

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

WESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED

WOEA-R Founded September 1989

Volume 27 Issue 3

March and April 2017

Officers

Phil A Long, Chair

Jennie Furnas, Secretary

Jane Rahn, Past Chair

Sandy Dobberstein, Vice Chair

Pat Lynch, Treasurer

March Meeting

March 15 Program: 10:45 AM, Victoria Theatre, 1 W 2nd St., Dayton. We will gather at 10:45AM and our tour of backstage and downstairs at the Victoria Theater will begin promptly at 11AM. The tour will last about an hour. \$5 donation. *Lunch and business meeting:* 12:15 Brix Ice House, 500 E 1st St., Dayton (order from the menu). Brix has some parking behind and in front of the restaurant, but carpooling is recommended for both venues. If the weather is nice, consider parking at Brix and walking to the Victoria.

RSVP and pay \$5 for the tour by March 1
Sandy Dobberstein Phone: 937-554-6338
Email: sdobberstein@juno.com

April Meeting

April 19 Program, lunch, and business meeting: 11:00 AM, Company 7 BBQ, 1001 S. Main St. Englewood, OH 45322. Program: Ted Gudorf, J.D., LL.M. Topics that may be discussed:

- Why almost 50% of people who plan today use a living trust instead of just a will
- Making your childrens' inheritance divorce and lawsuit-proof.
- Make sure that your estate plan will avoid ALL Federal estate taxes at your death.
- Multiplying our IRA many times over by stretching it out over your childrens' lifetimes.
- Avoid nursing homes with clear instructions for care in your own home, while providing tools for your family to do Medicaid planning to help prevent spend-downs in case of long-term catastrophic illness.

After Mr. Gudorf's presentation, we will go through the buffet line and the business meeting will follow.

RSVP by April 5:
Sandy Dobberstein Phone: 937-554-6338;
Email: sdobberstein@juno.com

May Meeting

May 17 Program, lunch, and business meeting: 11:00 AM, Ray's Wine and Spirits, 8268 N Main St, Dayton, OH 45415. Program: "Now that You're retired, what can NEA Member Benefits do for you?" NEAMB guru Guy Kendall-Freas will describe the MANY benefits you are entitled to as a retired (or current) NEA member. Sharlie Trentman from California Casualty insurance will be a co-presenter. Between the two of them, everyone should discover at least one way you can save money by using the benefits you are already entitled to use. We will order from the menu following the program.

RSVP by May 3: Sandy Dobberstein Phone: 937-554-6338; Email: sdobberstein@juno.com

June Meeting

June 21 Program: 11:00AM America's Packard Museum, 420 S. Ludlow St., Dayton , America's Packard Museum was founded in 1992 by Dayton attorney and long-time car collector Bob Signom. Located in an original Packard dealership (The Citizens Motocar Company) building constructed in 1917, Car Collector magazine named the museum one of the "Top Ten" Auto Museums in The United States. The museum opens at noon, so we will have a private tour. Tour fee: \$7. *Lunch and business meeting:* 12:30 The Spaghetti Warehouse, 36 E 5th St., Dayton. (We will have the private room next to the trolley). Order from the menu).

RSVP and pay \$7 for the tour by June 7: Sandy Dobberstein Phone: 937-554-6338; Email: sdobberstein@juno.com

OEA-R Delegate Briefing, December 2, 2016

as submitted by Sandy Coe on behalf of Jane Rahn, Willie Terrell, Warlita Duvall, Clarice Thomas and Phil A. Long

- Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice President, gave the STRS screening results. The recommended candidates are Carol Corruthers (active), Robert Stein and Rita Walters. (retired)
- STRS Deputy Executive Director of Member Benefits, Gary Russel spoke: an experience study, asset mix and health care. He added there are no new funds being put into health care, and right now there is about 3 billion dollars in the fund.
- Becky Higgins, OEA President, talked about the election results not being what we had hoped for and that public education is in for a battle. She also talked about the intergenerational mentoring program and that we should always remember to say thank you to people for all the work they do.
- Tim Myers said that OEA has 123,466 members which is 2,967 more than last year. He also said that OEA will be frugal over the next 2 year budget. There will be an additional \$1.7 million dollars because of a \$16 dues increase. Tim announced that the OEA building is paid off, but they are looking at some building repairs.
- Sheryl Mathis, OEA Executive Director, stressed the need to build relationships with members. She said public education and unions are under a full frontal attack from the new president elect. Fair share, fair wage laws and the possibility of shutting

down the US Department of Education are three issues to be concerned about.

