

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 34 Issue 3

March/April, 2024

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!

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Future meetings and programs will be advertised in this newsletter.

Time/Date may need to be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.

Check website for changes.

woea-r.ohea.us

The Enkindled Spring

By D.H. Lawrence

This spring as it comes bursts up in bonfires green,
Wild puffing of emerald trees, and flame-filled bushes,
Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths of smoke between
Where the wood fumes up and the watery, flickering rushes.

I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration
Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze
Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,
Faces of people streaming across my gaze.

And I, what fountain of fire am I among
This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed
About like a shadow buffeted in the throng
Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.



Election Season is Here---What to Know---Be Prepared **Ohio Primary is Tuesday, March 19th**

We will select candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court, US Senate, US House, Ohio House, Ohio Senate, Ohio District and Common Pleas Courts, County Commissioner, Prosecutor, Recorder, Clerk of Courts, Treasurer, Sheriff, Engineer, political party convention delegates. There may also be local issues in your area.

NEED MORE INFORMATION BEFORE YOU VOTE?
Get the latest Information about public education and political action by visiting the Ohio and National Education Association
<ohea.org> and <nea.org>

Working together for public education!
Contact Dawn Wojick, WOE-R Legislative Chair

-Early Voting Begins February 21st -

For the Good of the Group

Upcoming WOE-R Events

WOEA-R events are on the 3rd Wednesday and begin at 11:00 a.m. Save the Dates!

Date: Wed., March 20, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 a.m.

Location: Huber Heights Police Station's Community Center 6121 Taylorsville Rd. Huber Heights, OH

Program: Artificial intelligence has been in the news! Hear what the Huber Heights Police have to say about being safe on the internet and the latest issues concerning artificial intelligence.

Lunch: Members voted at the Dec. meeting to bring your own drink and lunch for this event.

RSVP Sunday, March 17, 2024: Debbie Owen hhteach@hotmail.com or call 937-236-2063

Date: April 17, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 a.m.

Location and Lunch: Archers Tavern Kettering 2030 E. Dorothy Lane, Kettering OH 45420

Order from the menu. Estimated cost \$12-20.00. Informational/business meeting will follow.

RSVP Sunday, April 14, 2024: Debbie Owen hhteach@hotmail.com or call 937-236-2063

-Save These Dates-

April 25, 2024 OEA-R Spring Conference

Register for an enjoyable and informative program planned by the WOE-R and SWOE-R
Cost is \$25. Location is the Dayton Peace Museum. **Time is 10 am-3 pm.** Tours, art project, lunch, networking. Reservation forms will be available April 1, 2024 at oea-retired@ohea.org
and

Date: May 15

Location: Ray's Wine Spirits Grill 8268 N. Main St. in Dayton

RSVP: May 7, 2024 call 937-554-5602

and even more!

June 19, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, and Dec. 11

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in WOE-R can either be **\$10 for Annual** or **\$90 for Life**. Your choice!
Join us, volunteer, and share the experience of retired! To our current members: Thank you for being!
We are charged with growing our membership and not letting retirees slip through the cracks. Please champion our fellow teachers and retirees. Encourage them to continue to make a difference.

We only retire from our Job, not our profession!

Questions? Contact Emmy Brudzynski emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu or 937-312-5829

Jane Rahn jrahna@sbcglobal.net or 937-554-5602

SPECIAL NOTE: As of January 4th 2024, OEA-Retired has 7,141 members.
There are 283 Pre-Retired members and 8 cancelled memberships.

Hey – What's going on with OEA?

Fall OEA RA

December 1-2, 2023

For this annual meeting of experienced, dedicated educators, 691 registered delegates attended. \$26,298.08 was collected for the OEA Fund which is used to help pro-public education candidates regardless of party affiliation. Candidates receiving contributions are screened by OEA members and answer questions about their support for public education.

