

# DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 31 Issue 3

March/April 2020

**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-**

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*Past Chair*

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## **EVENTS for 2020**

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

**March 18, 2020**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**[woea-r.ohea.us](http://woea-r.ohea.us)**

## **-March 18<sup>th</sup> Event-**

**Jimmy's Ladder 11 Restaurant, 936 Brown St., Dayton.**

**Artemis Center**, dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence of whom we are a sponsoring organization, will be featured. All attendees are encouraged to bring an item to donate to the Center. Our goal is to collect 30 items in honor of our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. **-RSVP: Marge Punter at 937.436.3424-**

**Join us for a lunch and learn about this longstanding, vital program here in the Dayton area.**

## **-April 15<sup>th</sup> Event-**

**MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave., Kettering**

**Annie Oakley**, one of the most famous and colorful women of Ohio, will be our featured presentation. Deb Dockins will provide fascinating stories about "Little Miss Sure Shot and Ohio history. **-RSVP: Marge Punter at 937.436.3424-**

**Don't miss this engaging and enjoyable program!**

## **WOEA-R and WOE**

### **Retirement/Pre-Retirement Planning Event**

Teachers and Support Staff who are *currently retired, planning to retire or just want to know more* are invited to a **FREE** seminar.

#### **-Choose your preferred date/time/location-**

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** 5-7pm Ft. Loramie

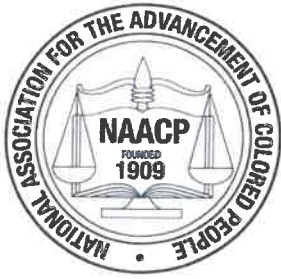
**March 25<sup>th</sup>** 5-7 pm Arcanum-Butler Middle School

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** 5:30-7:30 Main Elementary in Beaver Creek

Representatives from STRS, NEA Member Benefits and WOE-R will be there to answer your questions.

**Must Register by March 5<sup>th</sup>**

To register and more info text Phil Long at 937.733.6947



WEOA-R recently became an organizational member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP was founded in 1909 It is the leading civil rights organization in the United States. It networks with thousands of members throughout the nation. For more than 100 years, it has continued in its fight for equality. AS the NAACP continues to champion justice, it has achieved the following victories:

- Curtail voter suppression
- Pursue record numbers of voter registrations
- Provide financial education and banking information to minority people
- Combat discrimination in all its forms
- Continue to advocate for the repeal of the death penalty and promote social justice for all oppressed and disenfranchised people.

***WEOA-R is proud to be a member of this dynamic, educational, human rights organization***

***WEOA-R, because you only retired from your job, but not your profession!***

You and your membership are PRICELESS! Each monthly meeting retired educators come to share a good meal, warm friendships and important information about what's happening in Ohio's public schools. Invite your colleagues to join you for one of our scheduled events. By attending WEOA-Retired events one continues to grow mentally, socially and professionally. At our events you will meet new colleagues from area schools, visit new venues, enjoy lunch, and take away at least one new piece of information to enlighten your life. Come, bring a friend and enjoy retirement with your professional colleagues, and continue to make a difference!

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

**LIFE Membership is \$100.**

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

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

*We recognize those WEOA-R members  
who have passed this year.*

**Richard Osswald December, 2019**

**Ron Hirtle December, 2019**

**-Membership Report-**

***Welcome New Member!***

**Pre-Retired Member**

**Karen Shires**



## For the Good of the Group

**REMEMBER...**

**“All politics is local!”** (attributed to former Speaker of the US House of Representative – *Tip O’Neill*) **Decisions about schools and teachers, whether at the federal or state level, impact us, the children and families in our own neighborhood.**

### ***WOEA-R Member, Dawn Wojcik, Receives Award!***

Retired Northmont Schools high school English/Spanish teacher, **Dawn Wojcik**, received the *Wanda Adams Member Advocacy Award* at the WOEa Fall Forum last November! Dawn personifies the ultimate qualifications for this award. She has held numerous positions in WOEa/OEA/NEA. She served as WOEa President and represented WOEa on the OEA Board of Directors. She also served as a delegate attending numerous OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. As president and officer of the Northmont District Education Association, Dawn represented her colleagues throughout her long teaching career. She also served her community by coordinating the Local and County Democratic Party. Dawn ran for District 3, State Board of Education and placed second. She has continued to serve her union and fellow educators in WOEa-R as Legislative/FCPE Chair. During her time in this position, WOEa-R members have contributed more than \$1,000 every year to FCPE. Dawn has also been involved in helping youth through a peace project at her church. While Dawn may have retired from the daily schedule of an educator, she has remained active in supporting educators, education-friendly legislators and the education profession. She is well-versed on any topic related to education and her union. Many of her professional associates have often commented that they are involved in association work because Dawn encouraged them to become involved. It is obvious that Dawn’s life partnership with Wanda Adams served to benefit many individuals and organizations on many levels and in many facets of life. Those who have had an association with these two individuals are better human beings because of the impact made by Wanda Adams and Dawn Wojcik.



