



Passover – Good Friday - Easter –
Earth Day – Spring Has Sprung – OEA-R Spring Conference – NEOEA-R Museum of Art

April 2025 ECOEA Retired News Brief by District Representative Kathleen Purdy

We won! Much thanks for your votes for ECOEA-R **Carol Kinsey** and **Kathleen Purdy** to continue representing retirees at the NEA Retired Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon as well as the Representative Assembly! Others elected are **Jeff Corbin**, **Phil Long**, **Peg Ham** and **Steve Mitchell**.

Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision

GPO/WEP repeal is now law (Social Security Fairness Act) in the remaining 11 states that were affected. The average retroactive payment is around \$6,000. Many members began receiving their checks on or around March 18. This accounted for 1/3 of the first batch to be received. One Californian reported receiving \$44,000. Republicans have raised questions about the solvency of the Social Security Trust fund. A proposal to force all new state and local employees into Social Security has also be squashed.

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US!



• How will GPO/WEP repeal impact you?

<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/how-will-repeal-gpownep-change-your-life>

Social Security Administration DOGE staff cuts have led to increased call times, and initial claims are taking longer than before. Conservatives would like to privatize the system. **Frank Bisignano**, nominee for Social Security Administrator has fired over 57,000 staff. NEA opposes his nomination.

The GOP Reconciliation Bill includes tax cuts for billionaires. It requires 51 votes (50 if the Vice President is a member of the majority party), not 60 as is usually the case. Reconciliation cannot be used to cut Title I, special education, or Social Security. It includes \$330 billion in cuts over ten years: school meals, student aid and loans in higher education, Medicaid, and CHIP.

The GOP voucher bill gives a dollar-for-dollar return for giving to private and parochial schools and helps the rich evade taxes.

Ways members can take action:

- NEA Action Center- contact your members of Congress
- Attend Town Halls
- Write op-eds to local newspapers

Talking Points: A) **9 out of 10** American students attend public schools.

B) Private schools are **not accountable** to the public.

C) **Special need students** lose legal rights and protections in Private schools.

D) Vouchers weaken public schools that are also **economy centers**, especially in rural communities.

NEA's Actions Thus Far:

- NEA has filed a lawsuit to reinstate the Department of Education
- NEA Officers and Staff have made many appearance on television shows
- NEA ED Action Alerts

Thanks! Donated eyeglasses for the Senior Center



“A real Smart TV would increase the volume when you started eating chips!”

OEA-Retired Advisory Council- “Red for Education” and Member Lobby Day



Mark Your Calendars for the **Statewide Retired Spring Conference** hosted by Capital and Central. Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at the Ohio History Connection (I-71S & 17th) and solely reserved for us! Our next webinar will be **Wednesday, April 30, 2025** on Immigration/ ICE with OEA Governmental Relations.

"I'm so old that I have dialed a rotary phone, listened to music off an 8-track tape, watched a black and white TV with foil on the rabbit ear antennas and gone through a whole day without taking a picture of myself."

Educationally and politically yours,

Kathleen Purdy, ecoeavp@yahoo.com

East Central OEA-Retired Representative