

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 35 Issue 4

May/June 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

-May Meeting-

Date: Wednesday, May 21 @ 11:00 am

Location: TJ Chumps 7050 Executive Blvd. Huber Heights

Program: Marion Witcher "Life Inspirations/Autism Awareness"

RSVP: May 18th to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937-477-2724

-June Meeting-

Date: Wednesday, June 18 @ 11:00 am

Location: Shen's Szechuan and Sushi 7580 Poe Ave. Dayton, OH

Program: "Citizens Response" - Dean Margioras, School Resource

RSVP: June 15th to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937.477.2724

-September Meeting-

Date: September 17, 2025 @ 11:00 am

Location: Big A BBQ and Grill 209 Byers Rd. Miamisburg

Program: TBA (to be announced)

RSVP: Sept 14th to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937.477.2724

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Mark your calendar with these future meeting dates!

Oct. 15th, Nov. 19th, Dec. 10th (2nd Wed.)
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WOEA-R Elections

Officers for whom we'll be voting at our May 21st meeting

Chair - Doris Moore

Secretary- Lori Moodie

Vice-Chair - Clarice Thomas

Treasurer - Nola Brooks

Welcome New Member!

Kimberly Barnhart

(pre-retirement)

Huber Heights City Schools

**PLEASE EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOUR COLLEAGUES
AND FRIENDS TO JOIN OUR EVENTS AND LUNCHEONS.**

What's going on with Higher Education in Ohio?

Higher-Ed Faculty Start Process: Ask Ohio Voters to Repeal Anti-DEI Law

WYSO | By [Karen Kasler](#)

April 14, 2025

Union groups have begun an effort they hinted at when Republican lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1 earlier this year. That's the legislation that Republicans say will halt what they see as liberal indoctrination at public universities by banning faculty strikes and most mandatory diversity programs.

The union representing Youngstown State University faculty is circulating petitions to ask voters to repeal [Senate Bill 1](#). That law, which takes effect in June, also requires performance reviews for tenured professors and what's termed "intellectual diversity" on certain controversial topics including electoral politics, abortion and marriage.

"I'm hoping that enough people hear this and say this really is state overreach," said philosophy professor Mark Vopat, the president of YSU's faculty union, which is affiliated with the Ohio Education Association. "It's not just about the collective bargaining rights that they're sort of chipping away at, but also the effect this is going to have on students and on faculty just in doing their job."

Vopat said the repeal effort is built off the protests against the law, which brought in testimony from more than a thousand opponents this session and when a similar bill was proposed in the last General Assembly.

"I think that there is a widespread dislike, that's probably a soft term for that, for this bill," Vopat said. "I think this is just bad for Ohio. It's bad for the students. I can't see anyone that this actually helps."

Vopat said other OEA affiliates and the American Association of University Professors are also expressing interest in the effort.

The first step is gathering 1,000 signatures. Organizers of the effort plan to bring the petition to a protest outside the City Club of Cleveland on Thursday, when the law's sponsor Sen. Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland) will be speaking. Cirino is also the chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

After that, the initial petition and the full text of the repeal's language would go to the attorney general, and then to the Ohio Ballot Board to ensure it affects only one law. To get on the November ballot, they'd have to get around 250,000 more signatures by early July.

-Submitted by Dawn Wojcik

OEA's MEMBER LOBBY DAY

OEA's first Member Lobby Day of the 136th General Assembly was a great success! Nearly 100 members and allies came to the statehouse to talk to their legislators about the importance of fully updating and funding the Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

To continue this work on this vital issue, OEA will hold a second lobby day and legislative reception on **Tuesday, May 20th**. This lobby day will continue to focus member advocacy as the budget moves through the Ohio Senate. Members participating are encouraged to speak with their legislators about the Fair School Funding Plan and other important provisions in House Bill 96 – the biennium budget now in the Ohio Senate.

Lobby Day will start with a briefing from OEA Officers at 9:30am at OEA HQ, located at 225 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215. Light refreshments will be provided. OEA will also cover the cost of parking in a nearby parking garage and provide a voucher for lunch.

OEA members must contact OEA staff member **Lisa Simpson** of OEA Government Relations at simpsonl@ohea.org or (800) 282-1500, Ext: 3056. A virtual pre-lobby day briefing will be offered for registered participants. OEA will also hold a legislative reception after the conclusion of the lobby day. The reception will be held in the Ohio Statehouse Museum Gallery from 5-7:00pm.

-submitted by Dawn Wojcik

For the Good of the Group

Ohio Senate Must Intervene to Increase Economic Security

As Ohioans face growing economic uncertainty. This directly impacts public education. The Ohio House has put forward a budget that underfunds schools, upends programs that stabilize household budgets, and does nothing to address rising property taxes. The Ohio Senate now has an opportunity to ensure some measure of economic security and set Ohio on a better path. This is a concern for all of us who work in public schools.

The House budget underfunds Ohio public schools by \$2.75 billion over the biennium. The Fair School Funding Plan is a bipartisan approach to funding school districts based on what it actually costs to educate Ohio kids, and the reality that economically disadvantaged students, students with special needs, gifted students, and English language learners require more support to meet their educational needs.

