

# DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 34 Issue 4

May/June, 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!*

## **-CONTACTS-**

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**-vacant-**

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*Past Chair*

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

## **Upcoming Events**

### **-May Meeting-**

**Date:** Wed., May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am

**Location:** Ray's Wine Spirits Grill 8268 Main St, in Dayton

Order from the menu. Estimated cost \$12-\$20.00  
Information, business and elections will follow.

**Program:** **Tamla Cole**, Assistant Director of Member Education for the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). Information and updates about OHIO STRS.

**RSVP:** No later than May 10<sup>th</sup>. Call or text 937-554-5602

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### **-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

**Many thanks for representing the WOEA-R!**

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### **-June Meeting-**

**Date:** Wed., June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Archers Tavern Kettering, 2030 E. Dorthy Lane in Kettering

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

**Program:** **Joy Harper**, Horace Mann representative will share information.

**RSVP:** No later than June 15<sup>th</sup> at 937-236-2063 or email  
[hhteach@hotmail.com](mailto:hhteach@hotmail.com)

**WOEA-R events in 2024 will be on Sept. 18, Oct.16, Nov. 20, and Dec. 11 (note 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.) Share your ideas for programs and events at the May and June events!**

## ***Hey – What's going on with OEA-R ?***

### **OEA-R Advisory Council Report**

*Hope this finds you well. There are many events which have been shared and below are a few reminders.*

Thank you to those who attended the Uniserv meetings this year: **Anette Johnson, Phil Long, Doris Moore, Karen Shires** and myself. Your strong voice is appreciated.

Thank you to the following members who volunteered for the ARTeam which held an event on April 24 at Wayne High School for active and newly retired educators: **Sandy Dobberstein, Sandy Freeman, Annette Johnson, Phil Long, Karen Shires, Dawn Wojcik** and myself. Thanks also to **Doris Moore**, WOE-R Chairperson.

It was a pleasure planning the OEA-R Spring conference with **Becky Brown** (SWOE-R) which took place at the Peace Museum in Dayton on April 25. Enjoyed by all!

The OEA-R Advisory Council meets prior to the OEA-R meeting and OEA RA. It gives me great pleasure to report on what the WOE-R has been participating in this year.

#### ***What else is happening?***

-OEA-R lobby day on May 8<sup>th</sup>

-Zoom meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>, 5-6 pm titled **"So you are turning 65?"**, a STRS webinar

-May 23 from 6:30-8 pm webinar titled **"Confronting White Nationalism in Our Schools"**. This is an eye-opening training and is open to active and retired educators.

**CHECK OUT the OEA-R Website: <<http://oea-r.ohea.us>>**

It has been a true pleasure serving as your OEA-R Advisory Council Rep.  
Have a wonderful summer. *-Joni Watson*

### ***Welcome New Members!***

***Ernie Stockton - Huber Heights, Thomas R. Underwood - Columbus,***  
***and Tyler Hensly – who joined as a pre-retirement member.***

**ANNUAL Membership is \$10 for the year 2023-2024**

**LIFE Membership is \$100.**

If you join as a LIFE MEMBER, the special cost to you is only \$90 when you mail in your check made out to *WOEA-Retired* by **September 20, 2024**. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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) 937-554-5602

**For the Good  
of the Group**

**Results of the Elections at the NEA Representative Assembly and the NEA-R Annual Business Meeting.**

**Mary Binegar** by virtue of office, **Carol Kinsey, Peg Ham, Steven D. Mitchell, Phil Long, Jene Wilson** and **Kathleen Purdy**. Two of WOE-R members are alternates: **Willie Terrell** and **Doris Moore**. The RA and Business Meeting will take place in Philadelphia, PA.

The theme is ***Promote, Protect, Strengthen Public Education***.

**-Friends of Education Award to the American Library Association-**

The NEA Board of directors approved the recommendation to award the American Library Association (ALA) with the 2024 NEA Friend of Education Award. ALA spends \$12 million annually to support libraries across the United States. In 2020 there were 230 books challenged. The number rose to 2,571 books in 2022! We all need freedom to learn and the freedom to read. ALA has been fighting censorship since 1967. ***Congratulations ALA!***

**State Level**

The Spring OEA R A is in Columbus May 8-11, 2024. The WOE-R delegates attending are: **Phil Long, Lori Moodie, Doris Moore, Willie A. Terrell Jr. Clarice Thomas** and **Joni Watson**.

