

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

WESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED

WOEA-R Founded September 1989

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September and October 2016

Officers

Phil A. Long, Chair

Sandy Dobberstein, Vice Chair

Jennie Furnas, Secretary

Pat Lynch, Treasurer

Jane Rahn, Past Chair

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Enjoy fellowship, food and thrills at the Sept. 21 meeting as Woodland Historic Cemetery presents "History, Mystery, Mayhem, Murder." Hear actual accounts of Dayton's own bank robbers, counterfeiters and murderers. Company 7 BBQ, 1001 S. Main St., Englewood, is the site for the program followed by a cafeteria style lunch. The meeting begins at 11 a.m. RSVP by Sept. 14 to Emmy Brudzynski by using the RSVP form, by calling 937-813-7661 or by e-mailing her at emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu.

OCTOBER MEETING

During the Oct. 19 meeting, speaker Kathy Druffner (Personal Affairs Organization) will help members gain a new perspective on their surroundings and determine how to make their space best serve the needs and desires of their current lifestyle. According to Druffner, "Reducing accumulated clutter lowers stress, improves personal comfort and safety and helps you love your space again." Flyboys Deli, 2515 Far Hills Ave., Oakwood, is the location of the meeting, which begins at 11 a.m. You must use the RSVP form attached to this newsletter to order your meal. Checks should be made out to WOE-R and returned to Emmy Brudzynski by Oct. 9. (See above for contact information.) NOTE: The entrance to parking is north of the building on Far Hills Avenue. Parallel parking is also available in front of the building and along the street.

FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANNING

Peg Green's photography will be featured at the Nov. 16 meeting at the Greenfire Bistro in Tipp City. Also, the date for the December meeting has been changed to Dec. 14. Members will meet at Franco's Ristorante Italiano in Dayton and make cards and activity sheets and take items to support Sulpher Springs Church Community Outreach. Look for more information in the next edition of *Discover New Horizons*.

WOEA-R DELEGATE ELECTION

Anyone wishing to be a delegate or alternate to the WOE-R Fall Forum Nov. 9 and Spring Representative Assembly Apr. 12 should contact Phil A. Long by Sept. 9. Voting for WOE-R delegates will take place at the Sept. 21 meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

ELECTION OF OEA-R DELEGATES

The OEA Representative Assemblies are Dec. 3 and May 12-13 in Columbus. The OEA-Retired Caucus will meet Dec. 2 and May 11 at noon. To be placed on the state-wide ballot as an OEA-R delegate to the RA's, you must complete the Declaration of Candidacy form and return it by Sept. 20. To obtain a form, contact Carol Price at 1-800-282-1500 or at pricec@ohea.org.

According to WOE-R chair Phil A. Long, "It is important for delegates to be active retired members who attend meetings and know how retired think about education and retirement issues."

MEMBERSHIP DUES/INFO UPDATES

Annual dues of \$10 per year for WOE-R membership are now due. Members may opt for a lifetime membership of \$100 and avoid having to renew annually. Contact Membership Chair Emmy Brudzynski to obtain a membership form for renewals and for updating information if anything has changed, such as home address, phone number or e-mail address. E-mail Emmy at emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu or call her at 937-813-7661.

In addition, anyone who wishes to receive the newsletter electronically should send your e-mail address to Sandy Freeman at sanranfree@live.com. Please put "WOE-R Newsletter" in the subject line. To receive it by USPS, contact Willie Terrell at 937-238-7640.

NEA-R ANNUAL MEETING

"Unite, Inspire, Lead! Still Doing It" was the theme of the 2016 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., June 29-30. Speakers included NEA officers Lily Eskelsen Garcia, Becky Pringle and Princess Moss plus various members of NEA committees. Delegates were reminded that retired members play a critical role in public school political advocacy efforts and were thanked for all that they do for students today and in the past.

Four Ohio retirees participated in the NEA Legacy Project at the Convention Center July 1 with student educators from various universities around the country. Ohio had approximately 25 student members present. Participants could sign up for various projects, such as writing letters to new teachers, making supply bags for young students and building Little Free Libraries. WOE-R past chair Jane Rahn participated with two students from New Jersey and one from Pennsylvania in building one of the 30 Little Free Libraries that would be filled with books and placed around Washington, D.C. Jane said she enjoyed sharing ideas and then decorating the library after construction was

complete. For more information on the program, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org.

ARTEMIS SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Artemis is a domestic violence resource agency located at 310 W. Monument Ave. in Dayton. Many women and their children go there with very little. WOE-R has decided to collect school supplies, such as notebook paper, pencils, crayons, glue and backpacks. Of special need now are backpacks, page dividers for notebooks, flash drives and non-perishable food (peanut butter, pasta, tomato sauce, canned goods and Tuna Helper). Nancy Mullins delivers the supplies to the agency. WOE-R members are encouraged to take supplies to the monthly meetings for delivery.

ROLL OF RECOGNITION AWARD

Wanda Adams, active WOE-R member and former WOE-R President, was inducted posthumously into Northmont City Schools' Roll of Recognition May 22. She was honored for her 30 years of service in the district as an "educator, student/teacher advocate and compassionate leader." Wanda's life partner Dawn Wojcik, WOE-R Legislative Chair, accepted on Wanda's behalf.

