

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 32 Issue 2

Mar/Apr 2021

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

palcisv13@gmail.com

Marge Punter

Vice-Chair

mjpunter6018@gmail.com

Sandy Dobberstein

Treasurer

sldobberstein@gmail.com

Lori Moodie

Secretary

dlmoodie@aol.com

Jane Rahn

Past Chair

jrahn@sbcglobal.net

EVENTS for 2020-21

April 1st – May 3rd

STRS Elections

(pg. 5 has Endorsed Candidates)

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March 30th

Retired Spring

Conference

(pg. 6 registration flyer)

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March 17th

WOEA-R Virtual Event

(details to follow)

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woea-r.ohea.us

Welcome Back WOE-R Members!

We can't meet in person, but our luncheon programs continue!

WEDNESDAY March 17th at 11:30am Debbie Dockins presents **"Annie Oakley - Little Miss Sure Shot"**

WEDNESDAY April 21st at 11:30am Debbie returns with **"The Esther Price Story"**

WOEA-R business meetings will begin at 11am, followed by Ms. Dockins entertaining and informative program. Meetings will be conducted by Zoom for our safety and health. Zoom online links will be sent out to all members by email.

Spring – A New Hope?

One year ago, the entire world was thrown into a crisis it hadn't witnessed in more than 100 years. Governments were unsure of how to prepare. Individuals were scared and skeptical. Although more than 500,000 people have died, some Americans still doubt the reality of COVID. As experienced educators, we know what to do in times of crises. We've spent our entire careers planning, organizing, teaching. Those skills may be dormant, but you still have them. Once again, your skills are needed. *You are needed.* With the closing of winter, spring has always been a time of hope. The reality of last spring provided little hope. Today, our reality has changed. Our perceptions impact how we will react to this new reality. We can *choose* to greet a new spring with new hope. This is not a denial of the ongoing challenges, but a willingness to maintain safety *and* look at simple things in new, positive ways. Be patient and take time to notice extended daylight. Smile into the sun. Walk outside shout out so that everyone can hear: *"It's beginning to look a lot like springtime!"* It's time to help everyone we know get ready with new hope. Spring is coming.

NEA-R DELEGATE ELECTION

Your Candidates for the 2021 NEA-R are { **Phil A. Long**
Willie A. Terrell, Jr.

When you receive your ballot – SUPPORT OUR WOE-R MEMBERS!

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

Membership in the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired is a gift and opportunity! When you talk to your professional colleagues, please invite them to join us when they retire from their education profession.

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-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

Elizabeth Adegible

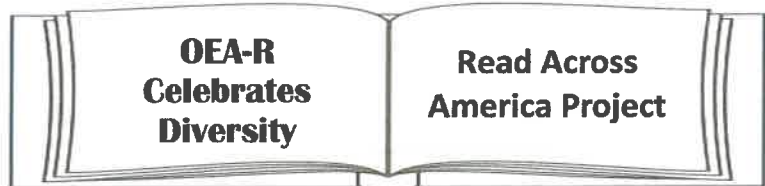
Mildred Albert

Roland Albert

Annual Members

Marie Ciolek

Marcia Vannet



OEA-R has initiated a Read Across America event for March by reading to students virtually for this year. **Val Roldan** represents WOE-R on the committee and enlisted the following WOE-R members to read: **Dawn Wojcik** (*Chocolate Milk, Por Favor*); **Barbara Lacy** (*Grace for President*); **Phil A. Long** (*Grace Goes to Washington* and *It Takes A Village*) and **Sandy Coe** (*What If All the Same* and *Going Home*). These videos will be available to OEA members during the month of March 2021.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We recognize those WOE-R members who have passed.

Eleanor Starline (2015) Irene K. Palke (2016)

Murl Huffman (2020)

For the Good of the Group

REMEMBER

COVID-19 is still with us! Stay safe and be sure to

- 1 Wash your hands frequently.
- 2 Practice social distancing.
- 3 Outside? Wear a facial covering.
- 4 **Get a COVID vaccination!**

A few thoughts from member Lori Moodie in this Age of COVID

Despite the lockdown and huge scare of COVID, my life has been much more eventful (*some good and some bad*) than I ever imagined. It started with a 10-day, Caribbean cruise with another retired teacher and two of our children. We left just as China was struck with COVID, but none in the U.S. – yet! While on the cruise, things became bad in the US, and it was discovered there were two crew members who had been on another ship with COVID. We feared that we'd be stuck at sea. Luckily, the two crew members tested negative and we returned home. That same day the cruising industry shut down and school closings were announced. We loved the cruise but were very grateful to be safe at home. What a way for my friend and her son to experience a cruise for the first time when I told her how wonderful cruises are!

