

# News & Views

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Mayfield EA's Kerri Setlock (left) and Kim Zanella attended last year's Megaconference, and as you can tell they had a good time. The fun for this year starts on page 6.



Katty Romero Mora and Scott Stasa from Willoughby-Eastlake TA were among those sporting green "new delegate" badges at November's RA. Coverage begins on page 4.



NEOEPA's conference room now provides a showcase for student art. Read more in President Kim Richards' article on pages 2-3.

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### The State of Education in Our State: What It Means for Us

President Kim Richards explains how the elimination of the "5 of 8" rule provides an example of some dangerous thinking by state policymakers and explores what we can do about it. .... 2-3

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### Green School Award

Is yours a green school? Is it trying to be? We're looking for a green school to recognize; it might be yours! .... 9

### Meet Members of the 131st General Assembly

Ohio's new General Assembly contains many new faces. Local presidents and their designees can meet Ohio's new legislators at our new-format Legislative Dinners on February 23. .... 9

## Workshops and Conferences:

### Megaconference

This issue contains registration information for our March 14 Megaconference in Warrensville Heights. This year's Megaconference has the usual wide range of topics, from legal updates to retirement to wellness. Included in the plans is an entire track on Ohio's RESA (Resident Education Summative Assessment). .... 6-8

## Consumer Corner:

### Great Big Home and Garden Show

It's January, but spring is coming, and so is the Great Big Home and Garden Show! Your NEOEA membership can save you \$5 on admission. .... 10

## Brag Box:

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In November, the United Labor Agency honored its annual Unsung Heroes of the Labor Movement, which included Parma EA retiree Dennis Lewis. .... 10

### Communications Contest Winners

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Clearview EA and Lakewood TA won Political Action Awards for their members' FCPE participation in 2013-14. .... 11

### Five Star Locals

Since 2001-02, NEOEA has honored 101 locals for their engagement with the profession; 46 locals earned the Five Star honor this year, including two that earned it for the first time and eighteen that earned all six possible stars. ... 12

### The State of Education in Our State: What It Means for Us

By Kim Richards, NEOEA President



NEOEA is the largest OEA district association in Ohio. We are a membership of 31,000 dedicated education professionals—elementary and secondary teachers, university professors, DD professionals, and support staffs proudly serving students attending Ohio's public schools and universities in northeast Ohio. NEOEA includes 192 individual locals. Our organization has been in existence for 145 years—nearly as long as OEA and NEA! NEOEA Day—formerly NEOTA Day—was established years ago by teachers to provide professional development for teachers—long before the administrative establishment ever thought of such a thing. We have the most delegates of any representative assembly in any other district in the state. So why am I reciting all of these facts and figures? Because I am compelled to point out an inconvenient truth that goes along with all this.

***"Eliminating the 5 of 8 Rule will make public education in Ohio more unequal than it already is now."***

First and foremost, with numbers of locals and members like those I just mentioned, maybe it's just easy for many of us to sit back and rest on our laurels. Some of our locals have not even held an election. In spite of our size as an association, NEOEA has experienced a decline in member involvement in recent years. Some locals do not attend service council meetings,

hold elections for delegates, or even have a local president! Only two out of 192 local associations sent a full complement of delegates to the NEOEA meeting last fall. Reasons for the lack of involvement range from "nobody wants to do it," to "what difference does it make?" to "I don't have time," and even to "I don't like the food at the meetings"!

So what? The implications of this level of inactivity and non-involvement are far-reaching, not merely to our organization but to the state of public education itself. Our response to this Rip Van Winkle-like slumber must be greater than just dismissing it as a few locals that "never participate much anyway." Apathy within NEOEA today is incredible. That has to change; we have to change. We don't want to be fiddling while public education burns. The trend of the times is not encouraging.

We don't have to look any further than this very week's headlines to see the trend of the times: on December 9, the Ohio Board of Education moved ahead with a plan to abolish school-staffing requirements that will allow districts to eliminate art teachers, librarians, counselors, and other staff members in the name of "local control" and "administrative flexibility."

After just two hours of discussion, the board voted 14-5 to approve a resolution of intent to do away with a state requirement that schools have certain numbers of art, music, and physical-education teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, social workers, and visiting teachers—the decades-old 5 of 8 rule—first passed by the Legislature in 1983. The rule mandates that schools have at least five of those eight positions for every 1,000 students.

Supporters of this measure contend the 5 of 8 Rule is "out of date"—code, I

suppose, for the fact that there's no legislature-mandated high-stakes test for art or music and, therefore, why bother. Sarah Fowler, a board member from Ashtabula County—my own backyard—who believes that Ohio children should be home-schooled, says school leaders in her district—our district as well—want the authority to "make these decisions." It's our job to remind the legislature and the general public why it's important to bother and why it's important that educational decisions should not be made entirely by administrative bean-counters.

Advocates are casting this inequitable measure as local control: the right of each community to decide how it wants to staff its schools; a measure to counteract the far too many state laws that "handcuff" local school districts—"unfunded mandates," in the buzz phrase. Well, please. The real issues are educational opportunity and equality.

