

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.

Willoughby-Eastlake TA President Rob 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 Greenberg 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.

5-6. *The Board of Directors*

The Association Board of Directors shall comprise: the President; a President-elect; the immediate Past President; a Recording Secretary; Ohio Education Association Directors elected from the electoral units within the association boundaries; two NEOEA at-large representatives, one of whom shall be a minority position and the other shall be an ESP member from the NEOEA area; National Education Association Director(s) and Ohio Education Association Directors from within the Association boundaries; at-large Ohio Education Association Directors from within the association boundaries; Directors elected for the association from the electoral units at the spring Association Representative Assembly; one person selected from retired members; one person selected from student members; and other such members as the Board of Directors shall determine to appoint to secure proportional representation of administrator members.

All members of the Division of Higher Education within the Association's boundaries shall comprise an Electoral Unit for the purposes of representation on the Board of Directors. The term of office for this unit's representative on the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year until full status of the unit is achieved. By 1985, if the unit does not achieve a membership equivalent to one-half (1/2) unit, the unit shall be dissolved.

a. Electoral Unit Members

One (1) member of each electoral unit shall be elected as provided by the Ohio Education Association and shall sit on both the Board of Directors of the Ohio Education Association and of the Association (NEOEA). One unit will be a representative from the ESPs.

One other member from each electoral unit shall be elected for a three (3) year term by their electoral unit at a spring Representative Assembly in accordance with a schedule established by the Association Board of Directors, and shall sit on the Association Board of Directors. The ESP seat will be comprised of two seats on the NEOEA Board – designated as a unit for the west area of the association boundaries and a unit for the east area of the association boundaries.

Delegates will vote on this amendment using an electronic ballot.

Delegates honored winners of two categories of NEOEA awards.

- The Public Relations Committee announced the winners of Positive Image Awards for 2020-21:

- Sandra Knight from Fairport Harbor EA for “Fundraising for Rehabilitation of Cardina Field.”
- Garfield Education Association for “Helping our Community during the Pandemic.”
- NEOEA’s Green School Award honors schools within local affiliates that are leaders in environmental education. The Environmental Concerns Committee announced the winners of the Green School Award for 2020-21:
 - Secondary: Tim Pira from Madison EA
 - Primary: Sue Galandiuk from Euclid TA

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.