- The FCPE report from Pam Smith showed that 32 people donated \$1,665. Good job!
- Jeff Rhodes, NEA Director from Ohio, talked to members on the Hill about ESEA, the Supreme Court nomination, institutional racism, the election and concerns with charter schools, vouchers, and taking money from educational funding.
- Wil Vickery gave the Legislative report.
- OEA-R Board of Directors member Carol Kinsey discussed the Louisville strike. Members are back in the classroom, but have not settled.
- New Business Items passed. The first NB was OEA-R demands that OEA go back to paper balloting for elections. The second NB was there should be a report given at each OEA-R assembly on how much money is made from baskets that are raffled and how is this money being spent.
- Tamika Moss, candidate for OEA Board of Directors At Large, spoke then OEA-R voted to endorse her. (37 for and 1 against)
- The final credentials report showed that there were 41 delegates and 3 guests.

The OEA-R Spring Conference is being sponsored by NWOEA and NCOEA. It will be at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. The cost is \$25 and reservations must be made by April 12.

VOTE:

RITA WALTERS & ROBERT STEIN

For Retired Seats on the STRS Board

OEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, December 3, 2016

(as submitted by Sandy Coe on behalf of Jane Rahn, Willie Terrell, Warlita Duvall and Phil A. Long)

- Opening ceremonies occurred, preliminary credentials report was 330 delegates.
- Becky Higgins started the FCPE kick-off. Last assembly FCPE collected \$28,873.
- There were no recommendations from Constitution and By-Laws.
- Tamika Moss was elected by acclamation.
- Kory Swope, president of the Louisville Education Association (LEA) reported: it was a 16 day strike, are back in the classroom, but have not settled. They have not been back to the table since June. The concern from LEA is not money, but that all voices are heard and the members are given RESPECT. Ten members of LEA have been suspended and were not allowed to go back into the classroom. LEA has a partnership with parents, government officials and other unions. Almost \$6,000 was donated by the delegates.
- President, Becky Higgins said there were fewer OEA members who volunteered for the election and she stressed the need for open communication.
- Scott DiMauro led the discussion of the Legislative Report. The report was adopted as amended. Priorities for 2017 include equity in educational funding, testing, OTES, school report cards and meeting the needs of the whole child.
- Financial report given by Tim Myers: concern with membership, a \$1.2 million in increased expenses, and the average teacher salary went down.
- Julie Garcia and Ella Jordan Isaacs shared information from the Social Justice Task Force.
- There were two NB items. Both NB items PASSED. NB 1 stated that OEA vehemently opposes the appointment of Betsy DeVos as US Secretary of Education and calls on Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman to vote against her confirmation. The cost of this NB item is \$1,300. NB 2 stated that beginning with the 132nd Ohio Legislature, OEA shall establish an online Legislative Scorecard for all members of the General Assembly that outlines votes in support of education.

Women's March on Washington Jan. 21, 2017

(As submitted by Vice-Chair Sandy Dobberstein)

On Jan. 20 I boarded a bus at 11:15PM bound for the Women's March in Washington. I did not go because my candidate did not win the Presidency. I went, because (finally), I realize I am a person of privilege and I feel a deep need to stand with those women, men and children who have been made to feel "other". I feel a need to stand up for the environment, education, children, people on Medicare, those who have pre-existing healthcare needs, and the middle class. I need to stand.

I need to stand up for those whose color, religion, ethnicity, economic class, or sexual orientation has made them feel unsafe and unwanted.

I want the President and Congress to know that I will no longer be complacent and quiet. I need to stand.

Over 500,000 attended the March in Washington. I was accompanied by Sophia Rodriguez, President of WOEI, and 5 other women in our group. At the march, I saw no violence, no arrests, and no illegal actions. What I did see were women, men and children of every age and color supporting and caring for each other. What I did see and feel was an overwhelming sense of unity, friendship, helpfulness, and purpose. Every marcher there had their own reasons for marching. I need to stand.



