

STRS UPDATE

STRS Board Makes Adjustments to Investment Staff Bonus Plan

The STRS Board followed the recommendation of the Staff Benefits Committee and the STRS staff to suspend the current Performance Based Incentive plan for investment managers effective February 1, and replace it on July 1, 2009, with a modified plan that will provide smaller future bonuses should losses again mount to the unprecedented levels that have been seen in the past six months. The suspension of the PBI program means that any staff bonuses for Fiscal Year 2009 will be based on asset performance from July 1, 2008 through January 30, 2009. The present estimate is that investment manager bonuses will be in the neighborhood of \$3.3 million. If maximum bonuses were awarded the total would near \$12 million. Jeff Chapman probably summed up the majority position when he offered that "these are extraordinary times, and such times call for extraordinary actions."

STRS Examines Health Care Options

Work on a strategic plan for the STRS Health Care Program continued with a daylong education session for board members on Friday, December 12, 2008. One item that received significant attention was the potential of utilizing Medicare Advantage plans as an option for eligible benefit recipients. These are plans offered in the private market that place some limits on choice of providers but may offer better benefits at the same or lower cost. Medicare Advantage plans are currently utilized by SERS and OPERS. It must be noted that without a significant increase in funding through additional member and/or employer contributions, fundamental changes will need to be made to sustain the health care program for the long-term.

OEA and our partners with the Health Care Advocates for STRS will continue to pursue legislation to create a dedicated revenue stream for these benefits. This legislation, formerly House Bill 315, will have to be re-introduced this year.

STRS Board Elections

The STRS Board election will be conducted throughout the month of April 2009. One active member and two retirees will be elected to the Board. The OEA Board of Directors voted to endorse Carol Correthers, a teacher with the Lorain Education Association, for the active seat. Additionally, the Board of Directors endorsed Jim McGreevy, a retired teacher from Zanesville, for a retiree seat on the Board.

In these difficult economic times it is more important than ever to have representatives on the STRS Board who are strong, hard-working and advocates for those who dedicate their lives to Ohio's students. The STRS Board plays a vital function in overseeing the funds entrusted to the retirement system in order to ensure a secure retirement for Ohio's teachers. Both of OEA's endorsed candidates are committed to protecting pension benefits and access to affordable health care for current and future retirees. They both are actively engaging in rigorous training on pension and health care issues to better prepare them for the important responsibility of being a member of the STRS Board.

Active teachers contributing to STRS are eligible vote for active teacher positions on the STRS Board. **Retired teachers who receive a retirement benefit from STRS are eligible to vote for the retired teacher positions on the STRS Board.**

CONTACT YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM

STRS 1-888-227-7877 or www.strsoh.org

SERS 1-800-878-5853 or www.ohsers.org

OPERS 1-800-222-7377 or www.opers.org

OEA-R NEWSLINE

2009 EDUCATOR LOBBY DAYS

The OEA has announced that **March 10, April 28, and May 12, 2009** have been set as Educator Lobby Days. Educator Lobby Days provide an opportunity for OEA members to meet with state legislators to discuss key educational issues. In an effort to broaden support for public education issues and build partnerships, we have invited education partners including administrators, school board members, students and parents to join our lobby day efforts. OEA-Retired members are urged to participate to lobby for great public schools. Also, there are issues affecting your retirement and benefits that need to be addressed at that time.

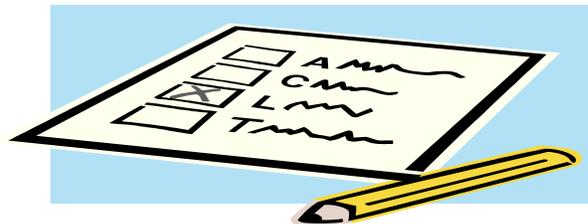
Please join your OEA colleagues at the OEA Headquarters Media Center, 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio at 9 a.m. for an hour-long briefing. We strongly encourage you to schedule your meetings with your legislators prior to the lobby day you plan to attend. If you need further information or would like to attend Educator Lobby Days, please contact Jada Wilson at wilsonja@ohea.org or 1-800-282-1500.

The OEA Legislative Reception, May 12, 5-7:30 p.m., will be held at the Ohio Theatre Pavilion. If you need further information or would like to attend the OEA Legislative Reception, please contact **Briana McKay** at mckayb@ohea.org or 1-800-282-1500.



About Your NEWSLINE

Some inquiries were received about the last edition concerning the deadline for the NEA Member Giveaway deadline that had passed before the edition was received by some members. Every effort is made to provide timely information to our readers and that responds to time-sensitive information can be made. The NEWSLINE is sent to you as bulk mail -- not first class, so unfortunately we cannot guarantee that you will receive it by a certain day. Delivery is dependent upon your local post office. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your comments.



OEA –RETIRED ELECTIONS

Ballots will be sent out soon for election of OEA-R Officers, Advisory Council Members, and NEA-R Delegates.

