

## RETIREMENT SYSTEMS UPDATE

### STRS Ohio

#### Special Health Care Program News on Its Way to Program Participants

Current enrollees in STRS Ohio's Health Care Program should watch their mailboxes for additional information about the 2010 health care program changes. A four-page newsletter is on its way that will provide details about enrollment options (including the new Aetna Medicare Plan), the new single prescription program for Aetna, Medical Mutual, and Paramount Health Care Plans, premiums, and upcoming fall meetings around the state. This information is currently posted on the STRS website.

In late October, all current enrollees will also receive personalized information that outlines their 2010 plan options and monthly premiums in preparation for the fall open enrollment period, which extends from November 1 to November 24, 2009.

#### STRS Long Term Contingency Planning Work Continues

In preparation for its August meeting, STRS staff continues to work on various scenarios designed to restore the pension fund to a 30-year funding period in a reasonable amount of time, while also allowing additional employer contributions to go to the Health Care Stabilization Fund and extend the life of the STRS Health Care Program. In May, the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC), which is the legislative oversight body for Ohio's five pension systems, directed each system to present board-approved plans for achieving or maintaining a 30-year funding period at the September 9, 2009, meeting of the ORSC. STRS will use its newsletters, website, email, and news services to share the results of the board's and ORSC's discussions in coming weeks. In addition, once future changes are more defined, STRS will be holding meetings around the state to provide additional information to both active and retired members.

An extensive list of potential options has been discussed since the Board began its discussions in March. Among these are reduction of the COLA, increasing employee and employer contributions, instituting a minimum retirement age, increasing the number of years to calculate the final average salary, and changing the formula for calculating pensions. More information about these, along with a list of perceptions and facts, is available at the STRS Ohio website.

*The next meeting of the STRS Board is August 20-21.*

## OPERS

On June 19, 2009, Governor Strickland proposed that the state's contribution to the Ohio Public Employees' Pensions System be *reduced* from 14 to 8 percent for two years, with a payback to OPERS to occur over the subsequent ten years. This proposal was made as a way to help balance the state's budget. In voicing its strong opposition to the proposal, OPERS noted that reducing contributions would put OPERS outside the 30-year period required by law to fund pensions and would reduce the solvency of the fund that pays for all retiree health care to ten years. While STRS, SERS, and Highway Patrol were not included in the proposal, a letter was sent from each to the members of the General Assembly to voice opposition to such a plan, indicating that the costs to other state and federal programs will increase if the state cannot provide basic retirement, health care, and safety net programs for its employees. The proposal was rejected by lawmakers and was not part of the state's final budget.

#### **CONTACT YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**STRS** 1-888-227-7877 or [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)

**SERS** 1-800-878-5853 or [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org)

**OPERS** 1-800-222-7377 or [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org)

---

## OEA-R NEWSLINE

### District News

**Capital:** "CEA-R Notes," the popular group of CEA-R members who enjoy singing, is available for performances at organization meetings and retirement communities. For more information, contact Marilyn Allen at [mrasecond@yahoo.com](mailto:mrasecond@yahoo.com).

**East Central:** The Annual ECOEA-R Holiday Lunch and Shopping Event will be held Thursday, December 1, 2009, at the Pine Tree Barn in Wooster ([www.pinetreebarn.com](http://www.pinetreebarn.com)). Reservations are required. Contact Carol Kinsey ([ckinsey@aol.com](mailto:ckinsey@aol.com)) or call 330-495-2818 by November 24, 2009.

**Northeast:** Mark your calendars NOW for the OEA-R Regional Conference, May 19, 2010!

**Southwest:** All members of SWOEA Retired are invited to attend a special meeting on changes taking place at STRS. The meeting will be held September 16, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the SWOEA office. Contact Bill Sears ([oea-newseditor@aol.com](mailto:oea-newseditor@aol.com)) for more information.

