



# NEOEA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- [www.neoea.org](http://www.neoea.org) -- [retired@neoea.org](mailto:retired@neoea.org)  
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330 -- Phone: 216/518-0200, 800/354-6794 Fax: 216/518-0202

Volume 9, Number 5

June, 2009

Hank Haynes, Editor

## Keeping Up with the STRS Ohio Rumor Mill

By Gary Hollow, NEOEA-R Organizing Committee Chair

Have you heard that STRS Ohio is going to ... ? (fill in with this week's rumor) Yes, and many more rumors to come, so take a deep breath, relax, and check with STRS Ohio or OEA before stressing out.

In a pre-emptive response to the economic crises, demographic changes, and political pressure from the General Assembly, STRS Ohio has initiated a long-term fiduciary and financial contingency planning process to address the problems. While state law mandates the Board have a plan to meet a thirty-year unfunded liability goal, it does NOT mandate the maintenance of a health care stabilization fund. The teacher-led STRS Board has stated the importance of maintaining both. It won't be easy.

The first step in performing due diligence, as required by the Ohio Revised Code, is addressing and defining the pension problems. The STRS Board put "everything on the table," hence the rumors. The Board looked at five scenarios running a wide range of very unappetizing options: (1.) increasing contributions, (2.) raising the retirement age to sixty, (3.) calculating the final average salary (FAS) on five years rather than three, (4.) reducing the COLA, and (5.) changing the retirement formula to 2.2 percent for the first 30 years of service.

What combination will the final package look like? Hard to say, but nobody is going to do cartwheels in celebration, as STRS Ohio has never faced a reduction of benefits of the magnitude and scale that it does today. But it should be remembered that our teacher-led board has a long history of working for teachers and no policy decisions have been made yet.

The OEA is being told the General Assembly will tackle the five public pension systems later this summer after the budget has been dealt with. Remember, these revolutionary changes require LEGISLATIVE ACTION! Therefore, stayed tuned and check out all rumors with STRS OHIO ([www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)) or OEA ([www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)). Keep your word processors humming with letters and e-mails to your legislators and help prevent the General Assembly from over-reacting to our current economic meltdown.

## Check Your OEA-R Newslines for More Information

Check your Spring 2009 copy of the *OEA-R Newslines* for STRS and SERS Retirement System Updates and OEA Retired news from the OEA Representative Assembly and the Regional Conference. Look for more reports on the OEA-Retired pages of the OEA website.

## Retirement Board Election Results

On Saturday, May 9, 2009, the results of the State Teachers Retirement Board election were certified by tellers designated by each candidate and a representative of the Secretary of State. The result of the election for the contributing member seat on the Retirement Board is as follows:

- Carol L. Correthers, 19,478 votes (elected)
- James A. Stoll, 10,599 votes
- Write-Ins, 117 votes

The result of the election for the two retired member seats on the Retirement Board is as follows:

- James McGreevy, 25,567 votes (elected)
- Bob Stein, 24,506 votes (elected)
- Ralph Roshong, 12,737 votes
- David Preslan, 10,881 votes
- Write-Ins, 271 votes

The term of office for Carol L. Correthers, James McGreevy, and Bob Stein begins on September 1, 2009, and ends on August 31, 2013.

## NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference July 22-23, 2009 Lakeland Community College, Kirtland

Meet us at the Lakeland Community College Clocktower for NEOEA's Summer Leadership Conference July 22-23! Our keynote speaker is **Connie Schultz** from the *Plain Dealer*. Go to the NEOEA website for our **registration form** with all the details. **Graduate credit** is also available! Hope to see you in July at Lakeland Community College!

Join other local leaders from around northeastern Ohio in an intensive program of professional development, leadership training, and networking. The registration fee of \$85 (\$50 if commuting) covers:

- double-occupancy lodging at the Red Roof Inn, across the street from the conference site
- conference facilities at Lakeland Community College, an NEOEA affiliate
- all meals, including dinner with our keynote speaker
- evening and luncheon networking session
- your choice of twenty-eight workshops

With our two-for-one offer, when you register two members together, the second is free!

## Love a Labor Day Parade? Let Us Know!

Labor Day activities are generally coordinated by the Central Labor Councils of the AFL-CIO, although they welcome involvement from non-AFL-CIO unions such as NEOEA.

We are attempting to get information on all of the Labor Day parades and other events in NEOEA. Send an email to [LaborDay@neoea.org](mailto:LaborDay@neoea.org) and we'll make sure you know what we know as soon as we know.