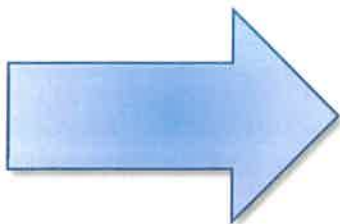
### **-THE READ ACROSS**

Members collected 350 books and will be reading to students at this annual, fun event on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Books are at all grade levels, some versions in Spanish and French. A special thanks to **Debra Koch** for generously donating 268 books!

### **AMERICA PROGRAM-**

Readers always have an enjoyable time at this “read-in.” The children always show their gratitude and appreciation in their smiles and hugs. More than 30 volunteer readers are needed. **Contact Val Roldan, at <[www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org)> and share the joy of reading!**

**Did you  
know?**



... 2,000,00 new teachers will be needed in the U.S. within the next ten years!  
... teachers endure greater job-related stress than other professions!  
... 20% of new teachers plan on leaving the teaching profession within first 2 years!  
... greatest increases in student violence have been in Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

### ***The Unforeseen Cost of Working With Students***

***Data from the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) showed that 46 percent of America's children had experienced at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) with the number rising to 55 percent for children aged 12 to 17. One in five U.S. children have two or more of these experiences.***

Custodians, paraprofessionals, counselors, bus drivers, teachers, school resource officers, every school staff member cares deeply about students. And that means being exposed to the trauma students bring into school every day, including poverty, grief, family problems, racism, drug abuse. The emotional and physical toll is often severe. Even if they have not endured trauma themselves, educators can begin exhibiting symptoms similar to those of their students – withdrawal, anxiety, depression, and chronic fatigue.

Called secondary traumatic stress (STS), defined by the National Child Trauma Stress Network (NCTSN) as “the emotional duress that results when an individual hears about the firsthand trauma experiences of another.”

***Like fatigue or burnout, STS quickly spills over into educators' personal lives and likely hastens their exit from the profession.***

A 2012 study conducted by the University of Montana concluded that there is an increased risk for STS in school personnel. The study analyzed over 300 staff members in six schools in the northwest United States. The researchers found that “approximately 75 percent of the sample exceeded cut-offs on all three subscales of STS. Furthermore, 35.3 percent of participants reported at least moderate symptoms of depression.”

In 2019 NEA and the National Council of State Education Associations filed a report (***Addressing the Epidemic of Trauma in Schools***) and issued a series of recommendations around trauma-informed schools, including advocating for comprehensive mental health and employee assistance program supports for all educators. Acknowledging the need for self-care, NEA and NCSEA also urged affiliates to promote a campaign to counter the narrative that it's somehow selfish to look after yourself.

Jessica Lander, Massachusetts teacher and Boston Globe journalist, recalls: “What was fascinating to me when I wrote the article last year was the number of teachers who responded by saying, ‘Oh my gosh, I have been feeling these things for years, and I didn't know it had a name.’”

Content edited from *NEA TODAY* article ‘**I Didn't Know It Had a Name**’: Secondary Traumatic Stress and Educators by Tim Walker, 10/18/19.

### **Retired Spring Conference 2019**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> 9am – 1pm**  
NEOEA Conference Center  
6001 Landerhaven Dr.  
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124

**Join us and enjoy our new format.  
Participate in 3 different topics**

-Retirement Update-  
-NEA Member Benefits/Travel  
-Author Talk/Book Exchange-

**Check it out at <[neoea.org](http://neoea.org)>**

### **ESC Olympics on May 19<sup>th</sup>**

2525 Wilmington Pike  
Dayton, OH 45419

*Montgomery County ESC is seeking sponsors for student and staff t-shirts. Cash donations are needed, as well as, food trucks, medals, ribbons for participants*

**Mary Hargreavers 937.253.4178, Ext. 4242**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF  
TEAMWORK AND KINDNESS!**



## A few notes from WOE-R Chair Phil A. Long

**2019-20 is the 30th Anniversary of WOE-R.** Members plan to focus on using “30” when making donations to Artemis (30 pencils, 30 notebooks, \$30 gift cards, etc.), donating books for the Read Across America project, FCPE contributions, members attending events.

