

*Summary: NEOEA Representative Assembly  
April 20, 2024  
Orange High School*

The North Eastern Ohio Education Association held the spring meeting of its Representative Assembly on Saturday, April 20.

The Representative Assembly (RA) is the top governing body of NEOEA, following a governance structure similar to the National Education Association and the Ohio Education Association, with which NEOEA is affiliated. Representation is proportional: each local is allotted at least two delegates at NEOEA's RA, and larger locals are allotted more delegates.

Presiding at her last RA, NEOEA President Melanie Hameed greeted the 178 delegates and 32 guests present. She also recognized and thanked the NEOEA Past Presidents, new delegates, all committee members, and the NEOEA Board of Directors. She reflected on her two-year term as NEOEA President. Some highlights were the creation of three scholarships, the addition of an investment committee, and our introduction to whirly ball. NEOEA is a builder of leaders, and President Hameed is proud of every inch that NEOEA covers geographically and figuratively. She spoke of all the members she has learned from and all of the friends she has made.

Delegates received a report from STRS Board Chairperson Carol Correthers.

In a fundraiser conducted during the Legislative Committee's report at the Representative Assembly, delegates donated \$4,715 to the OEA Fund.

Some of the positions for representatives on the Board of Directors were filled by acclamation: Julie Garcia (Lorain EA) as OEA/NEOEA Unit 1 Representative, Laura Ponsart (Fairview Park EA) as NEOEA Unit 2 Representative, Nicole Stratton (Copley TA) as OEA/NEOEA Unit 4 Representative, Bryan Bain (Willoughby-Eastlake TA) as NEOEA Unit 6 Representative, Mike Farren (Barberton EA) as OEA/NEOEA Unit 7 Representative, and Tammy LaPlante (Ashtabula ACSE) as OEA/NEOEA Unit 9 Representative.

There are several new Directors: Checole Andrews (Painesville City TA) as Minority Representative at-Large, Jerry Turillo (Boardman EA) as NEOEA Unit 8 Representative, and Bridget Heiss (Mentor Class. Emp.) as NEOEA Unit 9 East Representative.

Andrew Smith (Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA) will be our new President-elect.

In a contested election, Trish Duncan will remain our NEOEA Unit 3 Representative.

Delegates endorsed candidates for statewide positions to be elected by the OEA Representative Assembly on May 10:

- Linna Jordan for NEA Director #6; and
- Cassandra Daniels for OEA Director at-Large #2.

Delegates did not endorse George Hoover for OEA ESP Representative at-Large #2 since he did not request to be screened by the NEOEA Internal Political Action Committee.

The 2024-25 Budget was presented and was adopted by unanimous consent.

Delegates honored the winners of the Green School Award for 2023-24. These winners will receive a share of the \$500 cash prize.

- Jason Lee and the Howland Classroom TA;
- Angie DeLeon and the Amherst TA.

Delegates also honored the winners of the Positive Image Awards for 2023-24. Each local association received a certificate and a check for \$150.

- Akron Association of Classified Personnel Akron ACP for Holiday Season Toy Drive
- Lynn Monaco and Robert Goff from Chardon EA for Language Arts Live! 2023
- Euclid TA for Cleveland Food
- Niles EA for Steel City Warriors Bank
- Parma EA for Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Kathleen Gallagher, Mirjana Tojl, Madison Haywood from Tallmadge TA for International Night.

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

Northeastern Ohio delegates to the Ohio Representative Assembly met in caucus to review procedures before the OEA RA when it meets on May 10-11.

Northeastern Ohio's OEA Caucus delegate took the following positions on proposed amendments to the OEA Constitution and Bylaws:

- Proposal 1 support
- Proposal 2 support
- Proposal 3 support
- Proposal 4 no support

Northeastern Ohio's OEA Caucus voted to support proposed changes to the OEA Resolutions.

The Representative Assemblies for 2024-25 will meet on November 9, 2024, at Brunswick Middle School and on April 12, 2025, at Normandy High School in Parma.