

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 31 Issue 1

September/October 2019

Founded September 1989

WOEA-R was founded 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!

-OFFICERS-

Phil A. Long

Chair

palciv13@gmail.com

Sandy Dobberstein

Vice Chair/Treasurer

sldobberstein@gmail.com

Lorie Moodie

Secretary

dlmoodie@aol.com

Jane Rahn

Past Chair

jrahna@sbcglobal.net

EVENTS for 2019

All events are on Wednesdays, beginning at 11am with a speaker, lunch, then followed by WOE-R business.

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

December 18th

Event locations vary for each event. Check out our website for details.

woea-r.ohea.us

Ohio Education Association-Retired

Fall Conference

September 11, 2019

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

OEA Building

Parking at STRS Building

-Choose any two topics to explore from the list below-

Technology: Using the Internet Safely and Effectively

Travel: Using NEA Member Benefits for More Affordable Travel

Education: Social Emotional Academic Development (SEAD)

Technology: Using Social Media Safely and Effectively

COST - \$20 payable with registration

Cost covers a light breakfast, lunch, parking, and program.

REGISTER at oea-r.ohea.us

-OR-

Go to our WOE-R website <woea-r.ohea.us> for a copy of the registration form, write a personal check and mail it with your payment.



See you there!

September 18th Event

Meadowbrook Country Club, 6001 Salem Avenue

Join Charlotte Golden from the Keptz YMCA in Englewood as she discusses the opportunities, classes, and Silver Sneakers programs available to all retired persons with a YMCA membership. She will be speaking in behalf of all branches of the YMCA throughout the Miami Valley.

-RSVP to Sandy Dobberstein at 937.554.6338



WOEA-R was founded thirty years ago this year! We continue to provide information, tours, speakers and a wide variety of programs for retired educators of the Western Ohio Education Association.

We have ten events each year. Become a member, attend an event, and *BRING A RETIRED EDUCATOR!*

Our Mission.....Our Purpose

The **mission** of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired (*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** of this organization shall be to maintain professional contact with the education community of public schools and the professional associations, specifically the Western Ohio Educations Association, through utilization of the expertise and knowledge of retired educators.

WOEA-R hopes that you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready to partake in the events and luncheons with colleagues, friends, and new acquaintances. We encourage you to reach out to your friends and colleagues and ask them to become a MEMBER of the ONLY WOEA-R in the state of Ohio.

ANNUAL Membership is \$10 for the year 2019-2020.

LIFE Membership is \$100.

If you join as a LIFE MEMBER, the special cost to you is only \$90 when you mail in your check made out to WOEA-Retired by Sept. 20th We look forward to seeing you soon!

Questions? **CONTACT Emmy Brudzynski at emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu 937-312-5829**
or **Jane Rahn at jrahna@sbcglobal.net 937-898-3895**

Membership Report

The enrollment of OEA-Retired members in the Western District is, as of July 30th: Annual 105; Life 791 for a Total of 896. The total retiree membership for all 10 Districts in the state of Ohio: Annual 1,137; Life 8,007 for a total of 9,144.

Your Help is Needed!

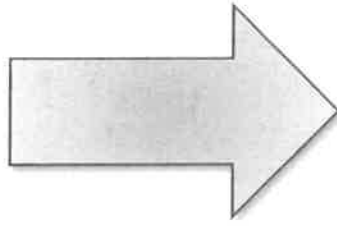
We do not have the current information for the following retired educators:

James Binkley-DEA 1990; David Cameron-Northmont 1990;
Charles Lang-Huber Heights 1998; Joan Klein-Greenville 1999; Mary Leistner-Sidney 1993.

Welcome New Members!

Cindy Ambrose Sheila Baltzrell-Linn Meg Ellinger
Lorie Moodie Tara Koenig Suman Mediratta

**Did you
know?**



**1 in 4 women and
1 in 7 men have been physically
abused by an intimate partner.
In 2016 Dayton's Artemis Center
provided life-changing services to
more than 4,387 victims of domestic
violence and their children.**

Since 1985 the Artemis Center has empowered victims of domestic violence to make decisions and choices that will establish and maintain safety for themselves and their children. By working collaboratively with other community services, Artemis Center advocates are able to coordinate needed services. Artemis Children's Program is considered to be among the best in the nation! For more info: <https://artemiscenter.org>

WOEA-R continues to support the Artemis Center as our Community Project. During each of our events throughout the year, you're encouraged to bring school items, pantry goods, personal hygiene items, school supplies and money to donate to Artemis.

S P R E A D the W O R D

*It's never too early to think about retirement! It's never too early to join WOEA-R! Spread the word that current, active OEA members can become retired life members by completing the **OEA-R/NEA-R Pre-Retirement Form**.*

JOIN ONLINE at www.nea.org/JoinNea

Contact Emmy Brudzynski or Jane Rahn for more info.

FCPE – What's It All About?

Friends of Children and Public Education (FCPE) is often overlooked among members of local OEA associations. Too often members complain: *"It's too political! All I want to do is teach."* If only it were that simple! As long as public educators remain *"public"*, we are at the call of school boards, mayors, representatives (state *and* federal) city councils. In fact, there isn't a politician anywhere who doesn't have some leverage over public school employees. It is the reality we, as members of WOEA-R, know very well. We have spent our entire career working for the benefit of our students – sometimes in direct challenge to political whims!

But we know that we cannot do it alone. This is why the OEA was founded more than 170 years ago as the Ohio State Teacher's Association and why it continues to this day. There is a history of advocacy and efficacy that must continue- *now more than ever!* These are some of the reasons we support FCPE and encourage all OEA members to contribute.

