

# DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

WESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED  
WOEA-R Founded September 1989

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## MAY MEETING

The history of brewing and distillers in Dayton is the topic for the May 18 meeting at the Carillon Brewing Company, 1000 Carillon Blvd. in Dayton. The program begins at 11 a.m., with lunch and a business meeting to follow. Attendees will order from the menu. Contact Emmy Brudzynski by e-mail at [emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu](mailto:emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu), by phone at 937-813-7661, or use the RSVP form. Deadline to respond is May 11.

## JUNE MEETING

Tour the Boston Stoker Factory and dine at El Rancho Grande at the June 15 meeting. The tour begins at 11 a.m. at 10855 Engle Rd. in Vandalia. The restaurant, also in Vandalia, is located at 7500 Poe Ave. The business meeting will begin after the lunch orders are taken. RSVP to Emmy Brudzynski by June 8. See above for contact information.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

For your advanced planning, WOE-R will return to Company 7 BBQ Sept. 21 for a presentation by Woodland Historic Cemetery. "History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder" is the title of the program, which includes actual accounts of murders, robberies, and counterfeiting that took place in Dayton. Company 7's address is 1001 S. Main St. in Englewood. More information will be available in the September newsletter.

## WOEA-R OFFICER ELECTIONS

During the March meeting, the following nominations were made from the floor: Phil Long, chairperson; Sandy Dobberstein, vice-chairperson; Jennie Furnas, secretary; Pat Lynch, treasurer. The slate of officers

was approved by acclamation at the April meeting.

## OEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The OEA RA is May 13-14 with the OEA-R caucus meeting the afternoon of May 12. Elected delegates from Western are Nancy Brown, Phil Long, Jane Rahn and Willie Terrell, Jr. Warlita Duvall is an alternate. NEA's vice-president will be in attendance along with former governor Ted Strickland, who is running for a U.S. Senate seat this fall.

## WOEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tippecanoe High School hosted the Spring WOE-R Wednesday, Apr. 13. Retired delegates in attendance were Phil Long, Jane Rahn and Willie Terrell, Jr. In addition to WOE-R business, OEA President Becky Higgins spoke to the delegates. She is running unopposed for OEA President. An auction helped raise money for the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). WOE-R Retired donated a life membership for the auction. Joyce Coney-Lacy won with the highest bid.

## OEA-R FALL CONFERENCE

The annual OEA-Retired Statewide Fall Conference is Wednesday, Sept. 14, in Columbus. The conference runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the STRS Building, 235 East Broad St. Information will be in the *OEA-R Newslines*. Cost is \$15. The deadline to RSVP is Sept. 2. Send a check to OEA, Attn: Todd Jaeck, P.O. Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43216-2136. Include your name, address, e-mail, OEA District (Western) and home/cell phone number.

# FROM THE CHAIR

## NEA-R ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

Jane Rahn, Nancy Mullins and Warlita Duvall attended the NEA Retired Organizing Conference entitled “Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It” in San Diego March 22-24. Speakers included Harry Keiley, Chairman of the Board for the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS), which has more than 800,000 active and retired educators and is the largest teacher pension fund. Keiley served as the president of the Santa Monica Classroom Teachers Association from 2000 to 2014. He began his career as a government and economics teacher and, like the award he received for Most Inspirational Teacher in 1999, his message was enlightening, humorous and inspirational.

Other speakers included Linda Sasser, whose talk dealt with her passion for giving tips on utilizing the brain to the fullest potential. “Memory is not like a container but a tree growing roots,” she said. Her website is [www.brainandmemoryhealth.com](http://www.brainandmemoryhealth.com).

Marc Egan and Laura Feldman were welcomed back again this year. Egan is the Associate Director of Government Relations for the NEA. He joined NEA in 2009, lobbying on Budget and Appropriations, Education Jobs, IDEA Full Funding and issues that impact Education Support Professionals. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable person fighting for us on Capitol Hill. He left us with this comment: “Tell Senate to do their job.”

Feldman utilizes humor and her skills as a grassroots organizer to entertain and educate her audiences about politics on Capitol Hill. For 25 years she was the Grassroots Organizer for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. She

taught for 17 years and was an entertainer for the USO. She said we need to inform our legislators to stop playing political games by delaying actions, and she warned us to be aware of the spin different people place on an issue. Know the difference between Social Security (SS), which is paid into, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is welfare/food stamps.

Dan Doonan, Senior Pension Specialist Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy, returned with his updated information that examines key developments in the private sector that help shape public opinions on retirement issues. A few billionaires are still spending millions of dollars on a campaign to destroy public pensions. Doonan asked, “Does your community understand that stability is at risk when considering proposals to kill pensions? Proponents do!” Often with pension studies, it is better to have a D or F than an A. Most studies with defined benefit plans get the lowest grade. Ohio has defined benefit plans, and we keep fighting to keep them. Be cautious of studies that claim to grade large public education pension plans. For more information, go to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).

