

# DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

WESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED

WOEA-R Founded September 1989

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May and June 2017

## Officers

Phil A. Long, Chair

Sandy Dobberstein, Vice Chair

Jennie Furnas, Secretary

Pat Lynch, Treasurer

Jane Rahn, Past Chair

## MAY MEETING

“Now that you’re retired, what can NEA Member Benefits do for you?” is the topic for the May 17 program at Ray’s Wine Spirits Grill. Guy Kendall-Freas will describe the many benefits to which members are entitled as retired or current NEA members. Sharlie Trentman from California Casualty Insurance will be a co-presenter. The program begins at 11 a.m., and attendees will order from the menu following the presentation. Ray’s is located at 8268 N. Main St. in Dayton. RSVP by May 3 to Sandy Dobberstein: phone 927-554-6338 or email her at [sdobberstein@juno.com](mailto:sdobberstein@juno.com). The attached RSVP form can also be sent to Sandy at 237 Old Carriage Dr., Englewood, 45322.

## JUNE MEETING

WOEA-R members will gather at 11 a.m. June 21 at America’s Packard Museum, 420 S. Ludlow St. in Dayton for a private tour of “one of the ‘Top Ten’ auto museums in the United States,” according to *Car Collector* magazine. The museum was founded in 1992 by Dayton attorney and long-time car collector Bob Signom and is located in an original Packard dealership building constructed in 1917. The tour fee is \$7. Lunch and a business meeting at 12:30 will be at The Spaghetti Warehouse, 36 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Dayton. We will have the private room next to the trolley and will order from the menu. RSVP and pay \$7 by June 7. Use the RSVP form or pay Sandy Dobberstein at the May meeting.

## FALL MEETINGS

**Sept. 20:** Garst Museum in a Suitcase is the program; Company 7 BBQ in Englewood is the location.

**Oct. 18:** Tour of St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families followed by lunch at the Old Hickory BBQ on Brown Street. Members are encouraged to take donations to St. Vincent’s, including new packaged underwear for men, women and children; twin sheet sets and blankets; towels and wash cloths; toiletries (full size).

**Nov. 15:** Dr. Joseph Keferi from Wright State University will update members on progressive programs being implemented in the WSU’s education of future teachers. TJ Chump’s in Huber Heights is the location.

**Dec. 20:** Coco’s Bistro is the location. The program will be announced at a later date.

## TEACHERS’ NIGHT OUT

Celebrate educators by attending Teachers’ Night Out, an evening of food, fun and laughter Wednesday, May 10, at the Miami Valley Centre Mall in Piqua. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres and entertainment begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a program. A \$10 deposit, which will be refunded that evening for WOEa and WOEa-R members who attend, is required by May 3. Jeff Yaw and Greg Carr will entertain guests with humorous songs about current educational topics. Go to [www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org) to register online.

## **OEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The OEA Rep Assembly is May 12-13. Delegates will be voting on two NEA Directors, Emily Osterling and Sophia Rodriguez (WOEA and WOE-R pre-retired), and one At-Large Representative, Tomika Moss. All three are unopposed. Two are running for ESP At-Large: Mary Hargreaves (WOEA and WOE-R pre-retired) and Cheryl Williams. Delegates will also act on Constitutional issues including committee restructuring and clarifying terms of office.

## **SUMMER ACADEMY**

OEA-R has proposed a "Retiree Segment" for June 20 at the Summer Academy, which includes lunch. Topics may include New Educator Project, retirement systems, legislative action and current issues in education. Let Chairperson Phil A. Long know if you are interested. Phone 419-733-6947 or email [palciv13@gmail.com](mailto:palciv13@gmail.com).

## **WOEA DRAGONS NIGHT**

Join your fellow WOE-R and WOE-R members at 5/3 Field for an afternoon of baseball Sunday, July 23, at 2 p.m. The Dragons take on the Burlington Bees. Ticket information can be found at [www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org).