The many closures caused my husband to be unemployed for a while. But while that door shut, another door opened. He got a new job doing essential work. During the pandemic, I've spent lots of time on Zoom with family and friends. I've had some nice WOE-R Zoom activities. I went on a couple "safe from COVID" trips to Gatlinburg in my first new car in 15 years. I have done many long-awaited projects around my house. I also attempted to see my 80+ year-old parents a few times with a mask and at a safe distance.

I am very grateful that all my family, except one daughter have stayed COVID free. She was fairly miserable for ten days, but her youth got her through. Unfortunately, I've personally had to deal with two inpatient and 4 outpatient hospital experiences during all the pandemic restrictions. None of my family were allowed to be with me. Luckily, I have recuperated from the surgeries and feel blessed that even though things were bad, it was not as bad as others have experienced.

Surprisingly, in the midst of all this, I've started a new job, which "found me when I wasn't even looking". I'm working for AMBA which has been endorsed by the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. I advise active and retired teachers/public employees about their benefit opportunities. It has been great fun working with teachers and helping them with important benefits. I feel that I'm making a difference in their lives. Although there have been some ups and down, my family and I have weathered the pandemic fairly well.

Notes on the OEA Representative Assembly – submitted by Sandy Coe

On December 5th, 750 delegates at the RA discussed events of 2020, the impact of COVID-19, current legislative efforts, organizing and advocacy successes, and more. President Scott DiMauro addressed COVID-19's impact on the educational system in Ohio and the fight for the safety of our members and students. Newly elected NEA President Becky Pringle thanked us for battling some of the systemic social problems our country continues to face. Vice President Jeff Wensing reviewed legislative undertakings in our General Assembly, their importance, how they affect OEA, and how we can support issues important to us. Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hill enumerated OEA's financial and membership numbers. The delegates also heard OEA's new Executive Director Patricia Collins Murdock. She expressed her admiration for all the hard work and commitment that the delegates have demonstrated. A bittersweet moment was the tribute to outgoing Executive Director Sheryl Mathis. She expressed her pride in being part of our union. An updated version of the final OEA Fund slides that were presented at the end of the RA. Anyone who wants to review segments of the RA can find that information at: <https://www.ohea.org/fall-ra-review/>

NAACP

WOEA-R became a Life Member of the NAACP in 2020.

The NAACP or National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was established in 1909 and is America's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It was formed in New York City by white and Black activists, partially in response to the ongoing violence against African Americans around the country. In the NAACP's early decades, its anti-lynching campaign was central to its agenda. During the civil rights era in the 1950s and 1960s, the group won major legal victories, and today the NAACP has more than 2,200 branches and some half a million members worldwide.

The NAACP was established in February 1909 in New York City by an interracial group of activists, partially in response to the 1908 Springfield race riot in Illinois. In that event, two Black men being held in a Springfield jail for alleged crimes against white people were surreptitiously transferred to a jail in another city, spurring a white mob to burn down 40 homes in Springfield's Black residential district, ransack local businesses and murder two African Americans. The NAACP's founding members included white progressives Mary White Ovington, Henry Moskowitz, William English Walling and Oswald Garrison Villard, along with such African Americans as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Archibald Grimke and Mary Church Terrell.

*If you would like to become a member of the NAACP
please contact WOE R member Willie A. Terrell, Jr. at 937 238 7640 or que1699@aol.com*



On Wednesday, February 25th, Dawn Wojcik, WOE R member and former WOE R President attended an Ohio Budget Training Workshop. Ohio's biennial state budget is currently under debate in the General Assembly.