The House has devised a formula that that will barely move the needle on school funding in more than half of Ohio districts. **"In 323 districts, this plan will provide just \$50 more per student in the next two years,"** said Policy Matters Executive Director Hannah Halbert. "Representatives are heading home on recess having put their names on a bill that gives Browns Football Team owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam \$600 million and Ohio kids get 50 bucks."

This budget proposes untargeted property tax relief at the expense of schoolchildren. The bill requires school districts that have **cash reserves (aka: "carry-over days") of greater than 30%** of their operating costs to lower property tax rates in their districts. This would force school districts to fund property tax relief through their rainy-day funds, even as the state reneges on its commitment to fair school funding. This claw-back of district money inflicts more hardship onto communities, especially rural school districts. In the future, a greater number of property tax levies will need to be placed on the ballot.

The House budget backtracks on programs that reduce maternal mortality. In serving pregnant mothers in rural areas, **Medicaid doula services are included in only 6 counties.** Also, the House halts a waiver process that would have helped **babies under age 3 avoid disruptions in their health insurance under Medicaid.** Lawmakers also retained Medicaid trigger language, which would eliminate health coverage for more than 700,000 Ohioans if U.S. Congress reduces federal Medicaid funding.

The House budget does not address the growing childcare crisis. Their budget proposal **reduces the governor's proposed funding for Child Care Choice Vouchers** by \$25 million, to \$200 million over the biennium. If the CCCV program is to have any chance of stabilizing the childcare crisis, the state needs to adequately fund the Department of Children and Youth's plan to increase provider payments and implement parent copay caps.

Ohio's public library system is one of the best in the country. However, there was a public outcry last month when the House slashed the **Public Library Fund (PLF).** Much of the PLF monies are retained. But the House kept a technical change that could have long-term consequences. "Libraries still take a small hit in this proposal," said tax researcher Bailey Williams. "The appropriation of \$500 million in FY 2027 is less than the \$510 million the PLF distributed to counties in calendar year 2023." But the real harm will come in future budgets. "The PLF has been a rare example of the legislature adequately funding a public good, by setting aside a fixed share of state income-tax revenue," Williams said.

A bright spot in this budget is the legislature's **decisive move away from destructive income tax cuts**, like the flat tax or elimination of the income tax, which cut taxes for the wealthy at the expense of state programs that benefit the majority of Ohioans. Protecting this revenue stream is one of two key wins for local communities, who receive a direct share of income tax revenue. The **Local Government Fund** saw its share of income tax revenue increased from 1.7% to 1.75% in the House bill.

WE CAN DO BETTER! Contact your Ohio Senator. This biennium budget sacrifices children.

www.ohiosenate.gov/members/directory



A few thoughts from the WOE-R Chair

ENJOYING LIFE – NOW!

I want to encourage you to take the time and enjoy this chapter of your life. We only live once. Let's make the best of the time we have left. I often read the saying, "Never underestimate the difference you made in the lives you touched." You all have certainly touched my life in various ways. We individually and collectively have touched more lives than we will ever be aware of.

After our March meeting, on the way home, I happened to look at my phone, and pictures popped up that were sent to me previously by Dawn. The pictures were of me and Wanda Adams. These pictures touched my heart. I don't remember seeing them before. Suddenly, tears swelled up in my eyes. I was reminded of the times we worked together. I had some enjoyable thoughts about her. She will always be in my thoughts. I began to think about all of you and our working together for public education.

You all have touched my life in one way or another, simply by being a member. I am so proud to be the Chair of such a great group of educators and support staff. You care, you share, and most of all, you belong. I am honored to lead and soar with you all to greater heights. Regardless of our differences, we are all making a difference in the lives of others in the name of public education. You make me feel so proud. Let us continue.

*Yours in Education,
Doris Moore*

Fraud Alert Notification (FAN) System

Last fall we were visited by then Montgomery County Recorder Stacey Benson-Taylor who spoke to us about their Fraud Protection Program for home owners. If you own property in Montgomery County, you are encouraged to enroll in the (FAN) System. Once your property is registered, you will be notified by mail or email wherever the property is located. This program is state wide. Below is more information.

Cases of property and mortgage fraud are at an all-time high both locally and nationally. It generally occurs when someone records a fraudulent document, making it look as though they currently own your home or property. Such activity is ILLEGAL and subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil action. As a result, the Montgomery County Recorder's Office now offers the FREE Fraud Alert Notification (FAN) System to help combat this type of fraudulent activity.

If you own property in Montgomery County, you are encouraged to enroll in the (FAN) System. Once your property is registered, you will be notified by mail or email whenever there is a document recorded in the Recorder's Office. In most cases, you are aware of the transaction. However, if you are not and you suspect suspicious activity, contact the Recorder's Office immediately. **REGISTER TODAY!**

-Submitted by Debra Owens

Something to think about....

When we find something important, we commit our time to it. Participation is vital for any organization to survive. Your involvement in WOE-R can be at any level. By simply mentioning WOE-R to your friends, former colleagues, and active educators, you *are* involved. Encourage them to join you for a smile, a meal, some conversation. Since its founding in 1989, WOE-R has made a difference in public education. Your talent, skills, interests can be used in WOE-R to continue to make that difference. Thank you!

Membership dues are \$10.00 Annual and \$100.00 for Life. Forms are usually sent with the newsletter and are available on our website.

-Co-Chairs Emmy Brudzynski and Jane Rahn