## **OEA-R CONFERENCES**

The Fall OEA-R Conference will be Sept. 14. The 2018 Spring Conference will be planned and sponsored by WOE-R and SWOE-R. Organizers are open to suggestions from all members.

## **FCPE DONATIONS**

During September through March, members donated \$747 to the Fund for Children and Public Education. At the Apr. 19 meeting, members donated \$206 for a total of \$953. Legislative chair Dawn Wojcik has set a goal of \$1500 for the year. Members are encouraged to donate to the FCPE at each meeting. Remember that each donation of at least \$10 will give you a chance to win a taco dinner courtesy of Phil A. Long and Sophia Rodriguez.

## **UNISERV COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Sandy Dobberstein, Jane Rahn and Phil A. Long are attending WOE-R Uniserv Council meetings and have found active members to be very receptive. All WOE-R locals have been asked to send the names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of 2015 to 2017 retirees to WOE-R. All active WOE-R members are encouraged to join WOE-R as a pre-retired member for \$100. WOE-R welcomes Nola Brooks, Mary Ann Grimberg, Farhat B. Khan and Mary Hargreaves as new pre-retired members.

## **OEA-R ADVISORY BOARD**

Jane Rahn, WOE-R Past Chair, has been elected to serve on the OEA-R Advisory Board as an At-Large member. Jane received the most votes in the statewide election among six candidates. Jane will begin her term in September.

## **NEA-R, OEA-R DELEGATES**

The following WOE-R members will serve as alternates to the NEA Representative Assembly this July: Willie Terrell, Phil A. Long, Jane Rahn and Warlita Duvall. Representing WOE-R at the OEA RA May 11-13 are Jane Rahn, Willie Terrell, Sandy Coe, Warlita Duvall and Phil A. Long. Clarice Thomas will serve as an alternate.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Carol Gerhard, who was instrumental in beginning WOE-Retired along with Nancy Brown, passed away Mar. 11. Carol served as past President of WOE-R and past Vice President of OEA. A powerful advocate for public education, Carol was very active in ORTA, NEA, NEA-R, OEA, OEA-R, WOE-R and WOE-R. After graduating from Heidelberg College, Carol taught at McCutchenville, Bradford and Vandalia Butler school districts. She retired from teaching in 1978. At the March meeting, members voted to donate \$50 from the general fund to the Founder's Scholarship fund in Carol's memory. Condolences can be sent to Chris Hahnel (niece), PO Box 335, Piqua 45356.

# FROM THE CHAIR

## ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

It was my pleasure to attend the Organizing Conference. All retired participants had the opportunity to share ideas/successes during a Share Out session. I told about Sandy Dobberstein, Jane Rahn and myself attending Uniserv Councils to stay informed about educational issues, share experiences and provide advice when asked.

The opening session featured Mel House, an NEA Director from California, who talked about the importance of retirees in the profession. Information sessions included one by Todd Jaeck, OEA-R liaison, talking about the New Educator Program in Ohio and how retirees are assisting. Other sessions included topics such as activism advancing public education through social justice, which benefits students and members; the role of retired members helping to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and retirees running for school board.

A definite highlight was NEA Vice President presenting the report on "Racial Justice in Education." During her very moving speech, Becky discussed issues such as sanctuary cities, gender bias, immigration and institutional racism and their effect on public education. She posed three questions to participants to discuss and think about:

- Why is it critical for NEA-Retired to be involved in working toward achieving racial justice in education?
- How do we engage others and create movement that powers racial justice in education?
- What have you done/might do to further the progress of racial justice in education?

The conference was very useful, and I appreciate the support from OEA-R and WOEa in order to attend the conference.

