

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

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Nov/Dec 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

Upcoming Events

-November Meeting-

Date: Wednesday, November 20th at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Shen's Szechuan & Sushi at 7580 Poe Ave. in Dayton

Program: OEA-R Chairperson **Mary Binegar** will share an update on OEA-R and discuss *"What do I need to know about ableism?"*

RSVP: by Nov. 15th to Jane Rahn Call or text 937-554-5602

-December Meeting-

Date: Wednesday Dec.11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Dayton Metro Main Library 215 East Third St. Parking in the garage under the library.

Lunch: Bring your own brown bag lunch and drink.

Program: Connect with your colleagues. Learn a new idea. Inspire others. Extend joy. Bring a game (*board or cards*), a story, a tall tale or tradition to share with the group.

RSVP: Dec. 8, 2024, to Debbie Owens 937-901-0729 or by email

hteach@hotmail.com

VOTE on Nov 5th

As educators we've spent our professional careers involved in the lives of children. We've contributed to their future. It's been said that the outcome of next Tuesday's election is critical for that future. Please read the article on the following page. I hope it provides a few things for us to consider and reminds us of the importance of our vote.

-Wayne Wlodarski



For the Good of the Group

Your Values, Your Vote

An easy-to-follow guide to voting your conscience

Diane Vogel Ferri - Guest Columnist, cleveland.com

October 23, 2024

It seems to me that many of us are often voting against our own interests. We claim to believe in democracy and freedom, but why are we so divided on issues that put those at stake? We all love America, but some of us have an image of our country from the past, and we want it back. Some of us want to move towards a future that is even better. Here are some thoughts on how we can vote for what we truly believe in.

1. If you are concerned about immigration -- don't vote for people who blocked the bipartisan immigration bill last October. It held many solutions. (HR 29 - look it up)
2. If you are concerned about the division in these United States -- then support legislators who are willing to work across the aisle and sponsor bipartisan bills that are in the best interest of us all.
3. If you are in the middle class -- don't vote for politicians who always side with the wealthy and large corporations. They set most of the high prices you are paying.
4. If you think the public schools are inadequate -- don't vote for people who drain public school funding (with your tax dollars) for private schools. (\$1 billion in Ohio last year).
5. If you are a Christian or have high moral standards -- don't vote for people who constantly insult, name-call, or vilify other Americans. What would Jesus do?
6. If you are heartbroken at every school shooting -- don't vote for politicians who take millions from the NRA or those who vote against common sense gun laws. (No one ever said they were going to take your gun away, and exactly how would "they" do that anyway?)
7. If you have any empathy for people losing their homes to wildfires, floods, hurricanes and landslides -- don't vote for people who deny climate change and allow corporations to pollute American land.
8. If you believe America is a free country -- don't vote for those who try to take personal freedoms away from others. Something you hold dear may be next.
9. If you are a veteran -- don't vote for someone who calls war dead disrespectful names, who also disrespects prisoners of war, wounded veterans, Gold Star parents and military honors.
10. If you believe in truth and integrity -- don't vote for people convicted of felonies, have committed fraud and multiple bankruptcies, cheat on their spouses, or were found liable for sexual assault. They have proven that they are not to be trusted.

If you disagree with these concepts of personal freedom, a united country, the common good, the importance of the middle class, the safety of school children, truth, respect for our veterans and for each other, then fortunately, you are still free to vote your own conscience.

Diane Vogel Ferri is a retired teacher and the author of "No Life But This: A Novel of Emily Warren Roebling."

IN REMEMBRANCE

We recognize this WOEA-R member who has passed.

Darlene R. Ruzicka, October 27, 2024

What's going on with NEA-R, OEA-R, WOE-R ?

OEA-R Election Results

Thirty-five delegates will represent OEA members at the OEA Retired Fall and Spring Conferences and OEA Fall and Spring Representative Assemblies in Columbus, Ohio. OEA-R Advisory Council members serve as automatic delegates by virtue of office (Phil Long and Joni Watson).

1131 votes cast. (636 paper ballots) Seventeen delegates elected.

Willie A. Terrell (*member of WOE-R*) was elected.

