

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 32 Issue 1

Sept/Oct 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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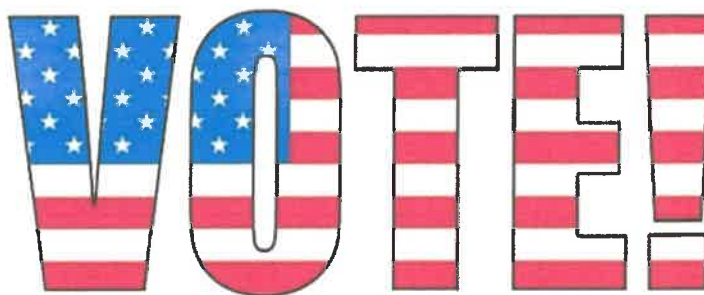
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EVENTS for 2020-21

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the increasing number of deaths and hospitalizations and the high-risk for WOE-R members, all public meetings and programs have been cancelled until further notice. Read page 4 "Notes from the Chair" for more information.

woea-r.ohea.us

PREPARE TO



It is not an exaggeration to state that our upcoming Presidential Election is one of the most historical events of our lives. Many of us were alive during War World II, Korean War, McCarthy hearings. All of us watched on television the Assassination of President Kennedy, the Watergate hearings, the resignation of a US President. Of course, every Presidential Election is important. However, what makes this November so critical is the precarious nature of our most precious right – the right to vote! COVID-19 has caused major disruptions in every facet of American society. This November's election is no exception. Every WOE-R member needs to vote.

-REMINDERS-

Check Your Registration – Go to:

<https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

Register - Go online to www.voteohio.gov or print out the application and mail it in. *Register by October 5th.*

Documents needed to register – Driver's license or state ID and the last four digits of your social security number.

Questions? Contact your County Board of Elections

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/>

More voter information on page 3.

WOEA-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 colleagues to attend an event. Encourage them to stay involved and help us celebrate our 31st birthday of being in existence. WOE-R was founded by a Dayton teacher, Nancy Brown, upon her retirement. She felt that an organization should enable educators from various school districts to get to know each other and continue to be aware of events in public education. By attending WOE-R-Retired events one can continue 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 2020-2021

LIFE Membership is \$100.

If you join as a LIFE MEMBER, the special cost to you is only \$70 when you mail in your check made out to WOE-R-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-

Welcome New Members!

Life Members

Kenneth Ridenour

Vicki Westerfield

Annual Members

Margaret Gorby

Melodie Larsen

Lois Ramey

Barb Sollmann

Susan Waite

IN REMEMBRANCE

We recognize those WOE-R members who have passed.

Thomas Applegate (2018)

Joseph Ellis, PhD (2018)

Irene K. Palke (2020)

Rosa Lee Turpin (2020)

(correction from April-May newsletter)

Ron Hertel (2019)

For the Good of the Group

REMEMBER

***COVID-19 is
still out there!
We are a high
risk group!***

- 1 Wash your hands frequently.
- 2 Practice social distancing.
- 3 Outside? Wear a facial covering.
- 4 Phone your friends and family.

ELECTION 2020

We are drawing ever closer to one of the most important elections in our history. This is our time to choose truth over lies, calm over chaos, hope over despair. There are things we can ALL do to ensure a better future for our children and grandchildren. The most important thing is to vote.

VoteOhio.gov is a good resource for all of your questions and answers.

- Make sure you are registered. Voter purges have taken place in Ohio.
- Register anyone in your household who will be 18 years old before election day. You must do this *at least* 30 days before the election.
- If you have moved, check to make sure your address is updated.
- It is recommended that you vote by absentee ballot. None of us knows what our situation might be on Election Day (November 3rd).
- Consider using an absentee ballot to vote. If using an absentee ballot...
 1. **Mail in** your absentee ballot request form, ASAP. You can download and print the form or call your County Board of Elections to request a form.
 2. **Track receipt** of your ballot request on VoteOhio.gov.
 3. **Fill in** your ballot, ASAP, after you receive it (*after October 6th*).
 4. **Check carefully** that you have completed it accurately and sign it with your usual signature. Ballots will be rejected if the signatures don't match!
 5. **Mail it immediately** or use the drop off box at the drive through outside your County Board of Elections office. Absentee ballots must be mailed before 7:30pm on Nov 3rd.
 6. **Keep checking** VoteOhio.gov until you see that your ballot has been received.
- If you have already sent in your ballot request, you can ignore the form sent by the Ohio Secretary of State.

