

WOEA-R MINUTES

5-15-24

Those in attendance: Emmy Brudzynski, Debbie Drake, Sandy Freeman, Andrea Hirtle, Phil Long, Lori Moodie, Doris Moore, Debbie Owens, Jane Rahn, Karen Shires, Mary Skare, Willie Terrell, Clarice Thomas, Dawn Wojcik

Call to Order: 11:20

Today's meeting was at Ray's Wine Spirits on N. Main St. in Clayton.

Presentation of Speaker: Jane Rahn presented the speaker Tamara Cole from STRS. Tamara discussed the history of the STRS retirement system and a lot of valuable details about the current happenings with STRS. The recommendations are to keep up with the current events regarding STRS. The attorney general is now involved. You can go to the STRS Board meetings in Columbus and/or watch them online, so that you can see what's happening firsthand and form your own opinions. The meetings are all recorded and archived for a year. If you are not getting summaries, etc. from STRS in your email, you can contact STRS to give them your current email address. Be careful about where you get your STRS news from. Feel free to call STRS directly if you have any questions for them. It is critical that all retirees and active educators pay close attention to STRS because this is our livelihood, and we need to make sure it continues to be there for all of us for all the years to come. It's also important to pay attention, so you can make sure that in the future you vote for the Board members who you believe will be best at helping our system the most. The most recent election results are in the news now. Thank you to Tamara for giving us a wealth of information.

Reading of the Minutes: April minutes were approved, with corrections.

Elections- Phil Long ran the election for the officers for the 2024-25 school year.

Results:

1. Chair- Doris Moore (by acclamation)
2. Vice Chair- vacant
3. Secretary- Lori Moodie (by acclamation)
4. Treasurer- Vacant

It is important that we get some people who would be interested in taking the vacant positions. Let Doris and Lori know if you are interested (ASAP). The Vice Chair is in charge of programming and finding a place for it. There are people who will be willing to help you with this. The treasurer position is not difficult because we don't have a lot of funds going in and out, but it is important because we need to have someone handling the accounts. You will have training and guidance for as long as you need it.

Financial Report- No report

Officer's Reports:

Chairperson Report- Doris Moore- She updated us about the events she has attended this past month, as our WOE-R rep. Doris also attended the OEA RA as an OEA-R delegate.

Secretary Report- Lori Moodie- She gave out a form to fill out with ideas for events and meeting locations for next school year. If you think of any other ideas, please inform the officers or committee leaders until we get a Vice Chairperson. Lori also attended the OEA RA as an OEA-R delegate.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership- Jane Rahn and Emmy Brudzynski (They sent out 75 May/June newsletters in the mail. Our member Rudy Kavanaugh passed away at age 95. Many of our members are living a long time).

Sunshine- Debbie Owens

Legislative- Dawn Wojcik

We had the first ever Lobby Day for OEA-R. The following WOE-R members who went are: Phil Long, Lori Moodie, Doris Moore, Willie Terrell, Dawn Wojcik). Approximately 15-17 retirees attended. They were able to secure funding for hotels, lunch and mileage. We discussed issues that directly affected STRS retirees. Of course, anything that affects retirees also affects the active teachers because some day they'll be retired too.

Phil discussed this: One of the big issues discussed was the GPO WEP. If we can get it through a vote in June, we have a good chance of getting it repealed. If not, who knows what will happen after that because we won't know who will be in office or how they'll vote.

Dawn said you can sign up for legislative current news by going to ohea.org (ex: voucher information, WEP and so forth).

If interested in screening candidates, contact OEA. Let them know you want to participate in the 6/11/24 screenings.

Debbie Owens has a petition to sign regarding Gerrymandering. If interested in signing, contact her.

NAACP- Willie Terrell (WOEA-R is already a member of this). Willie encouraged WOE-R members to individually become a member or even a life member.

Advisory Council- Joni Watson- She sent her report to all our members via email.

Nominations/Election- Phil Long (He ran the officer election today.) Elections for the OEA-R delegate will occur at our Sept. meeting.

WOEA Committee Reports:

Collective Bargaining- Lori Moodie (They did not meet this school year.)

Organizing Strategy- Phil Long (See newsletter for various events).

ARteam- Action Response team that is through an NEA grant. OEA-R ended up paying for all of it. So, WOE-R ended up not needing to pay for any of it.

"So, You're Turning 65"- Webinar on 5/21/24- 5:00-6:00 p.m.

“Confronting White Nationalism in our Schools” Webinar on 5/23/24- 6:30-8:00 p.m.

OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee Book Study- on Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month

DLAMC- Doris Moore

Read Across America- No report

WOEA Uniserve Council Meetings:

Far West- Sandy Dobberstein- No Report

Grand Lake- Phil Long- No Report

Greene County- Karen Shires- No Report

Happy Trails- Doris Moore- No Report

Miami Valley A/B- Joni Watson- No Report

2 Far West- Joni Watson- No Report

Old Business: WOE-R Delegates that attended the OEA RA are: Yuverdia Irving, Phil Long, Lori Moodie, Doris Moore, Willie Terrell, Clarice Thomas, Joni Watson

Attending these events is very rewarding knowing that we are helping public education, but it is also a sacrifice for a variety of reasons, including taking a lot of time away from other home/family responsibilities that everyone has. Thank you to those who made this time and effort to attend.

New Business:

Jane made a motion for WOE-R to purchase 300 forever stamps, before the price goes up, for the 2023-24 school year. (Jane Rahn- 1st and seconded by Debbie Owens)-unanimous.

Debbie Owens made a motion that WOE-R buy one book of stamps for the Sunshine Committee. (Debbie Owens- 1st and Willie Terrell- 2nd)-unanimous.

Good of the Order:

Jane doesn't want to be Vice Chairperson, but she said that she and Debbie Owens will continue helping with it.

Remember to invite your friends/past or current colleagues to join the WOEa-R. The more the merrier!

Next Meeting- 11:00- Archer's 2030 E. Dorothy Ln. Kettering, OH 45420 Joy Harper from Horace Mann will be the speaker.

After this meeting, we will have summer break for July and August, and then we'll begin our next school year on

Adjourn: 1:06 p.m.