

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 35 Issue 3

Mar/Apr 2025

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

-March Meeting-

Date: Wednesday, March 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Golden Corral 2490 Common Blvd. in Beavercreek

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

RSVP: March 16 to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937-477-2724

-April Meeting-

Date: Wednesday, April 16 @ 11:00 a.m.

Location: MCL Cafeteria 4485 Far Hill Ave. Kettering

Lunch: Each participant to purchase their own lunch at MCL

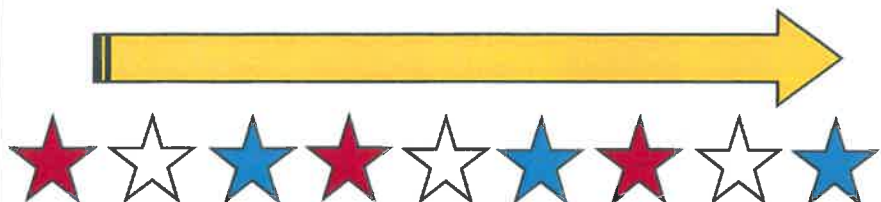
Program: ***"Self Defense"*** presented by Xenia Police Department

RSVP: April 13 to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937-477-2724

Since his inauguration on January 20th, President Donald Trump has issued several dozen Executive Orders. As a result, his Administration is facing more than 75 lawsuits. He has stated his intention of eliminating the Department of Education. The question for us to consider is:

What lies ahead for public education in the United States if the Federal Department of Education is eliminated?

Check out the article in ***For the Good of the Group***



For the Good of the Group

If the ~~DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION~~ is ELIMINATED... **It's a Cabinet department, instituted by Congress, with a \$79 billion budget, administers aid to schools across America and ensures students' rights to equal education.**

President Trump's Secretary of Education nominee, Linda McMahon, (*a relative unknown in education circles*) has recently been approved by a Senate committee. His plan is to have her wind it down, then urge Congress to abolish it. "I want Linda to put herself out of a job..." President Trump has promised to close it, saying "...it has been infiltrated by radicals, zealots and Marxists," *What will happen?*

- **Scott DiMauro**, OEA President, reported that the Department accounts for 11% of all public school revenue in Ohio last year, according to a recent [Ohio Legislative Budget Office report](#). These grants fund more than a dozen programs that support impoverished and low achieving students, early learning and preschool, homeless children, free meal programs for hungry students, rural education, career and technical grants, neglected and delinquent children, and more than 61,000 English learners.
- **Oversight** Enforces laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which mandates that students with disabilities receive free appropriate public education (FAPE). If the Department were to be dismantled, enforcement of IDEA and other related laws could become fragmented or inconsistent.
- **Equity** The quality of services for students with disabilities could vary dramatically from state to state. The inequality that would result could leave many students vulnerable, further exacerbating the disparities in educational outcomes for this population.
- **Advocacy** Plays a vital role in advocacy for marginalized groups, including students with disabilities. Without this national platform, students and families would likely struggle to have their voices heard in policy discussions at the federal level.
- **Support** Upholds the civil rights of students with disabilities. It ensures that students are not discriminated against based on their disability and that they have access to the same educational opportunities as their peers. Students with disabilities could face increased challenges in securing the accommodations they need to participate in school activities, leading to further isolation and disadvantage.
- **Structure** Long-term planning and programs for students with disabilities would be thrown into flux, as current policies and structures might no longer be upheld. Lack of coordinated federal oversight could result in confusion, inefficiency, and missed opportunities for students with disabilities.
- **Assessment** Without a centralized source of data collection, research, and recommendations, it would be difficult to assess how well students with disabilities are doing.. This would result in a lack of accurate information about needs, progress, and potential, making it harder to improve outcomes for these students.

What can we do? Stay informed AND take action! Check out these resources:

[<nea.org>](http://nea.org)

[<ohea.org>](http://ohea.org)

CONTACT your Legislator

[<house.gov>](http://house.gov) or [<senate.gov>](http://senate.gov)

Some Thoughts from Your Membership Co-Chairpersons

To create a more relevant and robust WOE-R organization, we all need to participate at whatever level we are comfortable. Elevate your voice and let your friends, former colleagues, and active educators know about WOE-R, OEA-R and NEA-R. Encourage them to come share a smile, meal, and conversations and learn some new ideas. Let's all help grow our membership and attendance at events.

Membership dues are \$10.00 Annual and \$100.00 for Life and are available on the web site.

Thank you for helping us as we make every individual feel valued!