**Marge Punter encourages members to bring items for Artemis for each meeting.** School, personal items and gift cards are needed. March 18, 2020 11:00 Jimmy’s Ladder 11 936 Brown Street Dayton 45409 Speaker from Artemis Center. Bring those 30 items you’ve saved in January and February.

**WOE-R members have been very generous in contributions to FCPE since September - \$700!!!!**

**WOE-R voted to join the Dayton NAACP as sponsoring members.** Members feel there is a strong need to support social justice and the NAACP is their efforts to encourage youth with scholarships and public education. Contact Willie Terrell if you would like to become an individual member. Members at the October meeting voted to have a WOE-R representative (other than a current NAACP member) at each meeting.

**Changes in representatives for the OEA-R Advisory Board:** Phil A. Long was elected OEA-R vice chair at the December OEA-R Advisory Board meeting and will be a candidate for that position this Spring. That created a vacancy for a WOE-R representative to the OEA-R Advisory Board. Sandy Coe was appointed to fill that position and will be on the Spring OEA-R ballot. Candidates for NEA-R from WOE-R: Willie Terrell, Jane Rahn, Phil A. Long.

Keep all WOE-R members in your thoughts.

Phil A. Long, WOE-R Chair

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### May 20<sup>th</sup>

*TJ Chumps at 7050 Executive Blvd., Huber Heights*

Did you know that moving your head one-inch forward equals 25 pounds of pressure on your neck? Dr. Terry McCroskey, NUCCA Chiropractor and author of *The Living Code* will share many facts about the human body and fascinating insights.

### June 17<sup>th</sup>

*Pearson House at 28 N. Miami St., West Milton*

Many older citizens fall prey to clever financial schemes. Speaker Merri Bush, a tax professional and certified master virtual instructor will present “*How to Spot and Avoid a Scam.*” Learn how to protect your money and not become a victim.

## WOE-R Goals for 2019-2020

***Join us as we focus on these goals and aspirations!***

- Celebrate WOE-R 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout the year
- Increase meeting attendance to 30 participants
- Collect 30 items at each meeting for Artemis House
- Collect 30 contributions to FCPE at each meeting
- Collect books for hospitals and schools
- Participate in WOE-R’s annual ***Read Across America*** program
- Work closely with WOE-R to host pre-retirement workshops for all OEA members

## Check Out What's Happening!

### ***WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT*** **-OEA-R Elections Coming in March -**

*Let's be sure that WOE-R is represented on the OEA-R Advisory Board!*

**Phil A. Long => OEA-R Vice Chair**

**Jane Rahn => OEA-R At-Large**

**Willie Terrell, Jane Rahn & Phil A. Long => NEA-R Delegates**

## **OEA Member Lobby Day**

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Meet at 9am in the OEA building for briefing

More info at <[www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)>

### **In the Ohio General Assembly**

The Ohio House voted with a strong, bi-partisan majority (88-7) in favor of Amended Substitute **Senate Bill 89**. Through this action, the House seeks to resolve the still looming crisis that would have more than 1,200 public schools eligible for *EdChoice* vouchers based on a flawed report card system. **SB 89** addresses the issue of *EdChoice* vouchers by eliminating most new *EdChoice* vouchers and shifting the program to one based on family income.

Additionally, the bill dissolves Academic Distress Commissions (a part of the failed state takeover law) and restores local control of the Lorain, Youngstown and East Cleveland school districts by June 30, 2020.

The grading system Ohio currently uses to determine performance-based vouchers doesn't accurately reflect how well a school is educating its students, and that the state report cards and the over-reliance on standardized tests to measure student achievement need to be fixed.

Another key difference between the current *EdChoice* performance-based voucher and those based on income eligibility is the way they are funded. Income-based vouchers are funded directly by the state instead of "pass-through" funding that reduces payments to the local school district which drains needed resources from students in the public schools.

In contrast to the House-passed plan in **SB 89**, the Senate-passed plan (HB 9) would maintain traditional performance-based *EdChoice* for 2020-2021 and beyond. The number of eligible schools for the coming school year would be around 425. Additionally, the Senate plan also increased the income eligibility threshold to 300% of poverty. Students who are eligible for both programs would continue to default to *EdChoice* and deductions to local school districts would continue to grow.

**OEA supports SB 89 as passed by the House and urges the Senate to move swiftly to adopt the House's changes to the bill.**

**The voices of WOE-R members are needed! Contact your State Senator by inserting the link below in your browser and urging them to support SB 89 as passed by the Ohio House.**

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urge-your-senator-to-support-sb-89?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urge-your-senator-to-support-sb-89?source=direct_link&)