DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

W ESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION–RETIRED WOEA-R Founded September 1989

Volume 29 Issue 3 January and February 2019

Officers

Phil A. Long, Chair
Sandy Dobberstein, Vice Chair & Treasurer
Jennie Furnas, Secretary
Jane Rahn, Past Chair

Welcome! to WOEA-Retired, if you are a recent retiree. Happy New Year to all members.
WOEA-R was founded in September 1989 by members who felt that retirees would benefit from getting together to socialize, meet new people and remain aware of events happening in public education after retiring from the job, but not the profession.

OUR SPRING PROGRAMS:

March 20 will be our first meeting for 2019!! Program, lunch, and business meeting 11:00 AM. We are returning to Archers Restaurant, 2030 E Dorothy Lane. Come explore the beautiful sounds of dulcimers with an exciting live music program as we listen to the Odd Lotts Dulcimer Group. We will be listening to their beautiful music, and perhaps, singing along before our lunch and business meeting!

RSVP: sldobberstein@gmail.com 937-5546338

April 17 Program: Program, lunch and business meeting 11:00AM at Ray's Wine Bar, 8268 N Main St., Dayton. Friendship Force is a nonprofit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay Journeys and personal friendships. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends. Their programs bring diverse people together into each other's cultures and homes to share experiences. Julie Vann, President of the Dayton Chapter, will share about Friendship Force. (WOEA-R member Jane Rahn is a FF member and has traveled with FF)

RSVP: sldobberstein@gmail.com 937-5546338

May 15 Program, lunch and business meeting 11:00AM at Communitea, 100 Watervliet Ave, Dayton. The cafe is owned and operated by Dawn Thomas, a Dayton resident and 1975 graduate of Belmont High School. It is in a building that originally housed a neighborhood grocery store, later a ceramic shop and most recently an antique store. Since the café will be closed to the public, do not arrive early and it would be EXTREMELY helpful if you can look over the menu ahead of time and preorder so they know how much to prepare. High Tea MUST be reserved prior to our visit: http://www.teamakesmehappy.com RSVP: sldobberstein@gmail.com 937-554-6338

June 19 Program, lunch and business meeting 11:00AM at MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave., Kettering. Our program will be given by the Washing Township-Centerville Public Library. Prepare to smile as you learn more about our beloved hometown humorist Erma Bombeck. Debe Dockins from the library will present: Erma Bombeck: A Celebration of laughter. RSVP: sldobberstein@gmail.com 937-554-6338.

WOEA-R CHAIR REPORT

WOEA–R ELECTIONS

In May, elections will take place for the officers for WOEA-R. Please consider assuming one of the following positions: Chair – sets agenda (with help from the officers and committee chairs), conducts monthly meetings(about an hour), communicates with members as needed, communicates with WOEA as needed. Currently the Chair and representative to the OEA-R Advisory Board are the same. Phil is running for the Advisory Board but would rather not continue as Chair. Vice-Chair – sets the program and lunch venue for each meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month Mar-June and Sept-Dec.), assists Chair. Secretary – takes minutes and sends to Chair immediately following the meeting. Treasurer – keeps accurate books and submits a monthly report to the members, writes checks as needed, makes deposits promptly. The officers may meet once a year or as needed and make decisions between monthly meetings as needed.

SALUTATIONS TO KIM HONEYCUTT

Kim Honeycutt, the Office Manager for WOEA for many years, has retired as of December 31, 2018. Kim has been a tremendous help to WOEA-R over the years with membership lists, mailings, copying, workshops, giveaways, and historian. While Kim will be greatly missed, but never forgotten, WOEA-R , wishes her well in her retirement and know that we can always count on her (unofficially). For those of you who have worked with Kim, you know she always had a smile and a gracious manner when assisting.

BEST WISHES, Kim!!! THANK YOU, Kim!!! ENJOY, Kim!!!!