You can always vote early in person at your County Board of Elections.

Early voting in person starts on October 6th

Weekdays 8:00 - 5:00;	8:00 - 7:00 =>	Oct 26th - 30th
Saturdays 8:00 - 4:00	=>	Oct 24th and 31st
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00	=>	Oct 25th and Nov 1st

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 6:30am to 7:30pm, but getting that vote in early will be easier and SAFER and avoids the risk of illness, accident or other problem that might prevent your vote on November 3rd. *Thanks for doing your part to preserve our democracy!*



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

Greetings!

I trust that you are all staying healthy. In this Age of COVID, we must remain vigilant to protect our own health and that of our family and friends. Although it may be uncomfortable to wear a face covering and we might be inclined to impulsively hug our friends, please remember that we must keep a unified effort. What we do to keep ourselves healthy will keep many others healthy.

Throughout much of this summer the WOE-R Executive Committee was hopeful that we could return to our monthly meetings in September. Sadly, this cannot be so. Increases in COVID cases in many counties in Ohio make such an arrangement too great a risk. It's not possible to meet as a group before March, 2021. We'll keep you informed by our newsletter and email as things change.

I'm sure you have recognized the theme of this newsletter – VOTE. Regardless of which candidates you support, please take the time to be sure that you are registered to vote and that you cast your ballot in the November election. As a member of WOE-R you know our values and priorities. We are committed to quality public education. Being retired hasn't changed that value! In a greater sense, we also place a priority on the welfare of all children. Please keep these values in mind as you consider which candidate to vote for.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that, at one time, not so long ago, we were all working in schools. However, the start of the 2020-21 school year is like nothing we had ever experienced. Never before has there been such confusion, doubt and panic in the days leading up to start of school. School employees literally fear for their lives and those of their families by simply working in a school building. In the coming days and weeks, please keep these valiant workers in your thoughts. Take a few minutes to tell a current school employee, or just send a note to a nearby school office: *"Thanks for all you do for children!"*

Take care, stay safe and hope to see you soon.

Phil A. Long - Chair

2020 NEA-R ANNUAL MEETING

The NEA-R Annual Meeting was held virtually on June 29-30 from 3 to 5:15. Lily Garcia, NEA President, was recognized for her service and support of NEA-R. She was presented that one of the scholarships would be given in her honor. Lily reminded us that September 1 she will be one of us!

Campaign speeches were given for the offices of President, Executive Council, Board of Directors and BOD alternate. OEA-R Chair, Mary Binegar, brought the OEA-R delegation together via zoom to discuss the candidates and those who might best serve OEA-R and NEA-R. Mary has done a tremendous job keeping the delegates informed and up to date about the Annual Meeting and RA.

Carrie Pugh and Brandon Rettke, NEA Campaigns and Elections staff, talked about the need to not focus on polls and not be complacent as we move into the coming 2020 election. Brandon stressed the need for retirees to work at the polls. I loved this plug as a Board of Elections member because we are constantly looking for election officials.

Plans are underway for the 2020-21 year with programs, many postponed from the spring of 2020. An August newsletter will outline all programs and events.

Val Roldan is serving on the OEA-R Read Across America committee using her expertise of having conducted a very successful *Read Across America* for WOE-R for the past several years. More information will follow.



Although the WOE-R is unable to meet in person, many members continue to work in behalf of retired educators and support worthwhile community programs. Here are some GOOD NEWS items. If you have good news that you'd like to share in this newsletter, please contact
Wayne Wlodarski
wsquared919@aol.com

THANK YOU, JANE!

