for You! How to Be Involved at Every Level

Are you an Education Support Professional (ESP) who is looking for new ways to be involved in your local or at another level? This session will outline the various options opened to all ESP members in order to take better advantage of your membership and enhance your skill set.

Workshops and Conferences

Summer Leadership Conference — July 21-22, 2021

Thursday Training Sessions—SESSION THREE—10:30-11:45

3A: OTES 2.0

This session will cover the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, how it impacts the evaluation cycle, and what you need to know as implementation begins for all educators.

3B: Alternatives to Traditional Bargaining: It's Still about Our Job

Is your local searching for a different way to bargain this year? This presentation will examine the myriad of bargaining options (Interest Based Bargaining, Modified Traditional Bargaining, Enhanced Conventional Bargaining) available to a union and management in order to reach an agreement.

3C: Individualized Instruction Requires Individualized Bargaining

Wraparound service providers (school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and ESPs who support behavioral health students) require contract protections that may be different than traditional teaching staff. This session explores creative ways to bargain caseload sizes, capacity limits, and the protection of time needed to ensure effective service, documentation, and communication. Consideration of caseload limits, time to complete all aspects of ETRs, IEPs, 504s, WEPS, and other student observations/screenings are explored. Participants will also look at how to advocate for additional wraparound service members in their local.

3D: Legal Update *(repeated in next session)*

Find out about 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.

3E: It's Dangerous Online! Tips to Help Educators Survive Our Internet World

Today's online world is fraught with danger. Hackers are hiding behind every email, web link, and attachment. This session provides some basic tips and tricks to help identify the schemes that the bad guys use to target you and your data. Come learn some of the best precautions to keep yourself safe against today's online threats.

2-4F: New Presidents' Track *(continues from 2F; this session ends at 1:45 p.m.)*

3G: Communication School: Newsletters and Websites

Join our Public Relations Committee and OEA staff to learn how to develop engaging newsletters and purposeful websites for your local. Participants will be able to review templates and put into practice the skills and strategies presented.

3H: Treasurers' School for Experienced Treasurers

This session is designed for the experienced treasurer (who has been in the job for more than five years) and will be a "what's new" in the area of treasurer responsibility. Participants will learn about changes in practices along with a cybersecurity presentation.

3 I: ESP Track: Effective Representation of Diverse Constituencies and Bridging Different Groups

Don't be intimidated—you're equal to them under the law! Participants will learn how to represent firmly, fiercely, and professionally. This session is designed for our ESP members.

Announcements and Gift Winners—12:15 SESSION FOUR—12:30-1:45

4A: What Exactly is HQSD?

Now you may ask what Highly Qualified Student Data is and how it fits into OTES. This session will cover exactly what it is and let you know where you find it.

4B: Constitution and Bylaws: Why It Really Matters

A locals' Constitution and Bylaws is the second most important document after its collective bargaining agreement. The session will review the important provisions of a local's C&B and provide guidance utilizing OEA's Model Constitution and Bylaws.

4C: Prioritizing Your Bargain: Blueprint Your Way to Success

This session will focus on the strategic analysis of member needs, careful preparing of our initial proposal/issue, and how a solid blueprinting process can keep your team focused and engaged on the most important issues at the bargaining table.

4D: Legal Update

Find out about 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.

4E: Let's Talk about Order and Running an Effective Meeting

Whether you're a local leader, a delegate, or an involved member, you need to know your way around meetings and be comfortable using meetings to exchange information and determine action. This workshop is intended to help. Talk with a parliamentarian about substantive and procedural ways to make meetings successful for the membership, the leadership, and the organization as a whole.

2-4F: New Presidents' Track *(concludes from 2-3F)*

4G: Communication School: How Many Ways Can We Do It?

Explore the best way for your local to use various communication platforms. What is the right amount of communication with the membership? Learn strategies and best practices in order to enhance conversations with the membership and community.

4H: Caseload Versus Workload

The session is designed to assist members navigate the policy and practice in the area of special education. All educators need to be aware of the changes in law and how best to protect members moving forward with contractual language and using our voice when it comes in shared decision-making at the local level.

4 I: ESP Track: Let's Run Local Elections

Fair local elections are at the heart of effective governance. Maintaining the integrity of the elections and secrecy of the ballot are paramount. Find out how to conduct local elections and use the OEA Elections Manual to avoid election challenges and protests. This session is perfect for all leadership and elections chairpersons.

