

***Summary: NEOEA Representative Assembly
November 8, 2025
Eastlake North High School***

The North Eastern Ohio Education Association held the fall meeting of its Representative Assembly on Saturday, November 8, at Eastlake North High School.

The Representative Assembly serves as NEOEA's top governing body, following a structure similar to that of the National Education Association (NEA) and the Ohio Education Association (OEA), with which NEOEA is affiliated. Representation is proportional, with each local association allotted at least two delegates and larger locals receiving additional representation.

Presiding at her third Representative Assembly, NEOEA President Sue Messinger welcomed 224 delegates and 30 guests. She acknowledged veterans in attendance and expressed gratitude to NEOEA Past Presidents, new delegates, committee members, and the NEOEA Board of Directors. President Messinger spoke about the importance of community involvement and resilience amid the challenges facing public education today, sharing how her parents instilled in her a lifelong commitment to civic engagement. She encouraged members to remain active in their locals, NEOEA committees, and communities, emphasizing that such engagement gives her hope for the future.

Although OEA officers were unable to attend in person, OEA President Jeff Wensing appeared via video to deliver a legislative update addressing topics such as the STRS lawsuit, property tax relief, congressional redistricting, and Election 2026. He also announced a statewide listening tour in which OEA officers will visit all ten districts to hear directly from local leaders and members.

During the Legislative Committee's report, delegates participated in a fundraiser for the OEA Fund, contributing a total of \$5,511.

At the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, delegates adopted the 2025-26 NEOEA Resolutions, a document containing 188 statements of Association principles. Delegates approved four resolutions:

- B-26, Violence-Free Schools
- NEW B-35, Artificial Intelligence
- C-35, Vaccinations
- E-2, Teacher Involvement in Curriculum Development

Proposed changes to I-4, Justice and Law Enforcement in Schools and Communities, were referred back to the committee for further review.

Stephani Itibout (Medina City TA) was elected by acclamation for OEA/NEOEA Unit 4 Representative. With no nominations received for NEOEA Unit 6 Representative or NEOEA ESP Representative-at-Large, elections for those seats will be held in the spring.

Delegates made an early endorsement of Amy Butcher for NEA Director #2 to be elected at the May 2026 OEA RA. Delegates also endorsed Clarence Daniels for OEA Member at-Large #2 to fill a vacancy that will be voted on at the December 2025 OEA RA.

Andrew Smith, President-elect and Chairperson of the NEOEA Finance Committee, presented the annual audit report, confirming that NEOEA received a clean audit.

The Social and Human Concerns Committee sponsored a clothing drive benefiting the Willoughby-Eastlake clothing closet, collecting socks, underwear, leggings, and jogging pants for local students in need.

Delegates honored winners of four categories of NEOEA awards.

- The Legislative Committee recognized locals who are leaders in two categories for contributions to the OEA Fund.
 - ✦ Locals with the highest dollar contributions per member:

Unit 1	Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA
Unit 2	Lakewood TA
Unit 3	East Cleveland EA
Unit 4	Brunswick EA
Unit 5	Howland Classroom TA
Unit 6	Cardinal EA
Unit 7	Twinsburg EA
Unit 8	Field Local TA
Unit 9East	LEADD
Unit 9West	Akron ACP
 - ✦ Locals with the most improved dollar contributions per member:

Unit 1	Lorain EA
Unit 2	Parma EA
Unit 3	Mayfield EA
Unit 4	Medina City TA
Unit 5	Warren EA
Unit 6	Painesville City TA
Unit 7	Barberton EA
Unit 8	Field Local TA
Unit 9East	Mentor Class. Emp.
Unit 9West	Akron ACP
- The Public Relations Committee recognized winning entries in the 2024-25 Communications Contest Awards.
 - ✦ Honorable Mention certificates were given to:
 - ♦ Akron Assn. of Class. Pers. for *AACP – Empowering Education One Desk at a Time*
 - ♦ Boardman EA for *BEA in the Know*

- ♦ Brunswick EA for *Educate, Empower, Unite*
- ♦ Fairview Park EA for *Fairview Park EA Newsletter*
- ♦ Madison EA for *MEA Newsletter*
- ♦ Mentor Class. Emp. for *Mentor Classified Employees Quarterly Newsletter*
- ♦ Niles EA for *NEA News & Views*
- ♦ Painesville City TA for *PCTA Monthly Newsletter*
- ♦ Parma EA for *PEA Strong*
- ♦ Warren EA for *WEA Update*
- ♦ Willoughby-Eastlake TA for *WETA News*
- ✦ Green Local Assn. of Support Staff received a \$50 award as the Small Local winner for *GLASS News*.
- ✦ Howland Classroom TA received a \$50 award as the Medium Local winner for *Tigers Roar*.
- ✦ Highland EA received a \$50 award as the Large Local winner for *HEA Newsletter*.
- ✦ The Outstanding Communications for 2024-25 received a \$100 cash award: Field Local TA for *FLTA In Talk*.
- Delegates honored 33 local affiliates as NEOEA's Five Star Locals for 2024-25:

Akron Assn. of Class. Pers.	Madison EA
Bay TA	Maple Hts. TA
Boardman EA	Medina City TA
Brunswick EA	Mentor Class. Emp.
Cardinal EA #	Painesville City TA #
Champion EA #	Parma EA
Chardon EA	Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA #
Clearview EA	Southeast Local District TA
East Cleveland EA #	Southington EA *
Elyria EA #	Strongsville EA
Euclid TA	Tallmadge TA
Fairview Park EA #	Trumbull CTC EA
Field Local TA #	Twinsburg EA #
Howland Classroom TA #	Warren EA
Lakewood TA	Waterloo EA
Liberty Assn. of School Emp. *	Willoughby-Eastlake TA #
Lorain EA	

indicates local received all six stars available.

* indicates first-time recipient.

Northeastern Ohio delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly met in caucus to prepare for the upcoming OEA RA, which convenes on December 6.

The NEOEA Representative Assembly will hold its next Representative Assembly on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Olmsted Falls High School, 26939 Bagley Road.