

March and April 2026 ECOEA-Retired News Brief

This edition will cover March and April due to my limited access to technology as I recover from several medical issues. Hopefully, I will be able to produce a May edition in time for the Representative Assemblies both in Canton as well as in Columbus. I expect to be in full recovery.

Our mission, vision, and values are to provide a great public school for every student. We must be successful by willingly electing candidates our communities deserve. With the midterms quickly approaching, please devote some time to learning about each that will affect you and your community. If you are a candidate, best of luck!

The Board of Elections is looking for election workers to serve as Precinct Election Officials (poll workers), seasonal employees and other positions from both major parties. They are especially interested in retired educational employees because of our ability to provide good service. Many of you are looking for avenues to ensure safe and democratic elections. You are financially compensated for your time.

On a personal level, my eighteen-year-old grandson, who attends college four hours from his home was registered to vote for a first-time voter. He insisted that he wanted to vote in person. After the election, when I inquired about his voting experience, he informed me that he didn't vote. I quickly "evicted" him from his bedroom at my Ohio house. Not because of the candidate he would have chosen, but because he did not exercise the most fundamental voice of being a good citizen. Hopefully, he now realizes that we are all stakeholders when we vote and that is our voice. Of course, he will remember this lesson. We need to encourage all our stakeholders to vote in every election.

Students and educators came together for Read Across America Day. OEA-Retired is so thankful for all the efforts from the retirees as well as actives for using this platform in your assignment. OEA-R Becky Radel had a fantastic kick-off on Wednesday, February 25th using the theme "Save our Earth—It's up to Us! Did you attend? If so, let us know how you chose to become actively involved. Get the complete 2025-2026 Read Across America calendar at nea.org/Read Across.

In closing, the OEA Educator Appreciation Night is March 27th. Join us for Ohio Educator Appreciation Night at the Cleveland Cavalier on Friday, March 27 vs Miami Heat at 7:30 p.m.

The Ohio Educator of the Year will be recognized on the court during the pregame and several educators will have the opportunity to hold the Big Flag during the National Anthem.

Every educator that purchases a ticket will receive a Cavs Ohio Educator Co-Branded Hat. Look for additional details from the OEA emails.

Congratulations to the OEA-Retired members that were elected to various positions on the Advisory Council and to the NEA-Retired Representative Assembly as Delegates and Alternates!

The 2026 NEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be in Denver, CO from June 30-July 1, 2026. For hotel and meeting information, visit nea.org/Retired.

2026 Nominations for NEA-Retired positions have the deadline for receipt of NEA-Retired governance nominations being April 15, 2026, and the deadline for NEA-Retired seats on the NEA Resolutions Committee is May 1, 2026. Both submissions are due at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The preferred method is to use the electronic forms which are available at nea.org/Retired_Elections.

Please make sure that you vote either in person or during early voting prior to the May 5 primary election. Many districts will have levies on the ballot.

The Groundhog said that Spring is on the way! Don't count the days, but make the days count!

In unity,

Kathleen Purdy, District Retired Representative

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