

OEA FCPE NEWS

Although 2013 has just begun, Election Day 2014 already looms large on the horizon. Your help is needed to begin replenishing the OEA FCPE funds NOW so we are prepared for that election. In November 2014, we will be electing a governor along with the other statewide office holders, all of our state representatives, half of our state senators, and all of our U.S. congressional house representatives. If we want to have a voice on implementing or changing retirement benefits, social security, the Affordable Care Act, and other issues affecting our fellow teachers and retirees, we must be politically active. The plain truth, as we know from recent campaigns, is that money does talk in getting our positions known and supported. One of the ways to donate is with your Visa or MasterCard via email. Go to the website www.ohea.org and scroll down on the left to "Donate to FCPE". If you wish to fill out a form and return, one can be mailed to you by contacting Government Relations at 1.800.282.1500. Early contributions are encouraged to begin filling the coffers for the important elections in 2014.

Our Mission Statement

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

2012-2013 Officers

John Hoyes
President

Carol Kinsey
Vice-President

Marti Huss
Secretary

David Bowen
Past President

OEA-R Newslines is the official publication of OEA-Retired.

Bill Sears, Editor

Winter 2013

NEWSLINE

OEA-R The only retired member organization affiliated with the Ohio Education Association

STRS

Retirement Board Resumes Health Care Strategic Planning Discussions

At its November 2012 meeting, the Retirement Board reviewed the three primary goals of the health care strategic plan:

- ▶ Establish Medicare as the health care program's cornerstone, to help the largest number of retirees for the longest period of time;
- ▶ Achieve 30 years of solvency for the health care program by 2016;
- ▶ Extend forecasted solvency to 65 or more years by 2025.

The Retirement Board discussed ways to extend the solvency of the Health Care Stabilization Fund, as health plans around the nation wait to see just how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will shape the industry. One key issue surrounding the ACA is if and how the health care exchanges will develop in Ohio. These exchanges are expected to provide guaranteed issue coverage for pre-Medicare individuals in most health care plans, pre-Medicare individuals are now subject to pre-existing condition restrictions and underwriting requirements.

The Retirement Board's challenge is to balance plan solvency and a plan that offers meaningful benefits while continuing to attract and retain healthy members to the plan.

Retirement Board Election Process Begins This Month

On November 9, 2012, notices were sent to all STRS Ohio reporting employers and other interested parties about the upcoming Retirement Board election for one contributing member seat and two retired member seats. In addition, election information was in the October newsletters and is posted on the STRS Ohio website. Individuals interested in running for a seat on the State Teachers Retirement Board can request petitions from STRS Ohio. The deadline for returning petitions is February 22, 2013.

OEA Endorsed Candidates

At its last meeting, the OEA Board of Directors voted to endorse *Jim McGreevy* and *Bob Stein* for reelection to the retiree seats on the STRS Board. The STRS Board election will be conducted throughout the month of April.

We need to ensure that Ohio's retired teachers are represented on the STRS Board by knowledgeable

and dedicated board members. As current members of the STRS Board, both candidates have valuable experience in advocating for retirees. McGreevy and Stein are committed to making sure that STRS is able to meet its long-term obligations to offer economic security and access to meaningful health care.

In order to gain ballot status for the April election, each candidate must submit signatures of at least 500 retirees with 20 or more signatures from at least ten different counties.

All STRS retirees, including re-employed retirees, are eligible to sign nomination petitions. If you are interested in signing a petition and are looking for a circulator, please contact Bill Otten, OEA-R Staff Liaison, at 800.686.4632 or ottenb@ohea.org no later than February 10, 2013. You can help ensure that these strong advocates for you gain ballot status. Every signature counts!

DISTRICT NEWS

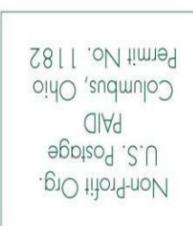
CENTRAL OEA/NEA The Central Retired Advisory Committee is sponsoring an information night for retirees and for those contemplating retirement in the next few years. The event will feature speakers from STRS, SERS, OEA membership, OEA Legislative Services, NEA Member Benefits, and Central Long-Term Care. It takes place on February 25 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Central OEA/NEA. Interested persons may register at www.centraloea/nea.org. Pizza will be served at 6:00 pm with speakers beginning at 6:30 pm.

Insurance Scare: A number of weeks ago retirees in Fairfield County received notification from Aetna, retired insurance carrier, that Fairfield Medical Center would not be "in-network" for Aetna insured as of January 1, 2013. That sparked a fury of contacts to me. After a number of days on the phone and conversations with STRS and Aetna, and eventually FMC, we were relieved to hear that Fairfield Medical would, indeed, be in-network for all of us.

