



National Day of Action at the Ohio Statehouse - Mother's Day - Memorial Day – Pro Football Rib Burn off
– OEA Minority Leadership Training Program – OEA- Retired Webinars: An Evening with Author Chris Crowe (5/14) and Listening for Better Understanding: Skills for Disagreeing Better (5/28)

May 2025 ECOEA Retired News Brief by District Representative Kathleen Purdy

Dear Retired Members, Pre-Retired Members, Actives, and Guests,

Our State Teachers Retirement System is an opportunity to continue to stay involved by attending meetings of STRS. **Mary Kennedy** and **Carol Dixon** attended April 17th.

Are you interested in being a reader for the OEA-Retired Virtual Library – <http://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-read-across-america/> to view previous offerings?

The OEA-Retired Annual Spring Conference was recently held at The Ohio History Connection in Columbus, OH on April 22, 2025. It was facilitated by our own **Carol Dixon** to Celebrate Poetry Month and featured the 2022-2024 Ohio Beat Poet Laureate, **Sandra Feen**. **Barry Alcock** was another host for the conference.

With over 35 in attendance, we were well-treated to a Scavenger Hunt of the Museum and concluded with various writing activities. It was a very relaxing and stress-free time with other retirees around the state!



Carol Dixon with Sandra Feen



Some attendees: Chuck, Carol, Mary and Judy

Below: Phil and Kathleen



The April 30, 2025 OEA and OEA-Retired Members Only webinar event was presented by OEA Director of Government Relations **Dan Ramos**. The theme was “Immigration Informational” as it relates to public schools. Using the NEA toolkit for **Safe Zone School Districts**, I will be addressing the next regular **Marlington Local School District** Board Meeting to highlight the opportunity for all students to learn without the fear and distress that results from harsh immigration enforcement as a Resolution & Model policy. The language is closely tied to the Supreme Court case **Plyler v Doe** which is the foundational precedent establishing that access to K-12 education is a Civil Right.

What did the mama cow say to the baby cow? “It’s pasture bedtime.”



OEA-R LEADERSHIP **Mary Binegar** Chair **Phil Long** Vice-Chair

OEA-Retired is recruiting up to five (5) retired members for the OEA-Retired Member Ambassador (MA) Position. ***The OEA-Retired Member Ambassador (MA) program is a collaboration and new project between member leaders and OEA/NEA staff, turning OEA retired members into Member Ambassadors (MA).***

This is a year to year (June 1 – May 31) part-time, paid position that allows current OEA retired member organizers to share the value of the union while also increasing the union’s visibility amongst the membership. **The MA is a member organizer supplementary position**

in the Ohio Education Association.

We are looking for candidates that are willing to travel primarily in SE Ohio but not exclusively, who have computer skills, communication, and interpersonal skills.

An MA is a retired educator who is ready to take the next step in promoting their union through engagement and membership. MAs use targeted data to expand the capacity of the local/chapter/district OEA to recruit new members and engage potential members by having one-on-one conversations, but also through other strategic organizing tactics identified by the local/chapter/district OEA.

This is a part-time, paid position that allows current OEA members to share the value of the union while also increasing the union's visibility amongst the membership. A Member Ambassador is generally responsible for assisting in organizing and developing the capacity of school employees. They will interact with members/ potential members, to develop, and create intentional, purposeful engagement activities to advance the mission, vision, and principles of local associations and connect with Ohio Education Association and OEA-Retired.

Member Ambassadors:

- Expand the capacity of members and recruit and engage members in the work of the Association/Union. Leaders and staff can't be everywhere. More people doing the work means more work is getting done.
- Increase opportunities for existing Association/Union members to engage with other members and potential members. Expanding the leadership and engagement potential of individual members builds overall power for the Association/Union.
- Help an affiliate, district, or local build power by engaging members and potential members in conversations about membership, issues impacting members work, political action, and advocacy. These relationships translate into ready networks of members who can help move their circle of influence to action for issues that further Association/Union priorities.
- Participate in and utilize the professional development that supports important organizing work. A Member Ambassador is an OEA-Retired member who is ready to take that next step in promoting the union, sharing the value of the collective voice, and educating members on the opportunities their union offers.

- Member Ambassadors are typically paid for their time and travel, as this work typically occurs outside of the regular workday and at various locations.

** Should you be accepted into the program, you will be expected to attend: the initial on-boarding training June 11 – 13; a New Employee Orientation Planning Day on July 16th; weekend mini-retreats in late September, early December, early February, and early May and monthly virtual check-ins on the third Tuesday of every month or another designated time.*

If you are interested in applying for the OEA-Retired Member Ambassador position, [click here to fill out the online form](#). The deadline to apply for this opportunity is Monday, April 28, 2025.

We will be reviewing applications and responding to candidates by May 5, 2025. If you are invited for an interview, interviews will take place in the week of May 12, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Makia Burns, OEA Organizer and OEA-Retired Liaison, burnsm@ohea.org, (614) 227-3055.

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**Quickly, this academic year is coming to an end, however, I have enjoyed inspiring you, sharing various informational articles, getting to meet you and working on behalf of our members. Have an enjoyable summer and return in the beautiful fall with brand new ideas, energy and resolve!**

**Some of you might be retiring, so, please inform your Labor Relations Consultants, Association Presidents and OEA-Retired. We are here to assist you with a continuous presence with a lifetime OEA/NEA Membership. Your time with school children will continue to impact their lives, families and the profession regardless of your job assignment(s)!**

**Years from the 1960's, I continue to hold fond memories of my Riverside Elementary first bus driver, Freddie McAllister, cafeteria cook, Mrs. Bourne and we all fell in love with the elementary secretary, Mrs. Mary Ann Day because of their gentle smiles. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated; they will not forget.**



Here are two important website to stay in touch with OEA-Retired: <http://oea-r.ohea.us> and don't forget to Like Us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/retohea/>

See you at some upcoming county fairs, yard sales, meetings and of course, the News Brief! Email: [ecoeavp@yahoo.com](mailto:ecoeavp@yahoo.com) Phone: (330) 257-9913

Sincerely,

Kathleen Purdy,

East Central Ohio – Retired Representative to the Advisory Council and candidate for re-election to the NEA Resolutions Committee for a 4<sup>th</sup> term.

OEA-Retired IPPA Committee / OEA **Doris L. Allen** Minority Caucus Member, NEA Legislative Committee/ NEA-Retired PAC Committee, East Central OEA Executive Committee Member.

Below are Ohio Leaders, **Mandy Wagner**, OEA Board of Director, **Kathleen Purdy**, District Representative and NEA Director **Carol Correthers** at one of our ECOEA Representative Assemblies.