Jane Rahn, WOE-R member, has completed nine years on the OEA-R Advisory Council. She served six years as the WOE-R representative and the past three years as the At-Large representative to the Advisory Council. Jane was a very active member on the Board working on the brochures, with membership, and communications. For several years, she attended the NEA-R conferences paying her own way. Jane was someone that could be counted on to follow through with any task given. During her time as the WOE-R representative, she was also WOE-R Chair. Following her term, she began serving as WOE-R membership chair along with Emmy Brudzynski. Together they have done much to increase membership and organize the WOE-R membership files. WOE-R is very proud of Jane's leadership and dedication while at OEA-R and WOE-R! *Thank you, Jane Rahn, for your any years of service to the education profession!*

SURPRISE at the 2020 NEA-R ANNUAL MEETING

What a pleasant surprise when it was announced during the Communication Committee report that the Western Ohio Education Association Retired newsletter, *Discover New Horizons*, tied for first place in the Established Local Retired Newsletter Award category! Wayne Wlodarski is our editor.

ARTEMIS CENTER

Accepting clothing, school items, canned and household goods and cash donations to support children and families who have experienced the trauma of domestic violence.

310 W. Monument Ave.

Davton. OH 45402

FCPE DONATIONS

The Fund for Children and Public Education is OEA's effort to support candidates for public office who are committed to public education. No member dues are ever used – only voluntary contributions.

<https://www.ohea.org/donate/>

Join us for a virtual luncheon Celebrating Women's Suffrage

Wednesday, September 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Participants include inspiring women leaders across Montgomery County culminating with a guest speaker from Team Biden/Harris. Lunch is included and will be delivered to you by our local partner [Top Knot Kitchen](#). Plenty of time to socialize and enjoy our surprise keynote speaker.

In recognition of the Centennial Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, we'd like to see you wear your best "Suffragette White" outfit on the call.

RSVP by Monday, August 31st and buy tickets at

<https://www.montgomerydems.org/ladies-luncheon>

MARY BINEGAR FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN DISTRICT #10

My name is Mary E. Binegar. I am a lifetime resident of Springfield, Ohio. I received my Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the Ohio State University and my Masters in Secondary Education degree from the University of Dayton. Most of my teaching experience was as a high school special education teacher. My entire career of 35 years has centered around meeting the educational needs of students.

Prior to my retirement, most of my activism was through my union, the Ohio Education Association (OEA). As an active member of OEA, I served as president or vice president of the Urbana Association of Classroom Teachers for 20 years. I also served on the OEA Board of Directors and on the National Education Association (NEA) Board of Directors.

Additionally, I served as the OEA representative on the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children and Ohio's Committee of Practitioners. Both groups worked directly with Ohio Department of Education staff and State Board of Education members. For the last twenty years, I have also worked with the NEA Special Education Cadre. We are a group of 25 educators from across the nation who develop presentations, brochures, talking points and other resources to help our members better serve all students in our education communities.

Now as a retiree, I am still active in OEA and am currently serving as Chair of the OEA-Retired group. The mission of this group is to promote quality public education for every child no matter their zip code or income level. We work to support our active colleagues, to lobby for legislation that promotes and protects public education, and to maintain our pension and benefits to allow a quality lifestyle throughout retirement.

I truly believe that our public education system is the foundation of our democracy. This pandemic has brought to the forefront many of the inequities in our current system which must be addressed. I believe my responsibility as a State Board member is to listen to the concerns of students, parents, and educators and then recommend policies and procedures that best meet the educational needs of all students no matter where they live in Ohio.

Mary Binegar

2210 Woodside Ave

signatures!binegm@aol.com

937-360-1554

As an individual, an educator, a voter and a friend, I highly endorse Mary Binegar for the State Board of Education! She has always represented the best interests of students and educators and will continue to do so when elected. Mary has a unique gift to see all aspects, ramifications, and outcomes of any given situation or issue. She is thorough in her research about a topic before rendering judgment. Public education will benefit greatly by having Mary Binegar on the State Board of Education. If you are in District 10, please consider casting your vote for Mary, then please spread the word. If you are not in her district, but know people who are, encourage them to vote for Mary! As OEA-R Chair, Mary is working for you now, every day. Here is your opportunity to work for her! Thank you, Vicki Huff, WOE-R, for helping collect signatures!

Phil A. Long
WOEA-R Chair