Whether it's rallying crowds, lobbying legislators, focusing our legislative influence with phone calls, emails, social media, OEA members must remain activists. Please continue to contribute to FCPE and encourage all educators, rookies and veterans, to do the same.

IF OEA DOESN'T DO IT – WHO WILL?

For the Good of the Group

**ARE YOU
INTERESTED**

**IN BEING
A
DELEGATE?**

-If you want to be a delegate for **WOEA-R**, let Phil know by Sept. 13th.

-To be a delegate for **OEA-R**, submit your Declaration before Sept. 20th.

Upcoming Event – October 16th at 11am

MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave. in Kettering

Meet **Nancy Tanner**, an ambassador for the *Road Scholar*, (previously called *Elderhostel*) travel program. *Road Scholar* is an American not-for-profit organization that provides educational travel tours primarily geared to older adults. Ms. Tanner will share her experiences and opportunities with us. Make plans now to attend. *You don't want to miss this fun event!*

What's happening in Columbus...

HB 166 - School Funding has been signed. It provides \$650 million in restricted funding to Ohio's public schools over two years. This is not new money, but dollars that have been shifted from the previous school funding formula. This old funding formula wasn't applied to this budget. These dollars are intended to support "student wellness and success." All school districts are required to develop a plan for using these restricted funds in coordination with community partners. To be specific, this "new" money has been allocated for:

- **Allowable Student Wellness and Success Initiatives**
- **Program Coordination with Community Partners and Reporting**
- **Enrollment Growth Supplement for those districts experiencing drops in student enrollment**

More than \$60 MILLION in taxpayer money continues to be taken from school districts' budgets for charter school enrollments. This funding continues despite the fact the student enrollment numbers in charter and online schools have been fabricated in the past and enrollment figures in charter schools have dropped since 2016. This budget has also increased allocations for tuition vouchers for private schools over the next two years. The General Assembly continues to pass education budgets, yet hasn't addressed the DeRolph Decision issued by the Ohio Supreme Court. In this decision, the Supreme Court declared, four times since 1995, that the way we fund public education in Ohio is unconstitutional.

IN REMEMBRANCE

*We recognize those WOE-R members
who have passed since last year.*

Vivian Ekberg February 2018

Steve Schoemann July 2019

NEA PAGE

A few things to think about.....

Sarah Says....

As summer lingers, we remember the deluge of rain we had last spring and recall the bitter cold and snow of last winter. Maybe summer should stay just awhile longer! However, there's so much to be done once the full schedule of fall arrives: *Election 2020* looms before us; what part can I play in seeing that American public education survives? Where will I volunteer? What exactly can I do? Whatever *you* choose, start now and give it your all.

I have a personal favorite candidate that will get my time and effort until the final choice is made. I base my choice on this person being a friend of education. I have no other evaluation nor benchmark. My entire life has been centered on education in one form or another. This election is vital for my great grandchildren, for the very essence of democracy. My die is cast. Are you ready to get to work, too? ***Your schools, your voice, your democracy. DO IT!***

-Sarah Borgman, NEA-R President

NEA-R on the Floor of the NEA Rep Assembly

Ohio had a full delegation of 9 to the NEA-R Conference with Willie Terrell and Phil A. Long representing WOE-R. The retired meeting began on June 30 with opening remarks from Sarah Borgman, NEA-R President. As a business meeting, the usual events occurred like reports, approval of minutes, new business, elections, awards. Re-elected to the Executive Council: Linda McCray and Roberta Margo; and to the NEA-R Board of Directors: Mae Smith and Marilyn Warmer.

A special treat was being introduced to the new NEA Executive Director, Kim Anderson to replace retiring John Stocks. Mary Kusler spoke about the political climate for NEA.

There were new business items passed to return to a two day organizing conference, NEA should not consider oppressive gender-based states when choosing sites for events, call on Trump administration to end the detention and criminalization of immigrant children and their families, recognize NEA-R Distinguished Service awardees during The NEA RA, specific actions and awards at NEA-R be included in the NEA-R magazine with several items referred back to the Executive Council.

At the end of the meeting on July 1, there were 302 registered delegates. Please visit <nea.org> under retired for more information. The retired delegates served as delegates to the NEA RA July 3-7. Many of the new business items reflect the climate of the country centering around social justice, equality, the immigration situation and how all affect public education. Willie attended the HR event and Phil attended the LGBT event; both were guests at the WOE-R dinner. If you have further questions, please contact both delegates.

-reported by Phil Long, WOE-R Chair



MORE things to think about.....

Energizing Educator Activism With Art Build

By Mary Ellen Flannery

“The first art builds were done in Milwaukee, in partnership with *Voces de la Frontera*, a local advocacy group. Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association (MTEA) members assisted with the process and were inspired to do the same for state budget hearings,” said Joe Brusky, MTEA member. While attending the annual meeting, this year in Houston, Tex., hundreds of NEA members worked with artists from the Milwaukee-based Art Build Workers to create and contribute to graphic designs of collective action in support of public education.



Remember to...

- Wear **RED for ED** every Wednesday.
- Our **Sunshine Committee** extends welcome support to our members. Contact **Debbie Owens** at hhteach@hotmail.com to let her know if a member needs a little support, some cheer, a greeting card or just a call.
- RSVP to Sandy Dobberstein** at sldobberstein@gmail.com if you’re attending our **Sept. 18th** event at Meadowdale Country Club. Be sure to bring some school or household items for the Artemis Center and a donation to the FCPE.
- ATTEND** the next two WOE-R events on Sept. 18th and October 16th.
Invite another retired educator to come with you. Share in the fun!
- LAUGH!** Here’s a joke to get you started: “*Do you know why you should never make puns about birds? Because ‘toucan’ play that game!*”