-Jane and Emmy

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

-NEA-R Virtual Communication Committee Report-

The NEA-R Virtual Communication Committee met January 7, 2025. Chairperson Roberta Margo term ends August 2025. Twenty-five members attended. After the Call to Order, the Land Acknowledgement and Code of Conduct were read. There was a discussion about possible revisions of the six categories of the NEA-R Communication Awards that are presented at the NEA-R Annual Meeting. The vote was to have these suggestions presented by Roberta Margo at the NEA-R Exec. Council Meeting will be February 23-27:

Add Honorable Mention to EACH of the Award Categories

The same newsletter cannot be sent in as an application for more than one category

Add an additional State Newsletter category for State affiliates of 2500 members or less.

We'll know after Feb. 23-27 meeting if any or all of these suggestions will be approved.

REMINDER: August issues of **NEA-R TODAY** starting in August 2025 will be digital issues. The remaining three issues will be in printed format.

-TELL YOUR STORY-

IF you know of any retired educator who has a story to tell for August 2025 digital issue, and beyond, contact **JOEL BERGER**. Joel is a freelance writer working on stories for NEA TODAY RETIRED. He's looking for members who work in jobs that are natural extensions of work that they did in the classroom (*e.g. tutors, adjunct professors, financial planners/tax preparers, curriculum development, personal fitness coaches*). He wants to include members from a variety of cultural backgrounds. If/when you decide to contact JOEL include your full name, state (Ohio), and 1-2 sentences about you're doing today *and* what you did before you retired.

Be sure to include Jane Rahn in your application. Jane represents you on the Virtual Committee.

CONTACT JOEL BERGER JFB113@GEORGETOWN.EDU 313-595-6533

-Submitted by Jane Rahn

Spring is Around the Corner!

I hope this finds you and yours well. There are quite a few events coming up this spring.

March 26 will be the webinar "***So You are Turning 65***". This is being repeated from last year and was well attended.

April 22 is the **Spring Conference** at the Ohio Historical Museum in Columbus. Registration will be out soon. If you are on Facebook please be sure to follow the OEA-R Facebook page. It always is up to date with events and calls to action. Speaking of action, did you know you can advocate for public education from the comfort of your home? Just go to <https://ohea.org/action/>. You will find the latest calls to action. There are also legislative updates and items of interest for education voters. While retired, our advocacy for our students and profession is vital for the survival of public education in Ohio. Be well and spread kindness and grace.

Joni Watson - WOE-R AC Rep

WOEA Representative Assembly is April 16th

Presidential Banquet Center at 4pm

Delegates, alternates and guests can register on the WOE-R website.

Check it out and enjoy a night of good food, meet state officers and garner information.



A few thoughts from the WOEAR Chair

An Uncertain Future for Public Education

Fellow Educators - We have entered the new year with trepidation and uncertainty about the future of public education, President Trump has signed an Executive Order to dismantle public education. As we know, this must be a joint effort with Congress. However, there is also some good news. Prior to leaving office, President Joe Biden signed into law the Social Security Fairness Act (HB 82). It's a great landmark for working families and retired educators. We celebrate with you, along with firefighters, police officers and other public service employees. Ohioans can now get the benefits that they worked for and deserve. Yes, this is a move in the right direction. Congratulations to all!

During December and January, I attended and presented a workshop for the *2024-25 Minority Leadership and Women's Leadership Training Seminars to the Advance Racial and Social Justice, East and West*. My topic was *Understanding Our Association*. I feel more strongly about this than ever before. The Union is not only a safe place for educators, but also an essential service in protecting ourselves, our profession and those we serve. I look forward to continuing to serve you this year.

*Yours in Education,
Doris Moore*

Here's What's Comin' Up!

Date: Wednesday, May 21 @ 11:00 a.m.
Location: TJ Chumps 7050 Executive Blvd. Huber Heights, OH 45424
Program: Marion Witcher presents Life Inspirations and Autism Awareness
RSVP: May 18 to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937-477-2724

Date: Wednesday, June 18 @ 11:00 a.m.
Location: Shen's Szechuan and Sushi 7580 Poe Ave. Dayton, OH 45414
Program: TBA (to be announced)
RSVP: Submit ideas by June 15 to Clarice Thomas

REMEMBER: As members you're encouraged to submit ideas for programs/speakers/tours and locations for future events. We meet on the third Wednesday: March- June and September -December. Block off those dates and send ideas to Clarice Thomas.

Email: cthomas372@gmail.com or Call/text: 937-477-2724

Juvenile Court Searching for Teachers

Interested in teaching teens in small group settings with no interruptions by cell phones or other outside distractions? **Montgomery County Juvenile Court** has opportunities at three different facility schools. The positions are located at the Center for Adolescent Services in New Lebanon, the Nicholas Residential Treatment Center in Jefferson Township, and the Detention Center in downtown Dayton. In addition to the subject areas of English, Science, Math, and Social Studies, there are open positions for a full-time substitute teacher and intervention specialist. Benefits include flexible vacation time, personal days, paternity leave, and options for retirement savings plans.

For more information, see <https://www.mcjcoho.org/job-openings/>