Phil A. Long, WOEA-R Chair on behalf of all WOEA-R members

NEA MEETING

On February 8-9, I had the opportunity to attend sessions of the NEA Board of Directors witnessing the debate about Ally Membership for NEA and other business items to come before the NEA Representative Assembly this July. During one session, there was a Women's

Observance with Fatima Gross Graves as the speaker along with many members

of this part of NEA – Joni Watson, pre-retired member, is a trainer for NEA Women's issues. On Saturday, I feel honored to have participated in the Black Observance and hear Karin Blair from Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools share a very moving speech. Sophia Rodriguez, pre-retired WOEA-R member, NEA Director, and candidate for OEA Vice President, invited me to be her guest at the NEA Gala. This event recognizes educators from all over the United States. Seated at our table was Jonathan Juravich, Ohio Teacher of the Year!!! I also spoke with Sarah Borgman, NEA-R Chair, while at this event. Sophia serves on the NEA Read Across America committee and secured some packets of information that I will pass onto our committee. Any time there is an opportunity to be part of an Association event, a renewed energy is felt. I thank Sophia and OEA officers and directors for the welcoming atmosphere.

Phil A. Long, WOEA-R Chair

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Please Check ohea.org & NEA.org for

Legislative updates. Thank you!

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Remember - "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."---Dr. Seuss

WOEA Professional Efficacy Committee in partnership with WOEA-R will participate in Read Across America. The committee will pair up WOEAR volunteers and classroom teachers from surrounding districts. We would like each volunteer to read a book to the class and depending on the grade level do an activity that correlates with the book. The book will then be donated to the participating class. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Val Roldan at tmeame@gmail.com.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

For Valentine Day, we sent Thinking of You Valentine's to those who were struggling with an illness. We love to spread a little sunshine to our WOEA-R members in need. If anyone has news of an illnesses or death, please let Debbie Owens know at hhteach@hotmail.com. and if possible, send an address. Thank you so much!

WEAR RED FOR ED ON WEDNESDAY

MEMBERSHIP

Retired members are encouraged to ask colleagues to join WOEA-R. Check the website for past and current newsletters.

Please contact Co-Chairpersons Emmy Brudzynski and Jane Rahn; emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu 937-813-7661 with any information about our members and colleagues. Thank You.

ARTEMIS CENTER OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT

WOEA-R donated 238 different items at the 12-20-18 meeting. A full list of those items will be made available at the next meeting. Now we need to start the year off topping that incredible donation. Artemis Wish list includes Household Items, Pantry Needs, Personal Hygiene Items, Cell Phones, School Supplies, and always the ever-popular Gift Card.

I will bring copies of the detailed list to our next meeting for those of you who have either misplaced your copy or never received one.
I am also very willing to take things to St. Vincent de Paul.
Marge Punter

WOEA-R NEEDS A NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

We are in need of a Newsletter Chair. This Newsletter is being done by Debbie Owens. I volunteered because I did not think our officers needed an extra job to do and because I think our Newsletter is important to all members.

Unfortunately, I am not able to be available to do all the Newsletters. It is my hope that someone who has an interest will step forward. I can tell you that once you get a feel of it, it is easy to complete.

Using this format is easy and it doesn't take that long to put together (cut and paste). Each Committee Chair writes their article plus the Chair and Vice-Chair reports. Please consider stepping forward. Thank you.

OEA-Retired Spring Conference

Mark your calendars for the OEA-R Spring Conference on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the STRS Building for a morning session and the Franklin Park Conservatory in the afternoon. Check http://oea-r.ohea.us/ events/spring-conference/ for more details.

OEA REP. ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Fall Rep.Asembly took place in Columbus on November 30-December 1st. Our Representatives were Phil Long, Willie Terrell, Sandy Coe and Jane Rahn. Here are the highlights of the meetings.

On Friday Willie was the WOEA R representative to the WOEA 2018 Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus dinner. The Keynote speaker was Rev. Gloria Wade Dillion a retired educator for over 34 years. She was very inspirational and motivating. She reminded the audience why we do what we do. She encouraged the educator that were present to continue to stimulate our students and help them to the next level.

On Saturday: Much discussion was held on Proposal 1 which proposed combining the fall and spring Rep. Assembly into one annual meeting. The OEA Representative Delegates vote that proposal down.

Dr. Deborah L. Jackson was elected to the OEA Board of Directors At-Large

Representatives passed the following New Business Items:

FA-2018-01 – OEA will investigate the feasibility of an electronic system for locals to submit RA Delegate and alternate election results beginning in the 2019-20 academic year.

