

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 36 Issue 2

Nov/Dec 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!

-CONTACTS-

Doris Moore

Chair

dlmoore542@gmail.com

Clarice Thomas

Vice Chair

cthomas272@gmail.com

Nola Brooks

Treasurer

nkbrooks24@gmail.com

Lori Moodie

Secretary

Lorimoodie64@gmail.com

Emmy Brudzynski

Jane Rahn

Membership Co-Chairs

emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu

jrahna@sbcglobal.net

Joni Watson

OEA-R Advisory Council

jonirwatson1200@gmail.com

Phil A. Long

Past Chair

palciv13@gmail.com

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: Wed., Nov. 19th Time: 11 am

Location: Archers Tavern 2030 E Dorothy Lane in Kettering

Program: Guest speaker **Phillip Holtz**, Physical Therapist with Buckeye Home Health Care

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

-December Meeting-

Date: Wed., Dec. 10th, Time: 11 am (NB: second Wednesday)

Location: Golden Corral at 6611 Miller Lane in Dayton

Program: To celebrate the holidays, we'll conduct a "Yankee Swap". Bring a \$10 gift that you think everyone will want to own! Be ready for some fun! Feel free to dress up for the holidays.

RSVP: Dec. 7 to Clarice Thomas Call or text 937-477-2724

Future dates: For the NEW YEAR, March 18th, April 15th, May 20th, June 17th

Your ideas and colleagues are always welcome!

It's that time of year to be a responsible U.S. citizen.

VOTE

on Nov 4th

Why Vote?

Elections Impact Your Everyday Life and Family

Every Vote Counts

Decide Where Your Tax Dollars Go

Fight Against Racism and Discrimination

Protect Our Voting Rights

and the most important reason to vote

BECAUSE YOU CAN!



A few thoughts from the WOE-R Chair

FACING THE CURRENT REALITY!

Fellow retirees, I look forward to being in your presence whenever we meet. There are so many uncertainties that arise daily. I am concerned about the future of public education and the welfare of students and personnel. As I listened to Noel Candelaria speak as he was standing in front of the U.S. Department of Education, I shed a tear. He said that it was the same agency that had just fired nearly everyone in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. This really affected me. I was a proud Special Educator for over 38 years. We know firsthand what happens in the classrooms and the lives of the individuals who need our services, especially when we're not there for them. We need to protect our children, all of them, and we need to be allowed to do what's best for them. Let's remember our active members in the classrooms, schools, and educational settings. **Let's take action** with Noel and call our members of Congress. **Let's demand that these jobs and oversight are restored.** We are the Union. We are retired, but our presence is still needed. We will continue to fight for what is right. I look forward to seeing you at our association meetings.

*In Education,
Doris L Moore/WOE-R Chair*

Important Dates and Deadlines for WOE, OEA-Retired and NEA-Retired Events

November 19, 2025	WOEA Fall Forum 4:30-7:30 pm Register at <WOEA.org>	
December 5, 2025	OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly	Columbus
December 6, 2025	OEA Fall Representative Assembly	Ohio Expo Center
February 10, 2026	Deadline to register to be on ballot for NEA Rep Assembly	
	<i>Contact William Baird @ bairdw@ohea.org</i>	
March 13-15, 2026	NEA National Leadership Summit	Chicago, IL
March 15-17, 2026	NEA-Retired Summit and Organizing Conference	Chicago, IL
April 14, 2026	WOEA Spring R. A. 4:30-7:30 pm	Location TBA
May 7, 2026	OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly	Columbus
May 8, 2026	OEA Representative Assembly	Location TBA
June 30- July 2, 2026	NEA-Retired Annual Meeting	Denver, CO
July 3-7, 2026	NEA Representative Assembly	Denver, CO

IN REMEMBRANCE

We recognize those WOE-R members who have passed.

Jennie Furnas 10/28/23 Kathryn Sachs 11/23/23
Barbara Weikert 2/9/25

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

-ANNUAL MEMBERS-

Shirley Worst Mary Skare

-LIFETIME MEMBER-
Gail Andrews Turner

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY?

- As a retired teacher you may be able to receive Social Security benefits, whether you paid into Social Security or not?
- In 2024, under President Biden and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, the **Social Security Fairness Act** was passed.
- Beginning **January 1, 2025**, teachers and other public employees are eligible for S.S.
- Web sites to read more:

[Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision \(WEP\) and Government Pension Offset \(GPO\) update | SSA](#)

If you have not been contacted, we encourage you to call the Social Security office.

They are open during the shutdown.

Dayton number is [\(877\) 895-0038](#) Open until 4 pm

Xenia number is [\(866\) 755-5372](#) Open until 4.

-submitted by Debbie Owens

Some Thoughts from our October Speaker

Debbie Smith, operations manager, from American Legion Post 776 concluded her informative talk with these words

Six Little Stories:

1. Villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. **THAT'S FAITH!**
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **THAT'S TRUST!**
3. We go to bed and set an alarm, without any assurance of being alive the next morning. **THAT'S HOPE!**
4. We plan big things for tomorrow, in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **THAT'S CONFIDENCE!**
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. **THAT'S LOVE!**
6. An 80-year old man's shirt had this sentence: "I'm sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." **THAT'S ATTITUDE!**

Now, take some time to write your own "little story".