WOE-R alternates are **Doris Moore, Clarice Thomas, Lori Moodie, Nola Brooks, Yuverdia Irving**

WOE-R Fall Forum

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 from 4:30-7:30 pm

WHERE: Wayne High School 5400 Chambersburg, Rd. Huber Heights, 45420

WHO: Open to all active and retired members of OEA/OEA-R and WOE-R/WOE-R.

FOOD: Choose from a boxed sandwich or salad from Honey Baked Ham when you register online.

REGISTRATION: Type in your search engine **2024 WOE-R Fall Conference** to register online.

Choose your sessions and food items online.

QUESTIONS: Val Roldan 937-266-4227

WHY: This is an enjoyable and informative evening with your colleagues!

SOME "LINKS" to KEEP YOU CONNECTED

I hope this finds you all well and getting ready for the winter months and holiday season. Some WOE-R members may not be getting my emails. Please check your spam. If you are on Facebook please check out our OEA-R page. This page always has information for upcoming events. Here are more sites for good information.

STRS at <https://www.strsoh.org/>

SERS at <https://www.ohsers.org/>

OEA-R Racial and Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a book study for all members. You can register at:

<https://ohea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdygpzkoG9SY5h7hqqhiMyjYTjZ3ptMC#/registration>.

-FUTURE TOPICS of INTEREST-

November 20 5:00-6:30 – Senior Scams: What we all Need to Know. For Retirees and Actives alike.

Registration: <https://ohea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeisqD0iGtRtD4qaYgaoasyqffB29rbZ>

February 26th Read Across America

March 26th So, You Are Turning 65

April 30th Immigrants and Literacy

May 28th Listening to Build Understanding.

Enjoy time spent with family and friends. Please think about volunteering somewhere this holiday season.

Warm regards,

Joni Watson

WOE-R Advisory Council Rep

SAVE THESE MEETING DATES for 2025

March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. the 10 or 17

Contact: Clarice Thomas with location suggestions and topics.

937-477-2724 or cthomas272@gmail.com

Your ideas and colleagues are always welcome!



A few thoughts from the WOE-R Chair

All the Best of the New Year Ahead!

As we enter the last two months of the year, I am thankful for the times we've shared. (*Where has the time gone?*) As we enter the most caring and giving season, let's not forget those less fortunate. Remember that we are the leaders that other educators look up to. We have so much to offer. Let's do all that we can to be great role models. Let's keep Public Education alive and strong. One of the greatest gifts that we can give to one another is ourselves. Therefore, take your talents, your wisdom, and your knowledge, and be a great blessing to someone. May you have a great end of the year and a great beginning for the New Year. I thank you for all that you do. We are keeping Public Education alive!

Doris Moore
WOEA-R Chair

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! ✨

**CONGRATULATIONS on YOUR RETIREMENT and
WELCOME as an ANNUAL MEMBER of the WOE-R!**

Lois Ramey from Dayton Public Schools

NEA Retired Virtual Communication Committee chaired by Roberta Margo, MN Report

The Virtual Committee met October 24, 2024. NEA Staff member Giovanna Bechard (*Center of Communications*) met and explained the rationale for having the Aug. issue of *NEA Today* going digital in 2025. Postal regulations and content for the retired in that issue are the reasons. The other three issues will still be paper.

NEA Today has been available in digital format as a quarterly newsletter since June 2023 to those members who subscribed. The digital readership is about 130,000 or 40% of NEA Retired membership.

Currently there are 318,820 NEA Retired members. 74% have at least one valid email. Only 50% (159,841) subscribe to receive emails from NEA. A retired member can check out the NEA Retired website and sign up for various content that is of interest (*there are links to subscribe to various newsletters*).

From surveys 60% of members were interested in articles concerning how politics and policies impact their lives and/or financial /retirement issues. In the future a form will be made available to members of this committee to share with their state officers or any member who would like to submit an article for consideration.

There was a discussion about members and difficulty with emails. All states do not process members of NEA the same. Some are processed by NEA. Other states process their own members, so those states need to give the emails to NEA. It's a work in progress.

Discussion of the seven categories of the NEA-R newsletter Communication Award followed. It was suggested with first and second place, an honorable mention should also be included. Ideas will be finalized at the next virtual meeting on January 7, 2025 and presented to the NEA-R Board in late January or Feb.

-Jane Rahn

Ohio Representative of Virtual NEA-R Communication Committee