NEOEA began officially participating in 2007 when OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks and OFT President Sue Taylor served as co-marshals of the North Shore Federation of Labor parade in North Olmsted. Last year we made up banners and magnetic signs, and we had groups attending Labor Day 2008 events in Cleveland and Lorain.

NEOEA's territory includes six of the AFL-CIO CLCs: Ashtabula County CLC; Lorain County CLC; Mahoning-Trumbull CLC; North Central CLC (Erie); North Shore CLC (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake); and Tri-County CLC (Medina, Summit, Portage).

## Legislators and Local Activists Meet at NEOEA Legislative Dinner

The NEOEA Legislative Committee invited local leaders and all northeastern Ohio State Representatives and Senators to attend our Legislative Dinner on Monday night, March 9, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg. All lawmakers were invited regardless of political affiliation or endorsement. Each legislator had a chance to address the whole group briefly, and then during dinner talked with members of locals within their districts. Unfortunately, unlike previous years', this year's event was not bipartisan; no Republican legislators attended.

Eleven legislators attended including the following:

- Representative Barbara Boyd, D-9
- Senator Capri Cafaro, D-32
- Representative Mike Foley, D-14
- Senator Dale Miller, D-23
- Representative Dennis Murray, D-80
- Senator Joseph Schiavoni, D-33

- Representative Mark Schneider, D-63
- Senator Nina Turner, D-25
- Representative Brian G. Williams, D-41
- Representative Sandra Williams, D-11
- Representative Kenny Yuko, D-7

## 2009 Summer Fun Discounts

Good-any-day tickets for NEOEA members (mail-order only, no walk-ins.) NEOEA's group buying power enables us to arrange great rates for our members attending area events:

### YANKEE PEDDLER

The traditional Yankee Peddler Festival includes the Yankee Peddler Today Festival. One ticket provides admission to both festivals, running September 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27, 2009, 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., at Clay's Park Resort in Canal Fulton, Ohio. For more information, see their website at [www.yankeepeddlerfestival.com](http://www.yankeepeddlerfestival.com). Adult ticket: NEOEA price is \$6.50, a savings of \$2.50. Ticket for children 6-11: NEOEA price is \$2.00, a savings of 50¢. Children under 6 are free. No pets allowed. Orders accepted until Friday, September 4.

### VINTAGE OHIO WINE FESTIVAL

AN EXPERIENCE FOR ALL YOUR SENSES: A special offer for NEOEA members to the Vintage Ohio Wine Festival on August 7-8, 2009, at Lake Metroparks Farmpark (1:00-10:00 p.m.). Adult Taster tickets discounted \$8.00 per ticket: originally \$25.00 at the gate and \$22.00 ordered in advance. Tickets include admission to the festival, a souvenir wine glass, and complimentary sampling at over 25 Ohio wineries. Go to the listed website for a complete list of activities. Offered to NEOEA members at the low price of \$17.00 per ticket. Must use the assigned code (NEOEA2009) to receive the discount. Order on the web at [www.VisitVintageOhio.com](http://www.VisitVintageOhio.com) or by phone at 800/227-6972. Must be 21 to order. Tickets are nonrefundable. Coupon expires August 3, 2009.

### GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE

Start your summer vacation today at The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake. Enjoy an overnight getaway for two! The package includes overnight accommodations for two

and indoor AND outdoor pool for \$99.00 plus tax. The offer is valid June 1-26, and is valid Sunday through Thursday, based on availability. Please mention the promo code: 4G34GD. For reservations please call 1-800-801-9982 or visit our website at [www.thelodgeatgeneva.com](http://www.thelodgeatgeneva.com).

### CEDAR POINT TICKETS

Need tickets to Cedar Point or other amusement parks? Call Best Benefits Club at 330/273-5756, and identify yourself as an NEOEA member. For more summer fun opportunities, see the Best Benefits Club website, [www.bbcmember.com](http://www.bbcmember.com), with password NEOEA0613.

Please be sure to read all the pricing information before filling out the ticket order blank. No walk-in orders, please: mail-order only. No charges: check or money order only. Make check or money order payable to NEOEA. NEOEA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or unused tickets; no refunds will be made under any circumstances. Tickets are not dated and can be used any day during the season. Please plan ahead: allow for mail turn-around time. NEOEA will assess a \$15 charge for checks returned because of insufficient funds. Send payment and form to: NEOEA Summer Fun; 5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, OH 44125-5330.

## Be the CEO of Your Own Entertainment at PlayhouseSquare!

The PlayhouseSquare Corporate Exclusive Online Ticketing Discount System gives you the exclusive convenience of purchasing show tickets online and at a special discount. Get access to all the big shows that are coming to PlayhouseSquare.