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Brown, who founded WOE-R in 1989, passed away June 13. Nancy taught in Dayton Public Schools for 33.95 years and devoted her career to helping both students and teachers. While serving on the DEA's negotiations team, Nancy helped obtain planning time for primary teachers. She also helped write formal state standards for the Gifted and Talented Programs in Ohio. As an education leader, Nancy was president of WOE-R and chairperson of WOE-R and served eight years on the Dayton School Board. At the June meeting, WOE-R members voted to honor Nancy with a \$50 donation to the scholarship fund, which Nancy started. In addition, the Executive Committee voted to name the fund "WOE-R Founders Scholarship Fund."

FROM THE CHAIR

HISTORY OF WOEA-R

The Western Ohio Education Association--Retired (WOEA-R) was established in 1989 and is affiliated with WOEA, OEA, NEA and the division of retired educators of OEA-R and NEA-R.

The **Mission** of WOEA-R is to support continued leadership and the maintenance of professional skills and to enhance the unique potential of each participating member.

The **Purpose** is to maintain professional contact with the education community of public schools and the professional associations, specifically WOEA, through utilization of the expertise and knowledge of retired educators.

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

We look forward to seeing you the third Wednesday of the month this coming year. We encourage you to stay mentally and physically active and remain informed about educational, health care and working conditions in public education.

Remember membership is about growing and offering the gift of membership. Use your networking skills to offer the opportunity of membership and genuine fellowship to your colleagues so that they are aware of WOEA-Retired. Pass on your newsletter, invite them to a meeting and use your personal connections to promote personal and professional growth to a potential member.

FCPE

Many of us contributed to the Fund for Children and Public Education while working. This fund is used primarily to support OEA's recommendations for candidates that are friendly toward public educational

issues. Once we retire, it becomes more difficult to contribute because we are no longer at a workplace. OEA has now made it convenient. Visit www.ohea.org or phone 1-800-282-1500 to make Campaign 2016 the largest total of FCPE monies collected. FYI: At WOEA-R monthly meetings, FCPE forms will be available. Any donation amount is welcomed; \$5 or \$10 or more helps support education candidates.

While contributing to FCPE is totally voluntary, members are encouraged to contribute to the Fund. During the 2016-17 year, each time a WOEA-R member contributes at least \$10 to FCPE at a regular monthly meeting, a card will be completed with the person's name. At the end of the June 2017 meeting, one of the cards will be drawn. The person will receive a Mexican dinner for up to four people, donated by Sophia Rodriguez and Phil A. Long. Date, time and location will be decided among those involved.

EDUCATION REFORM TALKING POINTS

Have you ever wondered how to talk to parents, policy makers, the public or even your colleagues about education reform? The new message deals with what makes schools great. What parents want is the critical thinking skills that would make their child the next great entrepreneur or inventor. With that in mind, consider the following points to discuss for reforming education:

- talk about inspiring natural curiosity and creativity
- discuss funding inequities as a barrier to higher levels of thinking
- talk about the testing machine and how it is taking time away from learning
- explain how privatization hurts public schools

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

WOEA-R is seeking retired members to serve on each of the WOEAs committees. The committees meet once a month at the WOEAs office in Troy. Please let Phil A. Long know if you are willing to serve on one of the following committees:

●**Collective Bargaining:** Purpose--to afford opportunities for all WOEAs locals to improve their collective bargaining knowledge; to better prepare locals for the collective bargaining process; to foster the development of sound contractual provisions that improve the financial security and working conditions for members of the local associations; and to promote the best interests of local associations. NOTE: Jane Rahn will serve on this committee for WOEAs-R.

●**Local Development & Training:** Purpose--to assist, initiate, review, identify, develop and implement those activities and programs that help the local associations and members to foster and enhance their current and future leadership.

●**Member Rights & Protection:** Purpose--to promote, preserve and protect the human and civil rights of all members.

●**Professional Efficacy:** Purpose--to sustain and enhance the profession of education by fostering professional and personal growth opportunities for all education professionals to build optimal learning environments which will result in great public schools for all learners.

●**Organizing Strategy:** Purpose--to involve more members so that they can be informed and perform as association leaders, members and professionals.

PROPOSED CHANGES

WOEA-R's Executive Committee is proposing the following changes in the association's guidelines as written below:

1. Delete all of **Section b** (*Italics*)
2. Reinstate **Sections vii and viii** as numbers **4 and 5** (Underlined)

VIII. Dues

A. All members shall pay dues

1. Annual dues shall be \$10 for WOEAs-R
2. The gift of Membership shall be given UPON REQUEST for the first year of Retirement by the WOEAs-R

3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$100 for WOEAs-R (10 times annual dues)

a) There will be no retroactive increment in Life dues

b) *Life dues funds will be segregated from other monies and invested*

i. *LIFE DUES funds will be invested in a money market or certificate of deposit account OR a similar secure interest producing account offered by a financial institution*

ii. *The total funds will be divided into at least two separate funding sources with each having different maturity dates*

iii. *The LIFE DUES accounts investment vehicle will be determined to be made at the best available interest rate*

iv. *The interest monies from the LIFE DUES account(s) will be placed into the regular checking account*

v. *No funds from WOEAs-R shall be invested outside of a regular credit union or state/national bank*

vi. *Signatures on these LIFE DUES investment accounts shall include both Chairperson or Chairperson designee and Treasurer*

vii. The WOEAs-R Executive Committee shall act as an advisor to the Treasurer when changes in the arrangements of our membership funds are necessary. These changes shall not continue for more than one year

viii. Any changes proposed as a permanent arrangement shall be voted on by the membership at a regular meeting after Guidelines amendment procedures have been followed

