

## OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - RETIRED

Mary Binegar, Chair  
Phil Long, Vice Chair

Barry Alcock	Jack Boyd
Becky Brown	Judy Buschle
Becky Cashell	Gerry Curran
Carol Dixon	John Hoyes
Deloris Rome Hudson	Carol Kinsey
Lisa Scott Marshall	Tom Moscovic
Judy Novak	Kathleen Purdy
Rita Walters	Jeff Slattery
Donna Smoot-Walters	Joni Watson

***OEA-R Mission Statement:*** *OEA-R is dedicated to providing services to meet the needs of its members, promoting member involvement within OEA and supporting public education.*

### REPORTS

#### **CABINET/ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Members of the Cabinet are: Mary Binegar, Judy Buschle, Phil Long, John Hoyes and Deloris Rome Hudson. Meetings of the Advisory Council are held in person. However, we will continue to use virtual meetings for committee meetings or other small group meetings.

The OEA-R Advisory Council met this summer to review our progress in 2022-2023 and establish short- and long-term goals for 2023-2024. The Cabinet decided to continue the theme REV Up OEA-R. REV stands for relevant, engaged, and visible. Our goals are to make OEA-R relevant to both our retired members and the active members, to engage more of our members in OEA-R activities and to be more visible with the OEA organization and our communities. Part of our visibility is reaching out to more prospective members, especially those getting ready to retire or recently retired.

OEA-R representatives have been assigned to the Leadership Councils across the state to develop relationships with our active leaders, and to make sure that all of our members understand the role of OEA-R and to promote membership. Additionally, we have committed to having several OEA-R members present at each STRS Board meeting and getting more information about retirement issues out to our members.

We continue to send out one informational email each month to members. Our District Representatives are still contacting individual members to let them know we value their

membership and to help clean up our contact lists. We will continue our membership drive targeting two groups, those within five years of retirement and those who have retired in the last few years.

Additionally, we are working closely with the Government Relations Department to coordinate activities for the 2023 elections. The Chair and Vice Chair have met with the OEA President and the OEA Executive Director to discuss the role of OEA-R within the OEA organization.

### **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Members of the committee are: Jack Boyd - Chair, Becky Cashell, Deloris Rome Hudson and Rita Walters.

The responsibilities of the committee include: compiling the annual Fall OEA-R Delegate assembly and the Spring OEA-RA reports, publishing the *Newsline*, updating the Facebook page, maintaining the web page ([oea-r.ohea.us](http://oea-r.ohea.us)), coordinating the basket raffles, presenting the annual awards, and providing other PR materials as directed by the OEA-R Advisory Council.

This year our committee is sharing the responsibility of the OEA-R table at the assemblies with the Membership Committee. The emphasis will be membership growth rather than fund raising.

On our web page the current roster of Advisory Council members has been updated for 2023-24. We will continue to add important current topics, as they become available, to the top of the home page of our site.

We continue to strive to provide current information on our Face Book page.

### **MEMBERSHIP, GUIDELINES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Members of the committee are: Lisa Marshall Scott – Chair, John Hoyes – Vice Chair, Barry Alcock, Judy Buschle, and Carol Dixon

The committee has been working with District Representatives during Zoom meetings, emails, and discussions at Advisory Council meetings to help them in their work to increase membership and get more involvement in their districts. We have worked on revising the Annual Report that is a tool used to document all the good work that has been going on in each district throughout the year. This year the committee will be working closely with each district representative as they fill out the form. The information on the form is used in the evaluation of the NEA-R grant that we received this year. This past December during the OEA Representative Assembly the membership and

communication committee teamed up where the membership committee took the lead on the OEA-R table at the RA to focus more on membership along with the basket raffles. We were able to discuss the benefits of joining OEA-R as a pre-retired member and we collected 4 forms at the RA and had many other productive conversations. We will be doing the same thing at the May Representative Assembly. The committee continues to refine the Membership Committee Planning Calendar to include all the work of the grants, the membership campaign, and the work of the committee to guide the work that is being done by the committee and the district reps. We are always thinking of ways to engage our members, become more visible and recruit new members to OEA-R.

### **PROGRAM SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee are: Phil A. Long - Chair, Judy Novak, - Vice Chair, Donna Smoot-Walters, Kathleen Purdy, and Joni Watson

Charges:

- A. STRS attendance:** Members are encouraged to attend meetings of STRS.
  - 1. Send reminders and sign- up sheet about meetings:
    - A. Send reminder in Mary's Monthly Message to Members; Phil talking points to attendees.
- B. Pre-retirement workshop sessions in each District:** virtual/in-person
  - 1. Proposal: **encourage Districts to offer as it benefits Actives; retired act as support**
    - A. STRS/SERS
    - B. NEA Member Benefits
    - C. Use OEA-R display table items – membership forms.
    - D. **ECOEA – scheduled for January 27; NEOEA is scheduled in March 9, 2024; WOEAE – April 24,2024; NCOEA-R – March 23,2024**
- C. Read Across America:** “READ FOR DEMOCRACY” Committee: Carol Dixon/Dorothy Wilson(Capital-R), Kathleen Purdy(ECOEA-R), Karen Shires(WOEAE-R), Nanci DiBianca and Beryl Burkle(NEOEA-R), Damian Dagenbach (SWOEAE-R), Jeanne Melvin(Central-R), Becky Mayer-Radel(NCOEA-R)and vice-chair; Rita Walters(EOEA-R), Bob Maher(SEOEA-R), Melinda King(NWOEAE-R), Lisa Marshall Scott (grant), Mary Binegar, Phil A. Long, Chair

Follow up with readers/committee

- 1. **The Committee met February 12 OEA-R Virtual Library - <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-read-across-america/>**
- 2. Through the NEA Grant, books have been purchased for the OEA-R display table. OEA-R is also cooperating with Kids Voting Ohio to share

information about Read Across America and utilizing books for the Kids Voting Ohio display table.

