



January 2026 News Brief by Kathleen Purdy ecoeavp@yahoo.com



OEA-R Advisory Council Representatives Carol Dixon (Capital) and Lisa Marshall Scott (Northwest) at the Fall 2025 OEA Representative Assembly offering membership to potential members.

Membership costs for Unified OEA/NEA for Lifetime is \$450, with OEA-R dues \$150 and NEA-R \$300. You also can join unified annually for \$60. You can join by going to the OEA-R website <https://oea-r.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/>

Membership cost for Unified OEA/NEA for ESP Lifetime is \$255 with OEA-R \$75 and NEA-R \$180. You can also join unified annually for \$33.50. You can join by going to the OEA-R website <https://oea-r.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance with this process. I can be reached at email: ecoeavp@yahoo.com (Kathleen).



ECOEA Member Cherie Johnson Clark from Canton Professional Education Association is gaining more information on retirement during the December Representative Assembly from OEA-Retirees.

[2026 NEA RA Is July 3-7, 2026 In Denver, CO](#)

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections are just around the corner. Declaration of Candidacy forms, with a filing deadline of February 15, 2026, are now available. Vacancies will be Central, ECOEA, Higher Education, SEOEA, At-Large Rep., and ESP Rep. Terms will begin July 15, 2026 and end July 14, 2029. Contact the OEA Secretary-Treasurer toll-free, 800.282.1500. If you wish to be a candidate for the NEA Representative Assembly as a Retired Delegate the filing deadline is February 10.

From June 29 to July 7, 2025, you were represented by seven retired Ohio Delegates to the NEA-R Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly. They were Kathleen Purdy, Deloris Rome Hudson, Jene Wilson, Becky Radel, Sam Radel, Will Vickery and Mary Binegar. The big news from this NEA-R Annual Meeting was the re-election of Kathleen Purdy to the NEA Resolutions Committee.

“If your birth year starts with a 19, you should no longer have wrapped gifts on the floor.”



The Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus's Annual Dinner celebrated its 51st anniversary with NEA Vice President Princess Moss as the keynote speaker. Princess inspired the attendees with a strong message on coalition building, sharing the work and performance. DLAMC President Dwayne Marshall honored her with a signature hoodie to embrace the moment. Princess has always been willing to join Ohio's members to demonstrate unity.



Adrienne Bowden, previously a Science Teacher in Pickerington Local Schools and currently their Coordinator of Engagement and Student Success, received the first Patricia Collins Excellence Award. Adrienne is surrounded by her parents, children, and brother.



My current position as ECOEA District Representative to the Ohio Education Association Retired Advisory Council is ending in July. By continuing your membership in OEA/NEA, you actively belong to your profession and have access to a wide range of information, opportunities, activities and other services to keep you involved and engaged. I serve as a Delegate to the OEA and have successfully campaigned and been elected to the NEA-R Resolutions Committee with this being my fourth year. I serve on the NEA Legislative Committee as well as the Citizens Rights and Protective Committee on the Resolutions Committee. This has been very rewarding especially with the Resolution in 2024 passing the “Educational Reparations #094” spearheaded by Dr. Deborah Jackson (SWOEA) and others. In my closing campaign speech, I highlighted “people who live in Arkansas love to let you know their state is the only U.S. State that is mentioned in the Bible: ‘Noah looked out of the ark and saw the dry land.’ “Get it? Ark and saw? Two of the NEA Retired Delegates were from Arkansas: Sid Johnson and Laura Montgomery and loved this!

HR 82 passed and was signed into law, January 6, 2025, which GPO and WEP were repealed! I along with a few others were one of over two million people affected and have received Social Security Benefit and partial benefits. I was very blessed to receive spousal and survivor benefits along with thousands of elderly retirees whose past marriages qualified them for these benefits. As retired members, we will continue to lobby in support of our educational issues.



North Canton EA member, Jim York continues to spin the jams as the District Leaders' DJ. He is enjoyed by all! Jim was excited to take a break for a photo.

January is a time for hope. May your January sparkle with joy and laughter. I hope the magic of it fills every corner of your heart and home with joy--now and always. May 2026 bring you love, joy and peace...today, tomorrow, and always and be full of wonderful surprises,treats, and nonstop laughter.

Your courage, dedication and prayers have earned my deepest gratitude and pride. See you at some of our planned webinars and events!



Kathleen Purdy, ECOEA Retired Representative to the OEA-R Advisory Council