Vouchers: Many are aware of the anti-public education bills before the Legislature. In this area, sadly, one of the local representatives is one of the authors of a bill increasing vouchers substantially. A meeting has been discussed so as to share the concerns with *Representative Gerald Stebelton*.

Good News: On a more positive note, Lancaster City Schools will soon begin a facilities construction project which will eventually result in five new elementary buildings. Funding for the three-year project comes from a combination of a recently passed bond issue and 35% funding from the Ohio Facilities Commission. The total cost for the construction is approximately \$80 million.

- Submitted by *Sue Christian*



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

OEA-R NEWSLINE

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

EAST CENTRAL The end of the year for ECOEAR was celebrated with a Holiday social luncheon inside the Pine Tree Barn in Wooster. Those in attendance joined ECOEAR District Representative *Kathleen Purdy* in fellowship and good tidings.



NEOEA "Oh, the Places We Go!" NEOEAR members will be reading in schools and libraries in communities in NE during the week of March 4-8 to celebrate "Read Across America". This is a part of our Outreach Program from NEOA-R. We will also join our mentees at Kent State for their community project. Plan to join us and volunteer through the NEOEA Office. We will host our NEOEA-R Spring Conference at the NEOEA Office on April 10, 2013. More information will follow.

The Intergenerational Mentoring Program continues to be a success at Kent State in its fifth year under the leadership of *Nancy Wonson* with 18 students and 16 mentors.

We will continue support for our NEA-R Membership Recruitment Grant. OEA-R will sign up pre-retired membership for NEA-R/OEA-R. Talk to retired friends that have not joined NEA-R/OEA-5 and direct them to <http://www.ohea.org/> and click on OEA Retired members (OEA-R membership). We would like to encourage all retired teachers to become members. If you have received this NEWSLINE, you are a member. We would like you to encourage others that have not taken membership in NEA/OEA-R to join. Our next committee meeting is February 19, 2013.

- Submitted by *Beryl Burkle*

SEOEA Calling SEOEA-R members to volunteer to join your OEA-R representative, Christine McVicar, in Columbus on Tuesday, March 5. Recent events have demonstrated the need for use to establish personal relationships with our elected officials in an effort to promote our interests. If you are interested in helping, email retired.seoea@gmail.com with your contact information or call Christine at 740.551.2133. She will contact you about the meeting time and place for your legislature after making appointments with all those representing our SE districts. Constituents have more impact so your attendance will really make a difference.

- Submitted by *Christine McVicar*

WOEA Here are the programs for the March, April and May meetings of WOE-R. All take place the third Wednesday of the month and start promptly at 11:00 am. Reservations are due to Pat Eshbaugh ten days before the event by phone 937.461.4404 or email pateshbaugh@gmail.com.

March 20: Tour of the Engineer's Club of greater Dayton with lunch. Cost \$20.48 including tax and tip.

April 17: Tour of Victoria Theater on Main Street in Dayton. Lunch will follow at UNO's which is next door and can be ordered from the menu.

May 15: program presented by Leon Bey titled The Lost Mansions of Dayton. This meeting will take place at Company 7 BBQ on Main Street in Englewood. Five Dollars will be charged to defray cost of speaker. Lunch can be ordered from the menu.

- Submitted by *Jane Rahn*

Tax Tips on the Homestead Exemption

Who qualified for Homestead Exemption? Any Ohio resident homeowner who is 65 or turning 65 years old the year they file for Homestead; is totally and permanently disabled as of January 1, in the year of application as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist, or a state or federal agency; or is the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the previous Homestead Exemption at the time of death and where the surviving spouse was at least 59 years old on the date of death. To qualify, an Ohio resident also must own and occupy a home as their principal place of resident as January 1st for real property or January 1st of the current year for manufactured home property. For individuals who own more than one home, the principal place of resident is the home where the person is registered to vote and the person's place of residence for income tax purposes.

What is the deadline to apply? Applications for the Homestead Exemption open the first Monday in January and must be received by your county auditor's office no later than the first Monday in June. Applications postmarked after the first Monday in June will be denied for missing the deadline.

More questions? Contact your county auditor.

NEA-R Organizing Conference

The NEA-Retired Organizing Conference will be held March 21-23, 2013 in Orlando, Florida at the Doubletree Hilton at the entrance to Universal Orlando. More information is posted on the NEA-R website. Go to www.nea.org and type 'nea retired' in the search box.