Special online discounts offered to certain shows. Simply enter the promotion code (FAMTIX) using the web link (<http://playhousesquare.org/groups>) and follow the prompts through the purchase procedure. You will be sent a confirmation via email with notification on where to pick up your tickets (based on the ticket pick-up method you selected). There is a small ticketing fee (only \$3 per order, not per ticket). For questions, please contact Moira Beal at 216/664-6044.

## Northeastern Ohio Fireworks Baseball Tour 2009

NEOEA's baseball tour expands in 2009! Enjoy games by northeastern Ohio's five professional baseball teams, and the Indians AAA affiliate in Columbus! All of the Friday games include fireworks.

Order the tickets, and we'll see you at the park. NEOEA does not stock tickets; you can order them directly from the baseball teams themselves using the information provided here. (By ordering your tickets directly, you can use your credit card and adjust your order for each game.)

- Friday, July 10, 7:05: the Frontier League **Lake Erie Crushers** host the River City Rascals in Avon's new All Pro Freight Stadium. NEOEA members can order \$9 Home Box Section tickets (rows 3-9) for \$8. Call or email Zach Krantz at 440/934-3636, ext. 405, or [zkrantz@lakeeriecrushers.com](mailto:zkrantz@lakeeriecrushers.com). Ask about their \$5 Perfect Game Voucher and save on food! Orders received by Tuesday, June 30, will be mailed; later orders will be held at the box office.
- Friday, July 17, 7:05: the **Mahoning Valley Scrappers** host the Oneonta Tigers (a Detroit Tigers affiliate) at Eastwood Field. Enjoy \$8 tickets for \$5. Call Matt Thompson at 330/505-0000, ext. 206. Orders received by Monday, June 29, will be mailed; orders received later will be held at the Subway Will Call window.
- Friday, July 24, 7:05: the **Akron Aeros** host the Altoona Curve (a Pittsburgh Pirates affiliate) at Canal Park. Regular \$10 tickets are priced at \$6 for NEOEA members. To order, call Tom Craven at 800/97-AEROS, ext. 279. Tickets may be held or mailed at your option; the deadline to order is Friday, June 26.
- Friday, July 31, 7:00: the **Lake County Captains** host the Kannapolis Intimidators (a Chicago White Sox affiliate) at Classic Park. Tickets are \$9. The first 1,500 fans receive Omar Vizquel bobbleheads! Order by calling Amy Gladieux at 440/975-8085, ext. 111, or sending an email to [agladieux@captainsbaseball.com](mailto:agladieux@captainsbaseball.com). Deadline to order tickets for mail delivery is Friday, July 17; phone orders received

up to 5 p.m. on game day will be held at Will Call.

- Sunday, August 9, 5:05: the **Columbus Clippers** host the Buffalo Bisons (a New York Mets affiliate) at Huntington Park in Columbus. Kids run the bases after the game! Reserved tickets are \$10/adult, \$7/youth/seniors; bleacher seats \$6/adults, \$3/youth/seniors. Order by calling 614/462-5250. Tickets ordered by Friday, July 25, will be mailed; orders received later will be held at Will Call.
- Friday, August 21, 7:05: the **Cleveland Indians** host the Seattle Mariners at Progressive Field. Enjoy "Rock'n'Blast" and regular \$24 upper box tickets for \$20, subject to availability. To order, call John Bowers at 216/420-4493; ask about the all-you-can-eat buffet. Deadline to order tickets for mail delivery is Friday, August 7; orders received later will be held at Will Call.

## NEOEA Days at Progressive Field Even More Games Offered!

We have obtained discounted tickets as well as an optional all-you-can-eat buffet for one more Indians games this spring:

- Saturday, June 28, at 1:05 vs. the Cincinnati Reds (Slider Head Bank [kids 14 and under])

The Indians have now offered EVEN MORE GAMES to NEOEA members. Come join us:

- Friday, July 17, at 7:05 vs. the Seattle Mariners (Beach Weekend Fireworks)
- Sunday, August 2, at 1:05 vs. the Detroit Tigers (Slider's Birthday - Slider Bobster / Kids Fun Days)
- Friday, August 21, at 7:05 vs. the Seattle Mariners (Rock 'N' Blast Fireworks)
- Saturday, September 12, at 7:05 vs. the Kansas City Royals (Indians Log History Fleece Blanket)

## Are You a Member of Your Local's Retired Group?

The NEOEA-R Organizing Committee would like to connect with local retired groups. Please send contact information to [retired@neoea.org](mailto:retired@neoea.org).