3. Through Becky Radel, OEA-R purchased (\$100) books for the new Ashland University Aspiring Educators group to help with their Read Across America project. Becky will follow up with the project and report.
4. The RAA and Grant Committees approved \$350 for the Kent State SEA for a reading project.
5. EOEA-R books donated to local school library where Rita Walters volunteers.
6. WOEA-R has donated to the Library of Africa
7. QR Code cards will be available for the OEA Rep Assembly and 2024
8. Damian Dagenbach has compiled all readers into a file.
9. Discussing theme for 2025, 2026

**D. Virtual Sessions of interest to retirees:** This is an ongoing discussion.

1. Topics

- A. **Technology for Retirees** – This session presented by OEA Staff Rachel Grabowski. (3) – April 22, 2024 5-6pm
- B. **Communication – how do we get the word out about OEA-R events – POST within District!!!!**
- C. **STRS/SERS (2) “So You Are Turning 65” – information about Medicare and STRS for an easy transition – Joni and Christina Elliott (STRS) May 6, 2024 details TBA**
- D. **Work with Racial and Social Justice Committee – events and dates**
  1. **Book Study: So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo and Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine and various other books studies.**
  2. **April 23 7-8 Civil Rights Movement by Charles Black**
  3. **Confronting White Nationalism – Joni Watson TBA**
- E. **Politics made easy – how to access information on political officials, legislation: Zach and Dan, Phil - TBA**
- F. **Retired Issues: political, medical, financial (1) “GPO/WEP” – Judy Novak and Mark Hill represent OEA/OEA-R.**

**E. Spring Conference 2024: WOEA-R/SWOEA-R - April 25, 2024 Peace Museum, Dayton**

**F. Spring Conference 2025: Capital/Central; 2026: NEOEA-R**

**G. Starting and Strengthening OEA-R District organization pilot project:** Each District Rep is to use the new **Starting and Strengthening Retired District Guide**.

**H. OEA-R Roundtables:**

1. **\*Continue using roundtables – what works best for the District to solicit input from their members**

**I. Leadership Councils**

1. TREMENDOUS response! Still hoping to involve more members as representatives. ASK!!!
2. Talking Points to representatives every two months or more often if needed
3. Membership Committee designed retirement certificate – distribute at LC or email.

**J. OEA-R Congressional Contacts**

1. Asked by OEA to have retired representatives; Jeff Wensing has notified OEA-R of selections and members contacted by OEA-R.

**K. The above are the Program and Services Committee charges for 2023-24.**

## **RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Committee Members: Robert Maher, Chair, Valenta Ward-Gravelly: Vice-Chair OEA-R Chair, Mary Binegar, Barry Alcock, Becky Brown, Jeff Corbin, Doris Moore, Deloris-Rome Hudson, Chuck Steinbower, Willie Terrell, and Joni Watson



### **Vision Statement**

**We stand for racial and social justice. Our purpose is to educate ourselves and our members about the many issues surrounding inequalities and inequities in our world today.**

## Mission Statement

**We will continue to provide education and training opportunities for the membership in order to inspire and foment change.**

This committee, which meets monthly, is sponsoring activities that support our Vision and Mission Statements.

The Racial and Social Justice Book Study continues to be of interest to both retired and active members! And it is easy to join. Here is the list of books we'll be reading and discussing:

***White Rage*** by Carol Anderson (March/April)

***You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems about Boys*** by Sharon G. Flake (May)

***Change Sings by Amanda Gorman and Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case*** by Chris Crowe (June)

***One Person, No Vote*** by Carol Anderson (July/August)

**TRAINING:** The Racial and Social Justice committee is committed to sharing ideas with our members as stated in our mission statement. "Building Bridges", a workshop presented by Hakim Oliver was a great success. Committee members are looking for ways to publicize and share the information as he is willing to travel to share his message.

**"Confronting White Nationalism"** will take place this Spring.

**ZOOM with FREEDOM FIGHTER CHARLES BLACK on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00pm.** Charles Black protested with Martin Luther King, Jr. at Rich's Department Store in Atlanta, Georgia during the struggle to earn equal rights. The zoom conversation is open to Active and Retired members.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Valenta Ward-Gravely and Mary Binegar presented a workshop at the NEA-R conference on ***"Starting a Racial and Social Justice Committee in Your State."***

## LEGISLATIVE/OEA FUND COMMITTEE

The FCPE Committee will be preparing for the Delegate Assembly in May. We are working on the Silent Auction.

The IPPA Committee at this time will not have any contested election in May so we will not be doing any in-person screening. However, we will be sending each candidate a questionnaire, and each will be invited to speak at the Delegate Assembly.

Neither Committee will be meeting before the Advisory Council Meeting.