#### OEA-Retired Advisory Council Roster for 2009-10

David Bowen	President	<a href="mailto:djbowen@suddenlink.net">djbowen@suddenlink.net</a>
John Hoyes	Vice President	<a href="mailto:jhoyes@columbus.rr.com">jhoyes@columbus.rr.com</a>
Marti Huss	Secretary	<a href="mailto:mehuss@hotmail.com">mehuss@hotmail.com</a>
Homer Adams	Past President	<a href="mailto:hatoms2000@yahoo.com">hatoms2000@yahoo.com</a>
Marilyn Allen	Capital	<a href="mailto:mrasecond@yahoo.com">mrasecond@yahoo.com</a>
Jack Boyd	Eastern	<a href="mailto:jboyd@eastern.ohea.us">jboyd@eastern.ohea.us</a>
Vivian Brown	Capital	<a href="mailto:vbrown296@aol.com">vbrown296@aol.com</a>
Marj Castanien	Northwest	<a href="mailto:castanienm@yahoo.com">castanienm@yahoo.com</a>
Arnetta Depp	Western	<a href="mailto:acdepp@hotmail.com">acdepp@hotmail.com</a>
Carol Kinsey	East Central	<a href="mailto:ckinsey@aol.com">ckinsey@aol.com</a>
Mary Jane Schlairet	North Central	<a href="mailto:teach1013@hotmail.com">teach1013@hotmail.com</a>
Elaine Spondike	ESP	<a href="mailto:reader8638@oh.rr.com">reader8638@oh.rr.com</a>
Don Traxler	Higher Ed.	<a href="mailto:dtrax@wcoil.com">dtrax@wcoil.com</a>
Kathy Turning	At-Large	<a href="mailto:kturning@embarqmail.com">kturning@embarqmail.com</a>
Nancy Wonson	Northeast	<a href="mailto:ne2wonson@aol.com">ne2wonson@aol.com</a>
To be elected	OEA BOD	
To be elected	Southwest	
To be elected	Southeast	
Bill Sears*	News Editor	<a href="mailto:oea-newseditor@aol.com">oea-newseditor@aol.com</a>
Chris Swank*	Legislative	<a href="mailto:cswank44@embarqmail.com">cswank44@embarqmail.com</a>
Don Holub*	Staff Liaison	<a href="mailto:holubd@ohea.org">holubd@ohea.org</a>

\* Non-voting members

The Advisory Council will meet September 23 and December 3-4, 2009 and March 2-3 and May 5-6, 2010. The Fall Statewide Conference will be held September 24, 2009; and the Spring Regional Conference, hosted by NEOEA-R, will be held May 19, 2010. For further information, contact Staff Liaison Don Holub or Administrative Secretary Kelli Shealy at 1-800-282-1500.

### Election and Voting Information

#### OEA Representative Assembly Delegates

OEA-Retired is entitled to an allocation of delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly for 2009-2010. Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained by contacting Carol Taylor at OEA toll free, 1-800-282-1500, or locally, 614-228-4526, extension 3199, and must be filed with the OEA Secretary-Treasurer's office no later than September 20, 2009.

#### Special Fall Elections

This fall, an election will need to occur to fill the following unexpired terms on the OEA-R Advisory Council, all with terms of office from December 4, 2009 to August 31, 2010:

- Retired Representative on the OEA Board of Directors
- SEOEA Retired Representative
- SWOEA Retired Representative

The above positions also serve as delegates by virtue of office to the OEA Representative Assembly. Interested candidates must be a unified member of NEA Retired, OEA Retired, and a district association. The Declaration of Candidacy form may be obtained from Carol Taylor. The form must be filed with the OEA Secretary-Treasurer. Ballots for this election will be mailed to OEA-Retired members on or about September 30, 2009.

#### Voting

Ballots will be sent to you via first class mail on or about September 30, 2009. Please follow the following voting directions; ballots that are not marked correctly will not be counted by the Election Committee. Ballots should be returned by the date indicated; ballots received after the due date will not be counted. Please return the ballots in the envelope provided to you. If you have a question about voting or do not receive your ballot, contact Becky Slaughter at 800-282-1500.



