

# DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

WESTERN OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED

WOEA-R founded September 1989

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March and April 2011

## MARCH MEETING

Willis "Bing" Davis will be the featured speaker March 16. Lunch, catered by Smokin' Joe's, will cost \$8.50 and includes sandwich, fruit, brownie, drink, tax and tip. Meet at Davis' art studio, 1135 West Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (W. Third Street) in Dayton. Parking is available across the street and behind the studio. Send your money and RSVP form to Jane Rahn by March 10.

## APRIL MEETING

Bill Sears, the OEA-R newsletter editor, will be speaking to WOE-R members on April 20 at 11 a.m. at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 2789 Miamisburg-Centerville Road in Miamisburg, across from the Dayton Mall. Those attending the meeting will order off the menu. Return your RSVP form to Jane Rahn by April 14.

## FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

The OEA-Retired Spring Conference is May 18. Look for information in the OEA-R newsletter to register. The June 15 WOE-R meeting will feature Nancy Roach, who will give a slide presentation on the past and future of the Dayton Arcade. Look for details in the next newsletter.

## WOEA-R WEBSITE

The WOE-R website is up and running thanks to Webmaster Wanda Adams. Access information by visiting [www.oea-r.ohea.us](http://www.oea-r.ohea.us). Click on the WOE-R link at the top.

## STRS BOARD ELECTION

The OEA Board of Directors voted to endorse Tai Hayden for re-election to an active seat on the STRS Board. Tai teaches in the Columbus Public Schools and is currently a member of the STRS Board.

## STRS UPDATE/PROPOSED CHANGES

In October, STRS presented a number of changes to the pension plan; however, as a result of a directive from statehouse leaders, STRS revised the plan in January. House Bill 69, introduced by Rep. Lynn Wachmann (R-Napoleon), serves as a vehicle for these changes and those presented by the other state public pension plans, including OPERS and SERS. The OEA supported the plan presented in October, which includes the following recommendations:

- Contributions: increase employee contribution by 2.5% (phased in 2011-2016); increase employer contribution by 2.5% (phased in 2016-21)
- Retirement eligibility: any age with 35 years of service; age 65 with five years of service (phased in 2015-23); age 60 with 30 years of service (effective 2015)
- Final Average Salary: Board to set FAS at three, four or five highest years (effective 2015)
- Cost of Living Adjustment: 2% COLA; new retirees defer for 36 months (effective 2011)
- Retirement formula: 2.2% for 30 years of service; 2.5% each year over 30 (effective 2015)

Refer to the February issue of "Ohio Schools" to see a comparison of the current law, the October proposal and the January revisions.

## DUES TAX INFORMATION

Remember that part of your OEA-R dues may be used as a tax deduction. For those who pay annually, OEA/Uniserv/NEA tax deductible amount is \$38.50. Anyone who paid for a life membership in OEA and NEA can deduct \$290.03 during the initial year of membership.

## THANKS FROM KIM HONEYCUTT

WOEA office manager Kim Honeycutt sent a thank you note to WOE-R members for the holiday gift of candy and coffee from Winans.

## EDUCATOR LOBBY DAYS

Educator lobby days provide an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key educational issues. The upcoming lobby days are Mar. 29, Apr. 5 and 12, May 10 and 24, June 7, 14 and 21. Anyone attending a lobby day should meet at the OEA Headquarters' Media Center (225 E. Broad Street, Columbus) at 9 a.m. for a briefing before heading to the Statehouse. For more information, call OEA at 800-282-1500, or go to the website at [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org). Making an appointment with legislators in advance is recommended.

## OEA-R LIAISON CHANGE

Bill Otten has replaced Don Holub as the OEA-R liaison. WOE-R president Nancy Brown said Don did a great job during his tenure, and she looks forward to working with Bill in the future.

## WANDA ADAMS FEATURED IN OHIO SCHOOLS

Check out the February issue of "Ohio Schools" (Page 18) for a feature story on WOE-R past president Wanda Adams. Wanda, who is on the WOE-R executive board and serves as the Webmaster, discusses economic security in retirement. She is pictured with NEA President Dennis Van Roekel.

## SENATE BILL 5

The most divisive piece of legislation affecting public employees in Ohio in decades is Senate Bill 5, introduced by Sen. Shannon Jones (R-Springboro). In short, SB5 would ban collective bargaining for state employees. If passed by the Senate, the bill would:

- not allow k-12 school employees to collectively bargain on salaries or healthcare
- replace salary schedules and step increases with a merit pay system
- permit school boards to govern healthcare benefits plans for employees and require public employees to pay at least 20% of their healthcare costs
- eliminate continuing contracts for teachers after the bill's effective date
- eliminate teacher leave policies and require local school boards to determine leave time

- eliminate experience (seniority) as a sole criterion for reductions in force (RIFs)
- allow public employers to hire permanent replacement workers during a strike
- prohibit school districts from picking up any portion of the employee's contribution to the pension system
- allow a public employer in "fiscal emergency" to serve notice to terminate, modify or negotiate a collective bargaining agreement
- eliminate School Employee Healthcare Board

This bill affects not only teachers but also law enforcement officers, firefighters, and all other public employees who currently have collective bargaining agreements.

This hotly contested issue has drawn huge crowds of supporters and opponents to the Statehouse in the past two weeks. A few changes have been made to the bill, and voting could take place this week.