Some closing thoughts from the conference:

- The happiest people may not have the best of everything but make the most of everything.
- Know your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Be ready to educate (be educated), to motivate (stimulate by ideas, facts and reasoning powers) and then inspire to action.
- If you don't stand for something, you fall for anything.

## **WOEA-R MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of WOE-Retired is to support continued leadership and the maintenance of professional skills and to enhance the unique potential of each participating member. The Purpose shall be to maintain professional contact with the education community and support legislation and benefits for retired education employees. WOE-R has meetings at 11 a.m. that include a program, meal and business the third Wednesday of the month for March through June and September to December. Locations vary throughout the district, and all retirees are welcome to attend.

## **PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS**

With grant money from OEA-Retired and matching funds from WOE, WOE-R presented pre-retirement workshops Apr. 14 in West Carrollton and Apr. 25 in Tipp City. The workshops included snacks and drinks, and as a member benefit, there was no cost to attend. The information dealt with topics to consider when preparing for retirement. Each workshop included representatives from STRS, SERS and NEA Member Benefits, an attorney, a financial planner and WOE-R retirees. The video created by OEA-Retired about membership, entitled *Working for Your Future...Keep Growing with Us*, was shown to those in attendance. (NOTE: The video is also available on YouTube and DVD.) Attendees were made aware of information about the retired organizations of WOE, OEA and NEA. Brochures, handouts and door prizes were distributed. Survey results were positive, and all stated they would recommend this workshop to a colleague.

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the OEA-R Advisory Council election are as follows: Carol Kinsey, OEA Board of Directors representative; Marsh Buckley, NEOEA representative; Phil Long, WOE representative; Judy Buschle, SWOE representative; Barbara Catalano, ESP representative; Bonnie Harris, Higher

Education representative; Rita Walters, EOE representative.

OEA-R delegates to the NEA RA this summer in Washington, D.C. are John Hoyes, (by virtue of office) Chair; Bill Dorsey, NEOEA; Carol Kinsey, ECOEA; Don Traxler, NWOEA; Homer Adams, NEOEA; Bill Sears, SWOE; Marsh Buckley, NEOEA; Marilyn Allen, CAPITAL; and Marti Huss, SWOE. WOE-R members Willie Terrell, Jr., Jane Rahn and Warlita Duvall are on the alternate list.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO PHIL LONG**

As noted above, Phil Long was elected to represent the Western District on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council for the term of Sept. 1, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2019. Therefore, at this time, I, Jane Rahn, want to thank you and let you know it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the council these past two terms and represent you, the members of Western, in Columbus.

## **THANK YOU**

Volunteers are still needed for committee positions that were listed in the previous newsletter. Thank you for actively participating. Also, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your WOE-Retired Chairperson for the past six years. It has been a wonderful experience. I have continued to learn much and have met many wonderful people from across the state of Ohio. I hope that you have learned through the information I gained as your chairperson and tried to pass on to you. I know that you will continue to support the officers and goals of WOE-Retired and this organization that was started in 1989 by Nancy Brown, retired Dayton Education Association teacher. Thank you for your dedication to public education and the children of our state.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of WOE-R member Carole Imler, who passed away this spring. Carole taught in Brookville for many years.

## SEND YOUR MESSAGE

For those who like to be involved and are not already receiving messages from OEA or NEA about contacting your legislators when support is needed for issues that impact public education and pensions, visit [www.capwiz.com/nea/home](http://www.capwiz.com/nea/home). When you reach the page, click on an issue that is important to you. You will be taken to a page where you will enter your zip code. When you enter your zip code, you will be directed to a page where you can compose your message. The name of your senators and representatives will appear on the page. Just choose the recipients of your letter, compose your letter using the suggested talking points, fill in your contact information and send your letter.

## ESSA

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is an opportunity that awaits. The bipartisan measure re-authorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's commitment to equal opportunity for all students. Keep informed on the ESSA by visiting the following websites:

- [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
- [www.edvotes.org](http://www.edvotes.org)
- [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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OEA Website  
[www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)  
STRS Website  
[www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)  
NEA Member Benefits Website  
[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)  
SERS Website  
[www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org)  
Alliance for Retired Americans Website  
[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)  
Charter schools' performance  
[www.knowyourcharter.com](http://www.knowyourcharter.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11-12: OEA-R Advisory Council meeting in Columbus

May 13-14: OEA Representative Assembly in Columbus

May 18: WOE-R meeting at Carillon Brewing Company

June 15: WOE-R meeting at Boston Stoker Factory and El Rancho Grande

June 29-30: NEA-R Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

July 2-6: NEA Representative Assembly in Washington, D.C.

Sept. 21: WOE-R meeting at Company 7 BBQ