## OEA-R NEWSLINE

### NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly

As reported by Marilyn Allen

This year's meeting and convention were held in San Diego, California. Before the annual meeting started, retired delegates participated in the NEA Student Program "Outreach to Teach" project at the Balboa Elementary School in San Diego. The students and retired members worked to refurbish the school.

NEA-Retired met June 27-29, 2009, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego. The theme at the 26th annual meeting was **NEA-Retired: Our Commitment Continues**. Delegates participated in a variety of meetings and workshops that focused on both organizing and growing the retired membership and maintaining a satisfying retirement. The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting is open to all NEA-Retired members and elected delegates.

The 147th Annual NEA RA was held on July 3-6 at the San Diego Convention Center. The theme of the Representative Assembly was "Hope Starts Here." The Ohio delegation had a caucus from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. each morning. Caucus business included endorsing candidates for NEA offices, taking positions on NEA New Business items, taking positions on proposed amendments to constitution and bylaws, discussing Resolutions, and listening to candidates for NEA offices. An important activity at each caucus was FCPE Fundraising. NEA delegates contributed \$1,625,298 with Ohio placing fourth among the states with a contribution of over \$80,000. OEA-R members participated in a quilt raffle in an FCPE fundraiser. Ohio delegates contributed over \$1,000 to the fundraiser which was first place among the states.



**Back:** Chris Swank, Bill Dorsey, David Bowen, Nancy Wonson

**Front:** John Hoyes, Homer Adams, Marilyn Allen, Bob Dengler, Don Traxler

## 2009 OEA RETIRED FALL CONFERENCE

Thursday, September 24, 2009, at the  
STRS Building in Columbus.

The focus of this year's conference will be on STRS, Politics, and Benefits. A roundtable will be held to discuss changes in STRS health care benefits and a question/answer period to discuss changes in benefits. Legislative progress on our issues will be addressed. A presentation on GPO/WEP will also be given.

Presenters include STRS Staff, OEA Staff, OEA Officers Pat Frost-Brooks, Bill Leibensperger, Jim Timlin, OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks, and STRS Executive Director Michael Neff.

Registration begins at 9:30 A.M., with speakers and the program to begin at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will be provided. The Conference will conclude by 3:00 P.M. Complete the registration form to guarantee your spot!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose as check for **\$15** payable to the Ohio Education Association and mail to **Fall Statewide Conference, c/o Don Holub, Ohio Education Association, 225 E. Broad St., Box 2550, Columbus, Ohio 43216**. You will be notified by email or letter when your registration is received.

---

---

## OEA-R NEWSLINE

### NEA MB Web Site Sweepstakes

**September 1-15, 2009: Four New School Year Wardrobes!** NEA members can register between 12:00 a.m. ET on September 1, 2009, and 11:59 p.m. ET on September 15, 2009, in the "ENTER TO WIN" area of the NEA Member Benefits Web Site ([neamb.com](http://neamb.com)) for a chance to **win one of four new school year wardrobes!** Each prize consists of a \$500 gift certificate from Macy's.

**September 16-30, 2009: Four New Dell Laptop Computers!** NEA members can register between 12:00 a.m. ET on September 16, 2009, and 11:59 p.m. ET on September 30, 2009, in the "ENTER TO WIN" area of the NEA Member Benefits Web Site ([neamb.com](http://neamb.com)) for a chance to **win one of four new Dell laptop computers!**

No purchase necessary to enter.

Go to [neamb.com](http://neamb.com) to enter  
and for complete rules.

### Our Mission Statement

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

### 2009-2010 Officers

**David Bowen**  
President

**John Hoyes**  
Vice-President

**Marti Huss**  
Secretary

**Homer Adams**  
Past President

**OEA-R Newsline is the official  
publication of OEA-Retired.**

Bill Sears, Editor

**Volume 28      Issue 4      Summer 2009**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Columbus, Ohio  
Permit No. 1182

225 East Broad Street, Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43216

**OEA-R NEWSLINE**