You can help in the fight against SB5 by contacting your State senators and urging them to vote no on SB5. Call toll free 888-907-7309 to connect with your senator to leave a message. You can also go to <http://aces.ohea.org> to sign a commitment to protect public education and communicate with your legislators. Facebook users may also want to join the group Stop Senate Bill 5 in Ohio to read what others have to say about the bill and what can be done to fight its passage.

**NOTE:** This newsletter is being sent to all WOE-R members. If you requested to have the newsletter e-mailed to you but you have not received it, contact Sandy Freeman at [sanranfree@live.com](mailto:sanranfree@live.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 16: WOE-R meeting
- Mar. 29: Educator lobby day
- Apr. 5: Educator lobby day
- Apr. 12: Educator lobby day
- Apr. 13: WOE-R Representative Assembly
- Apr. 20: WOE-R meeting
- May 6-7: OEA Representative Assembly

**MARCH 16 MEETING**

The March meeting will inspire us all to greet *SPRING!* All of us will be happy to be together again after the winter 'break' of January and February. Plan to wear something green! The winter weather should be finished by March 17, and we will be glad to greet one another. If winter weather visits us again at this time, every effort will be made to contact each member who has rsvp'd if we need to cancel or change. You may also view your TV screen to see if we are among the announcements. Of course, you can still call an officer for information, whether weather related or with general questions.

Parking is free. Bring your school supplies to contribute to Artemis.

**MEMORIAL**

John Grossman, long time president of Columbus E. A. was honored with a plaque/paver at STRS Discovery Park this past fall. John passed away some time ago. Some WOEa – R members remember John's intensive involvement with not only Columbus, but also OEA.

**LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS.**

The Homestead Exemption provides for homeowners over age 65, regardless of income, to file for a tax exemption on their property taxes. This is primarily utilized by senior citizens of low to moderate means. Now there is talk of the legislature removing this tax exemption and requiring senior citizens to shoulder more of the tax burden. As you call or contact your legislators, be sure to bring this to their attention and ask them to keep the Homestead Exemption.

State Senator Bill Beagle  
1 Capitol Square 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus OH 43215  
(614) 466-6247  
[SD05@senate.state.oh.us](mailto:SD05@senate.state.oh.us)

State Senator Peggy Lehner  
1 Capitol Square 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus OH 43215  
(614) 466-4538  
[SD06@senate.state.oh.us](mailto:SD06@senate.state.oh.us)

State Rep. Terry Blair  
77 South High Street 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus OH 43215  
(614) 466-6504  
[district38@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district38@ohr.state.oh.us)

State Rep. James Butler  
77 South High Street 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus OH 43215  
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State Rep. Michael Henne  
77 South High Street 13<sup>th</sup> Flr.  
Columbus OH 43215  
(614) 644-8051  
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State Rep. Clayton Luckie  
77 South High Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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State Rep. Roland Winburn  
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**WOEA – R IS THE ONLY RETIREE ORGANIZATION  
AFFILIATED WITH THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS  
WOEA, OEA, OEA – R, NEA and NEA – R.**

## ELECTIONS

### ELECTIONS FOR 2011 – 2012 FOR WOEА - R

The elections for new officers for this 2011 - 2012 year will soon be here. The nominations are due by the start of the **March business meeting**. The WOEА-R GUIDELINES (Constitution) stipulates March for Nominations and April for elections, BUT the change in meetings from February to December [resulting in no scheduled meeting for February] had unintended consequences for publication of offices and nominations of candidates. Open offices are for the annual positions of:

**Chairperson: Vice-Chairperson: Secretary: Treasurer:**

The last newsletter of the school year, May and June, will contain the ballots for the officers unless only one candidate is available for each office, in which case there will be no ballots mailed, but an acclamation ballot will take place at the May meeting.

We need volunteers/nominations for all annually elected offices. This will need to be discussed at our March meeting. Since we meet for presentations with very little space for "formal business meetings" discussion is usually limited. Be thinking of how YOU can contribute!

Nominations will be accepted at any time from now until the "call to order" at the March meeting. Self-Nominations must include, name, address, home phone, and office sought, and the Nominations for others must also include a statement that the nominee is willing to serve. While committee chairpersons are not elected by ballot, you may also submit your "self nomination" for a committee chairmanship [or committee service] at this time. The chairpersons of each committee are appointed by the Chairperson with the agreement of the Executive Board. Vacancies exist now in our committees. Ask! Volunteer!!

SEND SELF-NOMINATIONS or nominations for others to: President, Nancy Brown,  
4121 Banning Court Dayton Ohio 45405-5202 Call for information 278-5610

### NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Thanks to volunteers for filling these positions. Contact them to express your ideas! Be sure to add these to your list of Executive Committee Members from the September newsletter!

New chairpersons are:

1. **Public Relations** Kathy Bame 937-845-9526 825 Bayberry Dr. New Carlisle, OH 45344
2. **Life-Long Learning** Carolyn Boze 937-335-2880 140 Southview Dr. Troy OH 45373
3. **Web Master**: Wanda Adams 937-837-6015 147 E Sunrise, Trotwood OH 45326 [woea@woea.org](mailto:woea@woea.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED [FOR ALL COMMITTEES] FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

MAILING      LEGISLATIVE      SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ARTEMIS      MEMBERSHIP

SUNSHINE      NEWS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS      NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

LIFE-LONG LEARNING      PROFESSIONAL SESSIONS AT THE REP. ASSEMBLY

WEB MASTER      NEW IDEAS      GUIDELINES (CONSTITUTION) REVISIONS