## NEW EDUCATORS CAMPAIGN

OEA-R intends to bridge the perceived differences between active and retired members by developing a relevant and visible district retirement program. Using retirees to initiate and continue the conversations with new educators will encourage understanding of the ever-changing needs of today's classroom and how the union can meet those needs. WOEa-R is participating in this statewide project. Ten WOEa-R members are contacting up to 25 new educators to collect information and data to better help OEA and WOEa serve educators new to the profession. Most all the callers have had positive experiences talking with new educators from Anna to Xenia in WOEa.

Members making calls include Sandy Dobberstein, Emmy Brudzynski, Jane Rahn, Yolanda Unger, Marje Punter, Val Roldan, Sandy Coe, Warlita Duvall, Debbie Owens and Phil A. Long. Thank you to the members for putting in some hours to contact and communicate with new educators.

## WOEA-R PRE-RETIRED ACTIVITIES

At the recent WOEa Representative Assembly, the following pre-retired WOEa-R members were quite visible. Sophia Rodriguez finished her two terms as WOEa President. Joyce Coney-Lacy will serve as WOEa Vice President having served as Secretary previously. Nola Brooks continues as WOEa Treasurer. Mary Hargreaves serves as WOEa ESP At-Large and is running for an OEA ESP At-Large position. Lori Moodie is Collective Bargaining Chair, and Elizabeth Adegbile is Chair of the Local Development and Training Committee.

Retired member Phil A. Long serves on the WOEa Board as the retired representative, and retiree Val Roldan completed her time as WOEa Past President.

## STRS BOARD

Rita Walters, EOE, and Robert Stein, current STRS Board Chair, have been elected for the two retired seats on the STRS Board. No one else submitted petitions for the positions. Thanks to retirees in Mercer, Shelby and Montgomery counties for helping to achieve the 20 signatures in 10 counties requirement and to all who signed and circulated petitions for Rita and Robert. Be sure to read the monthly STRS reports from Rita and from STRS. With concerns about our pensions, think about those for whom you vote.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA

WOEA-R celebrated Read Across America with the following members reading to students in the Dayton and Celina areas: Kay Piper, Yolanda Unger, Willie Terrell, Carol Hone, Kay Klopfleisch and Val Roldan. WOE-R purchased books for each reader to present to the classroom. WOE-R furnished bookplates for each book. Check [www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org) for more information.

## NEW EDITOR NEEDED

After seven years of writing *Discover New Horizons*, Sandy Freeman is retiring as the newsletter editor. WOE-R is looking for a new editor. Sandy is willing to work with the new editor before the September edition is due. The newsletter is published four times a year. If interested, contact Phil A. Long via email at [palciv13@gmail.com](mailto:palciv13@gmail.com) or by phone at 419-733-6947.

## THANKS FROM THE CHAIR

After hearing from other retired districts around the state, I know WOE-R is outstanding at serving our members and encouraging our members to be active. Thanks to those who came before and put standards in place for WOE-R. We lost two retirees this year, Nancy Brown and Carol Gerhard, both instrumental in creating WOE-R. There is a lot of information in this newsletter. Please find something of interest and be involved. If we all do a little, a lot can be accomplished.

## SAVE THE DATE

- May 2: VOTE for local issues
- May 10: Teachers' Night Out  
Miami Valley Centre Mall  
Piqua
- May 9-13: OEA-R Delegate Assembly;  
OEA RA  
Columbus
- May 17: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
Ray's Wine Spirits Grill  
Dayton
- June 21: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
American Packard Museum  
Dayton
- June 27-July 4: NEA-R and NEA-RA  
Boston
- July 23: Dragons game  
5/3 Field  
Dayton
- Sept. 20: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
Museum in a Suitcase  
Company 7 BBQ  
Englewood
- Oct. 18: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
St. Vincent de Paul Shelter  
Old Hickory BBQ  
Dayton
- Nov. 15: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
Dr. Joseph Keferi, speaker  
TJ Chump's  
Huber Heights
- Dec. 20: WOE-R lunch/meeting  
Coco's Bistro  
Dayton