Officers

All members will receive a ballot for election of officers with a term beginning September 1, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012. These are the declared candidates for each position:

<i>President</i>	David Bowen
<i>Vice President</i>	John Hoyes
	Nancy Wonson
<i>Secretary</i>	Marti Huss

Advisory Council Members

The following districts will elect representatives with a term beginning September 1, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012.

<i>Capital</i>	Marilyn Allen
<i>Eastern</i>	Jack Boyd
<i>North Central</i>	Mary Jane Schlarriet
<i>Northwest</i>	No Candidate

NEA-Retired Delegate

Six delegates from a field of 50 will be chosen by all members to represent OEA-R at the NEA-R Annual Meeting and serve as retired delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly.

In the case that there is no contest for any position, the candidate(s) will be declared elected and no voting will take place for that position.

All members will receive an Officer ballot and an NEA-Retired Delegate ballot. ballots by first class mail sent soon. Please follow the directions carefully and return your ballots to OEA by the third week of March.

OEA-R NEWSLINE

OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus

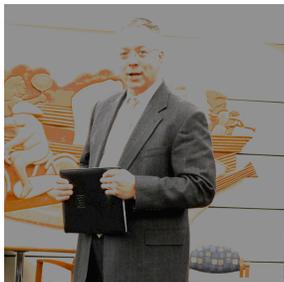
The OEA-Retired Caucus met December 5 at the STRS Building. President David Bowen called the meeting to order at 12:45. Advisory Council members Bill Sears, Vivian Brown, John Hoyes, Carol Kinsey, and Chris Swank gave reports from their Committees.

Homer Adams, Kathy Turning, and Pat Bruns reported on Campaign 2008 election results. In targeted races, the Ohio House had 86% winning, the Ohio Senate had 100% winning, and the Congressional races had 75% winning. Endorsed candidates did well, also, with 79% winning in the Ohio House, 65% winning in the Senate, and 69% winning in Congress. The State Board of Education election was a disappointment, though, with only 29% of endorsed candidates winning.

Nancy Wonson and Marti Huss gave a video and oral presentation of the Intergenerational Mentoring program. This program has started at Kent State University and there are plans to offer the program to other schools.

Michael J Neff, the new Executive Director for STRS spoke to the caucus. He assured the group that STRS has funds to sustain retirees' pensions but the Health Care Stabilization Fund must be a priority. He is looking at other ways to fund healthcare alongside HB 315 if it passes in some form. At present the Health Care Stabilization fund will only last 10 years and STRS has started to use the principal.

The OEA Officers President Pat Frost Brooks, Vice President Bill Leibensperger, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Timlin addressed the caucus. OEA's new Executive Director Larry Wicks was introduced to our retired delegation. Retired representative to the OEA Board of Directors Jim McGreevy reported on the OEA Board meeting and briefed the caucus on issues to be presented at the OEA Representative Assembly.



Michael Neff
STRS Executive Director



Larry Wicks
OEA Executive Director

Come Celebrate the Season at the 2009 Spring Regional OEA Retired Conference

Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at the
Rothschild Farm in Urbana, Ohio

*Sponsored by OEA-R, OEA Region I,
Capital-Retired and Central OEA/NEA-Retired.*

Speakers and Presentations by

- David Bowen, OEA-Retired President
- John Hoyes, OEA-R Vice-President
- Pat Frost-Books, OEA President
- Bill Leibensperger, OEA Vice-President
- Jim Timlin, OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- Larry Wicks, OEA Executive Director
- Laura Ecklar, STRS
- Guy Kendall-Freas "25 Financial Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make"
- Roger Corey "Managing Your Money in Difficult Times"

Registration and breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m., with speakers and programs to begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served. A Garden Tour is planned after lunch. The Conference will end at 3:00. Door prizes and a 50-50 raffle will be a part of the program. **The Registration deadline is Friday, May 8, 2009.** There is a limit of 90 participants. Complete the registration form below to guarantee your spot!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____

Garden Tour Yes No

Enclose a check for **\$20.00** payable to the
Ohio Education Association and mail to
Spring Statewide Conference

c/o Don Holub
Ohio Education Association
225 E. Broad Street Box 2550
Columbus, Ohio 43216

*You will be notified by email or letter
when your reservation is received,*

OEA-R NEWSLINE

NEA Member Benefits

H&R Block is ready to help with your 2008 taxes! Download a discount coupon and save up to \$40 on your in-person tax consultation at an H&R Block retail office, or choose online tax filing and pay less than the standard cost. Get more information, including your coupon, at neamb.com/taxcut08 or call toll-free, 1-800-786-3429.



Our Mission Statement

OEA-R is dedicated to meeting the needs of its members, providing member involvement within OEA, and supporting public education.

2008-2009 Officers

David Bowen
President

John Hoyes
Vice-President

Ruth Weeks
Secretary

Homer Adams
Past President

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Bill Sears, Editor

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