Resources About Hunger in Ohio

<https://www.hungernetohio.com/guidebook>

Historical Revenue and Expenditures in Ohio (LSC):

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/pages/reference/current/historicalrevandexpenditure.aspx>

Hunger Data (USDA)

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=99281>

Poverty Data (State of Ohio):

<https://www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/p7005.pdf>

Job Growth Trends Bureau of Labor Statistics:

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>

Policy Solutions, Policy Matters Ohio

<https://www.policymattersohio.org/research-policy/quality-ohio/revenue-budget/budget-policy/a-budget-for-everyone>

Impact of tax changes, Policy Matters Ohio

<https://www.policymattersohio.org/research-policy/quality-ohio/revenue-budget/tax-policy/rebalance-the-income-tax-to-build-a-better-ohio-for-everyone>



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

Many thanks to all the WOE-R members who supported the signature petition drive in support of RITA WALTER and ROBERT STEIN, the OEA-R endorsed, experienced STRS candidates!

-Phil A Long

Chris Allen	Jim Judge	Connie M. Porcher
Gary Allen	Kay E. Kloofleisch	Pamela Pottkotter
Patricia Askins	Candice L. Krick	Thomas Pottkotter
Cindy Benjamin	Patricia Kuhn	Sandra J. Pramer
Tom Benjamin	Margaret Larkin	Shirley Pryer
Stephanie Blackburn	Phil A. Long	Tom Pryer
Cynthia Brooks	Perry Long	Marjorie J. Punter
Emmy Brudzynski	Doug Lowe	Jane Rahn
Sandra M. Coe	Sarah Lowe	Delores Robinson
Thelma Davis	Diane Mann	Jason Rohrmann
Lawrence P. Demisch	Janet McIlvaine	Valerie Roldan
Arnetta Depp	David McKay	Teri S. Ross
Sandy Doberstein	John McMillan	Dale Schmidt
Lynne A. Dysert	Karen Miller	James Schoenlein
Diane E. Elshire	Elvira Montgomery	Calvin Scott
Beth Fair	Janet E. Morrison	Sharon A. Sherer
Patricia R. Franzer	Thomas Mosier	Joyce Smith
Beth Froning	Rosemary Mullenix	Minnie Sturgeon
Cathy Jo Gault	Sharon Murphy	Richard Stetler
O'Dell W. Graves	Betsy Murray	Mary K. Stroud
Margaret A. Green	Ann Niess	Karen A. Stucke
Kathryn S. Grimes	Donald W. Niess Jr	Willie Terrell
Pauline Haskett	Jeanne Noble	Rebecca Title
Jane Heiby	William Noble	Margaret K. Tolie
Elois Marie Henderson	Jylene J. O'Donnell	Marsha Tolle
Ann E. Hilty	Tim O'Donnell	Sheila Wallace
Carol A. Hone	Rhonda Overmann	Dawn Wojcik
Donna L. Hone	Debra Owens	Janice D. Yackey
Kelly Hone	Francis Phillips	
Gwen S. Howell	Kay Piper	
Vicki Huff *	Douglas Pittsenbarger **	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>*out-of-state</i> ** former WOE-R members</p> </div>
Glenn H. Hux	Valerie Pittsenbarger **	
Sylvia H. Hux	Harold Poppe	

Rita Walters retired with 35 years of experience as a classroom teacher with Switzerland of Ohio Schools. As an active teacher she also served as president of her local association and on the OEA Board of Directors for 12 years. She was elected to the STRS Board in 2017.

Robert Stein is a retired teacher from Strongsville City Schools and was also a Praxis III assessor with the Ohio Department of Education. He has served on the STRS Board since 2009.

Come Join Us!

**Tuesday, March 30
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Retired Spring Conference 2021

**Join us for our
VIRTUAL and
INTERACTIVE
format — your
opportunity to
participate in a
variety of
topics — and
all from the
comfort of your
own home.**

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 30

Our conference will start at 9:00 a.m. with a few welcoming words and announcements. Then we'll begin our sessions:

- **Legislative Update** by OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing
- **STRS Update** by Tamla Cole **OR**
SERS Q&A by Cameron Vaughn
- **NEA Member Benefits** by Guy Kendall-Freas
- **Author Talk** by three local authors

Casey Daniels/Kylie Logan Susan Petrone D.M. Pulley

Registration closes March 19 or until we reach capacity. Send this registration form to NEOEA, Retired Spring Conference, 6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-4190 or email the information to desk@neoea.org. Receipt of your registration will be confirmed.

Name _____

District _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

I wish to attend the _____ STRS Update (teachers) _____ SERS Q&A (school employees)