FA-2018-02 – OEA Officers will charge the Constitution & Bylaws Committee with amending the Leadership Council Policies (formerly AMSDP) to include language that puts a policy on filling Labor Relations Consultant (LRC) positions within 90 days. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee will report on their progress at the May 2019 Representative Assembly.

In case you missed this information in our last Newsletter:

MEDICARE UPDATE

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently, the ID number is your social security number.

Just a heads up that there is a scam going around involving the new Medicare Cards coming out in April. Pass it along. It might come in handy to know Medicare will never call you on the phone. It is true that the new cards will be sent out from April 2018 to April 2019. Medicare has also warned on scams. They do not charge for cards or want your personal information over the phone. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends, throughout the US.

First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

WHAT'S THE SCAM?

Somebody from "MEDICARE " will call to tell you-you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between $5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to.

Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call.

Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to".

Scammer alert

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?

First of all, spread the word. Feel free to share these notes.

Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize.

If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal info had been given out (happens consider-ably more often than you think so don't feel bad or stupid) immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.

GREENE COUNTY UNISERV MEETING

Location: T J Chumps, Fairborn, OH 4 pm

Highlights of the "Going Greene" for Dec.18/Jan 19 issue were discussed. It is the responsibility of each local President to send it to the members unless they have designated someone else and let Jasmine have their home email.

New Classifications: If a District wants to create a new position in the bargaining unit there are 5 steps to follow: Do not sign anything; request a job description from employer; contact LRC; the LRC (not the employer) will file the appropriate forms with the state. The position is not included just because it is added into a contract; the LRC will provide copies back to local and employer.

MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding Discussions: Five steps: Do not agree or sign anything; Contact LRC to help write, review and or discuss; Take MOU to the local Executive Committee or full membership (Constitution & Bylaws) for a vote.; If MOU voted for acceptance provide LRC with final document (must be signed and dated by both union and management); LRC will upload to OEA database.

Free Professional Development offered as part of Member Benefits: Integrated Pest Management Institute (IPM). Stop School Pests is a free training course designed for all staff in schools that are a part of improving environmental health for students through effective and safe management of pests. Full training course: www.StopSchoolPests.org

Another workshop provided for professional

development is Serve Safe (it will posted on the OEA/WOEA website in the near future.
Conversations with Members/Potential Members: Support and one on one conversation influence and enhance relationships. Handout of "Top 10 Reasons to Belong to OEA" is being utilized.
Email and computer usage reminders: Stay off school email for personal business; OEA LRCs cannot use Google dots and will not use school public y-fi. ODE has employees that monitor social media. Also be aware of what post on phone.
WOEA-R/OEA-R: Thanked Jasmine for the "Retire from your Job, not your Profession!" article that she placed in the April/May 2018 "Going Green". It mentioned the drawing for a chance to win $350 when an active member joined OEA-R/NEA-R. I stated that over 80 new members joined and that 3 active members' names were drawn from that promotion. Also mentioned WOEA-Rs FCPE promotion and the donations made to Artemis at the Dec. meeting. I handed out the Planning for Retirement brochure, Working for your Future brochure, and STRS Actuarial Update Nov. 2018 brochure.
Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.
The next meeting dates for this school year are March 13 and May 8, 2019.
Submitted by: Jane Rahn, WOEA-R/ OEA-R

OEA MEMBER LOBBY DAYS

The interaction of OEA members with elected officials is critical to improving the policies that impact students, educators and public education.

Join your colleagues at the OEA Headquarters' Media Center, located at 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus at 9 a.m. for a short briefing. We strongly encourage you to schedule your meetings with legislators prior to lobby day. Find contact information for your legislator by visiting www.legislature.state.oh.us.

Additionally, please join us on May 15 at an OEA Legislative Reception in the Ohio Statehouse Museum Gallery from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If you need further information or to RSVP for a Lobby Day and/or the Legislative Reception, please contact Lisa Simpson, in the OEA Government Relations Division, at simpsonl@ohea.org or 1 800 282 1500 ext. 3056. * OEA Lobby Day on June 12 will be held if needed.

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