Sandy Dobberstein & Sophia Rodriguez

FROM THE CHAIR

- At the December WOE-R meeting at Franco's Ristorante Italiano 824 E. Fifth Street, members brought items for Altergate Church: individual packages of pudding cups, fruit cups, pretzels mac. and cheese, crackers and cheese, peanut butter, drink boxes, small jars of jam/jelly. Thanks for the generous donations.
- FCPE donations at the December meeting were \$110.00 given by nine people.
- Sandy Dobberstein, Jane Rahn, and Phil A. Long are attending Uniserv Council meetings in WOE-R and finding active members to be very receptive. All Locals in WOE-R have been asked to send the names, address, email, phone number of 2015 and 2016 retirees to WOE-R. Active members are encouraged to join as pre-retired members for \$100.
- The following WOE-R members served as delegates to the OEA-R Delegate Assembly and the OEA Representative Assembly on December 2-3: Jane Rahn, Sandy Coe, Willie Terrell, Warlita Duvall, Clarice Thomas, Phil A. Long. All delegates participated in the FCPE Fund Drive. The following won items during the drawing: Phil, Jane, Sandy, Willie and Warlita. WOE-R was in charge of contributing items for a gift basket at the OEA-R table. A Western Ohio theme was used with items from the Versailles Winery, Mike Sell's chips, Esther Price candy, Winan's candy, Smales pretzels, a book by Paul Laurence Dunbar and a book on the Wright Brothers. Jeanette Johnson of Capital won and seemed very pleased!!! Strike at Louisville – The teachers went back to work since many needed their benefits. A big thank you to all who donated. The delegates to the OEA Rep Assembly donated approximately \$6,000.00.
- **Rita Walters** (EOEA) and **Bob Stein** (current STRS Board chair) are running for the two retired seats on the STRS Board. Thank you WOE-R members for signing petitions for both Rita and Bob. They each needed 500 signatures (200 of which had to include 20 signatures from 10 different counties) on their petitions. WOE-R was instrumental in helping both candidates reach the 500 signature requirement in that Mercer, Montgomery, and Shelby Counties all achieved the 20 signature per county requirement!!! Thanks to all who helped gather signatures. Next, we must make sure these two candidates, **Rita Walters** and **Bob Stein**, are elected to represent retired interests at STRS!
- Professional Efficacy - Arnetta Depp and Phil A. Long. The committee met and discussed a possible workshop in April dealing with paraprofessionals and active teachers working together.

Sunshine Committee

Condolences have been sent on our behalf. If anyone has news of illnesses or death, please let Deb Owens know, and if possible, send an address.

Our community project for the December meeting was successful. We filled Pat Eshbaugh's trunk with food items. It was appreciated. Holiday packs were sent home with students in Huber Heights to use over their Christmas break. Thank-you to

everyone who donated and to Pat Eshbaugh for delivering everything to the church.

Legislative Committee

Go to <http://www.ohea.org/> to learn the latest regarding the appointment of Betsy Devos to the position of US Secretary of Education and the status of John Kasich's biennial budget bill.

Rita Walters STRS Board Candidate

For the past three years, I have attended the STRS Ohio Board of Directors monthly meetings, their January retreats and their March Investment Seminars. I currently serve as the OEA-R observer for each of those meetings and report to OEA what takes place at the meetings.

My observation is that the current STRS Ohio Board works extremely well together and is unified in their efforts to strengthen STRS Ohio for the long-term, and to shore up the health care fund for as long as is possible. This board does not wait for a crisis to occur, they constantly look at investment trends and monitor changes in the health care system. I am impressed with the professionalism of the Board and the staff of STRS Ohio.

If elected to the STRS Ohio Board of Directors my goal is to represent and be a voice for all current and future retirees by keeping the system secure for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you,

and hopefully, gain your vote for my election to the STRS Ohio Board of Directors.

- Classroom teacher 1976-2011
Switzerland of Ohio Schools
- OEA Board of Directors for 12 years
- OEA Business Services Subcommittee and Program and Budget Committee
- Past-President EOE
- Past- President for the Switzerland of EA
- Bargaining Chair for Switzerland EA
- Attended NEA Rep Assemblies 20yrs
- OEA-R Advisory Council
- 2014: Awarded the Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPP) following training and examinations on pensions and health care.
- November 2016 joint training for Ohio Pension Plans held at OPERS
- Member of ORTA and Monroe County Member, OEA-R lifetime
- Member, NEA-R lifetime

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 12 – Daylight Savings Time. Remember to “Spring” forward
- March 15 - WOE-R at Victoria Theatre
- March 21-23 - NEA-R Organizing Conference Dallas, TX
- March 28 – OEA Lobby Day
- April 19 – WOE-R at Company 7 BBQ
- April 26 - OEA-R Spring Conference Mansfield: Kingwood Center (carpool)
- May 9-13 - OEA-R Delegate Assembly and OEA RA
- May 17 - WOE-R at Ray’s Wine and Spirits
- June 21 - WOE-R at American Packard Museum
- June 27- July 4 - NEA-R and NEA Rep Assembly