**District Level**

At the Spring WOE RA , we were represented by Chairperson **Doris Moore**, plus delegates, alternates and guests **Lori Moodie, Willie A. Terrell Jr., Joni Watson, Karen Shire, Phil Long, Yuverdia Irving, Jane Rahn, and Reverend Moore**. WOE-R donations at the Spring RA brought in a total of \$145.00 for the OEA Fund—to make our Voices heard for Public Education! The location of this meeting was the Presidential Banquet Center.

**WOE-R Elections**

The Election for Officers will take place at the May meeting. **Doris Moore** is a candidate for Chairperson and **Lori Moodie** is a candidate for Secretary. The other positions are Vice Chairperson and Treasurer. Nominations will be taken at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

*We recognize those WOE-R members who have passed.*

**Pam Edwards, July/2023**

**Diane Mann, March/2024**

**Richard Roberts/ Aug 2018**

**Terry N. Thoreen/Jan 2023**



*A few thoughts from WOE-R Chair Doris Moore*

We're down to our last quarter of the year. Look how far we have come! The school year 2023-2024 is coming to an end. As the year goes on, we are anticipating many graduations, marriages, family reunions. Be safe out there. Please take some time to rest and relax. Take some time for YOU. You are the most important person in your life. Self-care is vital. Do not neglect you. As we love ourselves, let's reflect on the importance of ourselves by being totally aware of ourselves. Let's give ourselves self-love. Continue to build self-awareness. Take out time for self-reflection. Build our self-esteem. Become more self-disciplined. Exhibit more self-control. Highlight our self-expression and build more self-confidence. When we come back together for the 2024-2025 school year, we will be more focused and ready to serve. Enjoy your summer with family and friends. Blessings!

*Doris Moore, WOE-R Chairperson*

### ***-TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR ALL RETIREES TO CONSIDER THIS NOVEMBER-***

#### **CITIZENS NOT POLITICIANS Constitutional Amendment**

When politicians draw biased, ridiculously shaped voting districts to favor their own interests, it's called gerrymandering, and Ohio is one of the 10 most gerrymandered states. Ohio politicians even recently implemented voting districts the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional.

The Citizens Not Politicians Amendment will end gerrymandering by empowering citizens, not politicians, to draw fair districts using an open and transparent process. It will:

- **Create the 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission** made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic areas and demographics of the state.
- **Ban current or former politicians, political party officials and lobbyists from sitting on the Commission.**
- **Require fair and impartial districts** by making it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or individual politician.
- **Require the commission to operate under an open and independent process.**

**CHECK IT OUT** <https://citizensnotpoliticians.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CNP-Amendment-for-Web.pdf>

#### **RAISE THE WAGE Constitutional Amendment**

Raising Ohio's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 will benefit nearly 1 million working Ohioans (19% of the Ohio workforce). This includes 470,000 currently paid less than \$15 who will receive a direct benefit, and 500,000 currently paid up to \$17.25, who will get a raise as employers adjust their pay scales. Raising the minimum wage will generate \$2 billion in new annual earnings by 2026.

The average affected worker will take home an additional \$2,128 each year. That's \$3,400 for the lowest-paid Ohioans who will see a direct increase, and \$1,911 for those already paid a little more, who will get a boost too as their employers boost pay scales. Three in five of the people whose pay will go up are women. Raising the wage will reduce gender pay inequity.

White workers make up the largest share of people who will benefit (70%). But for reasons related to structural racism, Black and Latine workers are more often pushed into low-paid jobs, so disproportionately large shares of those groups will benefit (30% of each). The same is true for workers grouped under "other races": 33% of them will get a raise.

Most affected workers are adults aged 20+ (80%); the same share (80%) have already finished high school. More parents will benefit from the ballot measure than teens.

**CHECK IT OUT** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cU51D1bHfIzAmLBtPHVV54qIZ3tEJ6Co/view?pli=1>

#### ***Need more information about what is going on in your state and national government?***

Get the latest information about public education and political action by visiting the Ohio and National Education Association websites. <ohea.org> and <nea.org> Working together for public education!

**Contact Dawn Wojick, WOE-R Legislative Chairperson**