Workshops and Conferences

Registration: Summer Leadership Conference *Remember — it's FREE for ALL NEOEA members!*

Full name	
Local association	
Non-work email address	
Summer mailing address	
City, state, zip	
Cell phone	
I'm a first-time attendee	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested in graduate credit from Lake Erie College <input type="checkbox"/> Participants of Summer Leadership can receive two semester hours of graduate credit (\$360) through Lake Erie College for attending the Conference and completing an outside assignment. Registration and payment is online through Lake Erie College. Details are available at neoea.org/files/GradCredit.pdf .	

Process:

- 1) Summer Leadership Conference is for **NEOEA members only**. Participation requires downloading Whova, which is an all-in-one event management software application that engages our attendees before and after the SLC. Participants will access their sessions from the Whova app.
- 2) Select as many sessions as you'd like to attend. Send this form to NEOEA by email (desk@neoea.org) or mail (6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-4190). An email confirming your enrollment for the NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference will be sent after receipt of your registration.
- 3) Registrations must be received by **Friday, July 9**.
- 4) On Tuesday, July 13, we will email all the directions for Whova along with information about joining each session.

Please take a moment to tell us about yourself. Check all that apply.

Work Site	Job Title	Experience	Your Role in Your Association
preK-12	Teacher	1-3 years	President
Career Center	Support Staff	4-6 years	Elected officer other than President
DD	Admin. Staff	7-10 years	Volunteer (association rep., committee member, chairperson, or other volunteer)
Higher Ed.	Other	11-15 years	
Retired		15 plus years	Active member, but none of the above
Student			

I'd like to attend the following session(s):

Wednesday Events	Selections	Thursday Events	Selections
2:30—Session One	Course Code: 1 _____	9:00—Session Two	Course Code: 2 _____
4:30—Keynote Speaker	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	10:30—Session Three	Course Code: 3 _____
		12:30—Session Four	Course Code: 4 _____

Consumer Corner



Known across the globe as “the ultimate feel good show,” THE CHOIR OF MAN features a cast of world-class tap dancers, singers, and instrumentalists celebrating a range of popular artists and musical styles, from Paul Simon and Adele to Queen, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Katie Perry and more. It’s a party. It’s a concert. It’s a pint-filled good time set in a real, working pub. The multi-talented cast of nine handsome blokes sings everything – pub tunes, folk, Broadway, classic rock – ensuring that there is something for everyone in this joyous and uplifting show.

Playhouse Square Discounts for YOU!

We’re Back LIVE and IN PERSON! JUNE 11-JULY 11, 2021

As a valued member of our Corporate Exclusive Online (CEO) Ticketing Program, we want you to be among the very first back to Playhouse Square for a special LIVE and IN PERSON engagement of THE CHOIR OF MAN presented by Penske Cleveland. As an added bonus, you’re eligible to receive a 20% discount with reduced handling fees when you use our CEO Ticketing Program. Go to <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp> to buy your tickets and unlock 20% savings using promo code NEOEA.

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

Brag Box

Ohio’s ESP of the Year is from Northeast ... Again!

By Mary Alice Conkey



We are developing quite a pattern in the land of northeast Ohio, and we love it! This year we honor Karen Wright, an Education Support Professional (ESP) from the Wellington Support Staff (WSS). Karen is secretary to the principal at Wellington High School.

Karen has done it all by being active in her local association, at NEOEA (Director/committee volunteer/chair), at OEA (Director/committee volunteer/delegate), and at NEA (delegate).

I first met Karen, and her husband Ralph, at an NEOEA Committee meeting. They were so welcoming and inclusive. It was fun to sit by them at dinner and kibitz over the day’s events before the meeting started. They are the type of people you gravitate toward in a room, and as I became more active in

NEOEA, I found myself at more meetings with both of them and often tried to sit right next to one of them.

Karen chaired our Publications Committee and was instrumental in shaping our last website. As a member of the committee, I learned so much from her knowledge and insight working on the redesign. As we began to redesign the website this past year, I would often wonder how Karen would see the changes. Needless to say I was thrilled when she praised the new site at a recent ESP Organizing meeting. That is how Karen is though, always willing to assist, work on the fruition of a project, and offer her expertise—but the first to praise the work of others.

I watched Karen on the Board of Directors, as Chair of the ESP Organizing Committee, and on our Summer Leadership Committee mentor other members. It never mattered where they worked or what category of membership

they carried, Karen was always there to encourage their participation and promote the work of our organization.

As one of the officers recently said to me, “It was the ESPs who welcomed me first in NEOEA.” I agreed with that observation and fondly remember it was a group of ESPs, with Karen Wright front and center, who also welcomed me into the work of our association and encouraged me at every turn. Those are gifts that are a part of Karen, and I appreciate everything she has done for me personally as a leader, but also what talents she has utilized many times over with NEOEA.

