OEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Bill Sears, OEA Retired Board of Directors Member

The OEA Board of Directors met on Saturday, October 15 at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus, which is being used while We Are Ohio is using the meeting room at the headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by OEA President Pat Frost Brooks. Among routine matters was the seating of Board members, adoption of the President's recommendations, a report from Secretary-Treasurer Jim Timlin for Business/Support/Administration, a report from the Constitution and By-Laws subcommittee, and a report from Information Systems. There were also reports from each of the Core Function Committees; they had had their first meeting of the year on October 1. Special thanks go to each of the retired members who serve on one of these committees for your hard work.

Two items of interest were brought before the Board from Vice President Bill Leibensperger. First, the Legislative Policies for 2011-2012 were presented. There are no changes in the policies from those of 2010-2011. Some of you may remember that for years we have had the Education Reform Document. This document has been done away with and replaced by the Systematic Policy Agenda of the Ohio Education Association Supporting a High-Quality Public education System in Ohio. This is an aspirational document outlining the way education should be in our state. It is a combination of the work of both the Legislative and the Professional Efficacy Committees; staff members Ron Rapp and Randy Flora worked with governance to develop this visionary document. The document will be presented at District RA's this fall and will be voted on at the OEA RA in December.

Issue 2 was the focus of both discussion and work at this Board meeting. President Pat Frost Brooks led a discussion of the efforts of the members of the Board in working on the campaign. There were many activities that were shared with the Board members. The work of the Board became making phone calls to canvass potential "NO" voters on Issue 2. Board members used their laptops to go to a database of identified voters and then hundreds of phone calls were made by the Board members. In a related issue, there are groups that are trying to use email to contact our members to vote "YES" on the Issue; only emails from ohea.org are from OEA. For the election, NEA volunteers from 13 states are coming to Ohio to work. NEA has also contributed \$5 million to support our efforts on Issue 2. NEA Member Benefits is also a supporter of our cause. By the way, if you plan to give to We Are Ohio please do so soon. It is only three weeks to the election.

In one more item of business, the Board authorized and directed Executive Director Larry Wicks to negotiate with retired members on their health care insurance.

Finally, whether you vote absentee, by early voting at your county Board of Elections, or by going to the polls on November 8, DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NO ON ISSUE 2.