November 2012 Annual Report

Grant Committee: The 2011-2012 Intergenerational Mentoring grant was completed in the summer of 2012. There are programs established at Kent State, Miami University, and Ohio University. In the fall of 2011, the Intergenerational Mentoring Program was expanded to the campus of The Ohio State University with *Lee Schreiner* as the facilitator. There were 13 mentoring pairs at OSU for 2011-2012. *Nancy Wonson*, Kent State facilitator, reported there were 12 mentees and 11 mentors; *Marti Huss*, Miami University facilitator, reported there were 23 mentors and 31 mentees participating; and *Marilyn Allen*, Ohio University facilitator, reported there were 11 mentees and nine mentors.

Marti Huss and *Lee Schreiner* were invited to present Ohio's Intergenerational Mentoring Program at the NEA-R Spring Leadership and Organizing Conference in Las Vegas at the end of march 2012. They presented two sessions to retired teachers from all over the United States.

With the NEA-R grant funding OEA-R \$5,000, the 2012-2013 program has been launched on all four of the campuses involved. Kent State is beginning its fifth year in the program with the largest group ever at 18 students and 16 mentors. Miami University has 31 education majors and 23 mentors participating. There are 12 mentors and 21 students participating this year at Ohio University. The Ohio State University, facilitated by *Vivian Brown*, has 13 mentors and 16 mentees for 2012-2013.

The membership recruitment grant that was also funded through NEA-R is called "The Ohio Enhanced Action Recruitment" plan. The project team was *Lee Schreiner*, *Mary Jane Schlairet*, *Jack Boyd*, *Carol Kinsey*, *Jane Rahn*, *Beryl Burkle* and *Marti Huss* with President *David Bowen* serving as advisor. Our plan was to use incentives to recruit pre-subscribers to OEA-R/NEA-R. We purchased flash drives with the grant money and were able to capitalize on the \$50 dues increase from NEA-R that went into effect August 31, 2012. We recruited 105 pre-subscribers as well as already retired members prior to the submission of the grant summary in early July. We also recruited at the NEA RA and Summer Leadership conference and have recruited an additional 23 unified members for the 2012-2013 grant year. We plan to offer new incentives.

OEA-R also received an organizing grant from OEA for VAN (Voter Activation Network) training for OEA-R members at the Summer Leadership Conference.

Communications/Public Relations Committee: The Committee met four times this year. The group regularly reviews the NEWSLINE, our website, use of the listserv, expending communication opportunities, and public relations promotions. *Jack Boyd* is now the

webmaster and *Bill Sears* remains the NEWSLINE editor. *Bob Beers* was added to the committee in September.

The website was used to post relevant information. Copies of the NEWSLINE, district newsletters, reports and photos are available online. The ten districts have completed their work in setting up district websites.

Monthly STRS reports are sent to those who have email. The system was also used to report the OEA-R delegate election and at-large advisory council representative results. A new logo and letterhead was develop and adopted during the year. Guidelines for use of funds were also developed and adopted by the entire Advisory Council. Delays in the printing and mailing of the NEWSLINE have been discussed and a timetable was developed. The Committee is discussing how to shorten production time and save printing and mailing costs.

The committee continues to review and take input to improve and expand our communications and to meet the public relation needs of OEA-R.

Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee continues to monitor OEA Legislative policies as they relate to retiree issues. The OEA-R Legislative Committee meets in conjunction with the OEA-R Advisory Council meetings together with the FCPE Committee. The combined committees spent much time revising and updating the questions to be used for the screening of candidates that will be on the OEA ballot at the Fall 2012 RA. Much of the committee's time was spent in preparing for the retirees' role in the 2012 election campaign. Some time was spent on work dealing with the update of our policies for the OEA-R guidelines and making sure the committee is in compliance with the guidelines in place.

Program/Services Committee: The Program/Services Committee met four times preceding the Advisory Council meetings this past year. They reviewed participant evaluations of the conference and caucuses, implementing suggestions with the realm of the committee's responsibilities when possible. Using the Advisory Council's adopted Action Plan, the committee continued to adapt and follow the committee's plan as a guide to fulfill their defined committee functions. In response to identified needs by the District Representatives, the committee oversaw the use of the newly developed Regional/District Accounting form, as well as complete the development of a Regional program Planning Schedule for spring conferences. The Committee planned a well-attended fall conference focusing on members' interest in health insurance and the Federal and State elections. The Committee again offered door prizes at the Fall Conference.