Contribute to the Fund by visiting www.ohea.org/donate

Spring OEA RA

May 8-11, 2024

WOEA-R Delegates attending are Phil Long, Lori Moodie, Doris Moore, Willie A. Terrell Jr., Clarice Thomas, Joni Watson.

From the WOE-R Elections Committee

Your attention and assistance are needed!

Nominations for the WOE-R offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer are now being accepted prior to the March 20th WOE-R event.

If you would like the job description for a position, contact **Phil A. Long** at palciv13@gmail.com.

Send a written letter of intent for the office that you are submitting a nomination.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE => name, email and mailing address, phone number and a brief statement of why you want to be a candidate for the position.

Email to Phil A. Long at the above email address by March 17th

Hear ye!
Hear ye!



READ ACROSS AMERICA is dedicated to encouraging the wonder, joy and excitement of reading in child. This year's theme is **DEMOCRACY** – fitting for an election year!

Volunteer to read/record for the event during the month of March 2024. There is plenty of time to volunteer and make a difference in a young person's life. To view past recordings from 2022-23 go to the **OEA-Retired website**.

For information on how to share your favorite book contact **Karen Shires** at **937-478-2360** email karenshires00@gmail.com or **Val Roldan** at **937-266-4227**.

***WHY
VOLUNTEER
?***

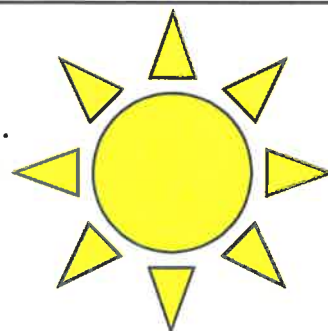
Life is busy, but in its midst is a profound opportunity for personal growth, fulfillment, and impact on your organization/community.

Volunteering provides an avenue for personal development and studies have shown that it creates increased levels of happiness and mental well-being. Working alongside others who share a passion for making a difference has the power to uplift and inspire each person. Volunteer to help **WOEA-R** continue to grow by inviting friends and colleagues to an event. Volunteer to share your knowledge and ideas to enhance each member's potential. *Thank you!*



A few thoughts from WOE-R Chair Doris Moore

As we go forward into 2024, I wish for all of us good health and great wealth. Most of us have a reasonable amount of health and strength. We also have a great storehouse of wealth in accumulated knowledge. Putting all of our knowledge together produces great power. As we all know, knowledge is power. I want you all to know that I am so proud to be a part of WOE-R. I believe that you all are some of the most influential educators in retired status, still operating in our profession. There is so much wisdom that radiates from within. As I travel, I realize that Ohio Educators EXCELL. Let's stay together and support one another. WOE-R YOU ROCK!



Doris Moore
Chairperson/WOE-R

Ideas for Earth Day!

April 22, 2024

The first earth Day was in April 1970. At that time there was no EPA, No Clean Air Act nor any type of legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment. Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day to bring these issues to national attention. President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon planted a tree on the White House South Lawn to recognize the first Earth Day. Go to NEA's new online climate hub to find resources to stay up to date on the latest climate science and thank a tree for being!

[Nea.org/climatejustice](https://nea.org/climatejustice)
arborday.org

Some final thoughts to consider....



STRS (State Teachers Retirement System) provides information right at your finger tips on its user-friendly website <strs.org>. Click on *Receiving Benefits* then click on *Seminars/Webinars* and a world of opportunities is open to you! **Prioritizing Your Safety** webinar is scheduled for May 22nd from 1-2pm. Check it out! Remember you can also attend STRS board meetings via ZOOM.

Look what Education Retirees did in Nebraska!

The Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) spearheaded a challenge to the voucher law in their state supported by former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. With NEA support, NSEA collected more than 117,000 signatures to qualify a state ballot measure for the Nov. 2024 election. Now Nebraskans will have a chance to vote down the voucher law which diverts taxpayer dollars away from public schools to private schools.