## NEA-Member Benefits Website Sweepstakes

NEA members can register for each Give-Away in the "ENTER TO WIN" area of the NEA Member Benefits website ([www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)) for a chance to win.

Every NEA member who registers on the new site from May 1, 2009 through the August 31, 2009 will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$5,000 cash grand prize to be awarded in September 2009! No purchase is necessary to enter.

- June 16-30, 2009: Fifty \$100 **Target** Gift Cards!
- July 1-15, 2009: Five Weekend Getaways. Each Weekend Getaway consists of a \$1,500 gift card from **Liberty Travel** and a Three-Day Car Rental Certificate from **Alamo**.
- July 16-31, 2009: Ten School Supply Kits. Each kit consists of a \$500 gift certificate from **Staples** and a \$100 gift certificate from **Smilemakers** Online Supplies Discounter.
- August 1-15, 2009: Fifteen Health & Wellness Baskets. Each basket consists of a \$50 gift certificate from **GNC**, a \$50 Spa Treatment gift certificate, a consultation with a nutritionist and a week's worth of groceries.
- August 16-31, 2009: Four subscriptions to **uBoost.com** Online Student Rewards Program. Each subscription provides up to 30 licenses for each winner and their colleagues.

## New York, New York

The **New York City tour**, October 15-18, 2009, includes: one night's lodging in Pennsylvania, two night's lodging in New York City, a ticket for one Broadway Show ("West Side Story," "9 to 5," "In the Heights," or "Jersey Boys"), a guided city tour, admissions for the Empire State Building, and dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania. Dinner in New York is optional at the cost of the meal and will be at Carmine's on Broadway and 90th Street or Da Rosina Ristorante on 46th Street in Midtown. Also available is a side trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.



North Eastern Ohio Education Association  
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200,  
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330

#### NEOEA-R Organizing Committee

Gary Hollow, Chairperson  
Hazel Haffner, Vice-Chair  
Elaine Spondike, Secretary  
Nancy Wonson, Board Liaison  
Homer Adams  
Denise Bartholomew  
Dennis Cook  
Lyn Curry-Huston  
Robert Dengler  
Carol Dolgosh  
Martha Dunford  
Hank Haynes  
Norm Hillstrom  
Nancy Javorek  
Richard Javorek  
Dennis Lewis  
Tim Matheson  
U. R. Neal  
Patricia Sharkey

#### Editorial Board:

Hank Haynes  
Gary Hollow  
Bill Lavezzi  
Nancy Wonson

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Reports on the OEA-R Web Page

Keep informed. Visit the OEA-R website to read the following reports: Go to the OEA site [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org), then click on "OEA-R" along the left side.

- OEA Retired Spring Regional Conference, May 20, 2009 - Robert Rohschild Farm, Urbana
- OEA-R Caucus, May 7, 2009
- STRS Meetings, May 2009
- Retirement Board Election Results, May 2009
- OEA Board of Directors and OEA Representative Assembly report, May 2009.
- OEA Retirement Systems Update, May 2009
- Retired and Involved, by Marilyn Allen Columbus EA
- OEA-R ESP Report, April 14, 2009
- STRS Meetings, April 2009
- NEA-Retired Regional Conferences, March/April 2009
- OEA Board of Directors Meeting, March 21, 2009

- OEA Retirement Systems Update, March 2009
- OEA-R *Newsline*, Winter 2009
- OEA Retirement Systems Update, February 2009
- NEA-Retired Advisory Council Minutes, September 2008
- NEA Board of Directors Meeting, February 2009
- OEA-Retired Caucus Meeting, December 2008
- OEA-R *Newsline*, Fall 2008
- OEA Fall Conference Features Volunteering and OEA Campaign 2008
- Reemployed Retiree Health Care Changes, Effective January 1, 2009
- Retirement Links

Get Your  
NEOEA News & Views at  
[www.neoea.org](http://www.neoea.org)

### NEOEA Calendar

- July 1-6** NEA Representative Assembly, San Diego, CA
- July 22-23** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Lakeland Community College
- August 4-6** OEA Summer Leadership Conference, Columbus
- October 10** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Nature Hike
- October 16** NEOEA Day Workshops
- October 24** NEOEA Negotiations Conference West
- November 7** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Austintown HS
- November 14** NEOEA Negotiations Conference East
- December 5** OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus
- January 30** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Cross Country Ski
- February 27** NEOEA Megaconference
- March 8** NEOEA Legislative Dinner
- April 17** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Great Lakes Brewery and West Side Market Tour