Eliminating the 5 of 8 Rule will make public education in Ohio more unequal than it already is now. **A.J. Wagner** of Dayton, one of the five Ohio board members who opposed the resolution, said, "Our state constitution makes the state responsible for educating our youth, and thus the state should not shirk its obligation....We all know the rich schools are going to be fine. They are going to continue to hire those that they need. Poor schools that don't have the money are the ones that are going to have to eliminate the nurses, social workers, and the very people that are essential to making sure those students who are poor get a good education."

Years ago, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the state's funding of its public schools is unconstitutional. In the absence of any meaningful reforms to

*continued on page 3*

North Eastern Ohio Education  
Association  
is affiliated with the  
Ohio Education Association  
and the  
National Education Association

Kim Richards, President  
Mary Alice Conkey, Past President  
Jeff Wensing, President-elect  
Lillian Tolbert, Recording Secretary  
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## President's Message

*continued from page 2*

address that situation, school districts respond by cutting teachers and programs to save a few dollars in case the electric bill goes up or a bad winter blows up the snow-plowing budget. Cutting teachers and programs is a way for districts to accommodate what's long been deemed an illegal funding formula.

That is the educational landscape before us: not a pretty picture. Of course local administrators want "flexibility"—they need to fire up the boilers in the wintertime and can maybe cut the vocal music program to afford to do so. But is that "education"? The elimination of the 5 of 8 Rule is not the only challenge to public education in Ohio—far from it. But it is the most recent, most immediate attack, and one that we as a professional association need to address.

One of our jobs as NEOEA members is to be an advocate for education. Ohio needs to maintain the minimal standards embodied by the 5 of 8 Rule to make sure that both poor and more well-to-do children have access to counselors, social workers, and art and music classes. "I don't know who we are representing if we don't mandate a number of these programs," says State BOE member **Ann Jacobs** of Lima,

another of the five who voted to retain 5 of 8. "The schools who service the poor are the ones who will not provide these services to the poor, and it will widen the (achievement) gap, not close the gap."

The rule was originally passed in 1983, in an effort to assure that students' access to specialty services was more or less equal. Equality of opportunity is not something that ever goes "out of date." The other State School Board members who had the courage to stand up for public education are **Deborah Cain** from Uniontown District 8, **Stephani Dodd** from Hebron District 9, and **Mary Rose Oakar** from Cleveland District 11. I find little consolation in the fact that districts must report now whether they employ these staff members or not.

The State Board of Education's 14-5 vote to toss out 5 of 8 is not the last word on the matter. The elimination must still be approved by the Ohio Common Sense Initiative Office, which must determine if the proposal is fair and equitable, and by the Joint Commission on Agency Rules, which must determine if the proposal does or does not exceed the school board's authority. Should the CSI office and the JCAR both approve it, the proposal faces a final vote before the state education

board next year. It could go into effect as soon as the 2015-16 school year. In other words, there are a few more steps required before this inequitable proposal would take effect. But we can make a difference in those decisions by making our collective voice heard.

It's in this environment, however, that indifference and apathy is rife within NEOEA. I am asking all active and involved members to reach out to our less-involved colleagues. I am asking those that attend service council (UniServ) meetings on a regular basis to reach out to the locals that do not. Our system is only as good as the participation of our members. We cannot ignore the fact that 108 of our 192 locals members do not participate. Now more than ever, we must become an organization where all our members are involved. We are going to face many attacks and challenges over the next four years—the 5 of 8 decision by the State Board is just one instance. All our members must stand together professionally and effectively. Our Association must be at full strength to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The solution to the problems around us lies in our members. Now is the time for us to re-energize our association.

In solidarity,

*Kim*

## Labor Lines

*Only a handful of reactionaries harbor the ugly thought of breaking unions and depriving working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice. I have no use for those — regardless of their political party — who hold some vain and foolish dream of spinning the clock back to days when organized labor was huddled, almost as a hapless mass. Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice. — Dwight D. Eisenhower*

## Calendar

**Saturday, January 24**

Cross-country Ski Outing  
Lake Metroparks Chapin Forest

**Monday, February 23**

Legislative Receptions  
East, Central, West

**Saturday, March 14**

Megaconference  
Corporate College East

**Saturday, April 11**

Green Tour

**Saturday, April 25**

NEOEa Representative Assembly  
Twinsburg Chamberlin Middle School

For the most up-to-date information on the NEOEA calendar, go to our website [neoea.org/Private/PresidentsPage.htm](http://neoea.org/Private/PresidentsPage.htm).

## Web Resources

at [www.neoea.org](http://www.neoea.org)

- Community Involvement Grant
- Cross-country Ski Outing
- Great Big Home and Garden Show
- Green School Award
- Megaconference
- NEOEA Friend of Education
- Nomination Form/Letter of Intent for Elections at the Spring 2015 RA
- OADDP Scholarship application
- Positive Image Award



## Summary: NEOEA Representative Assembly November 8, 2014 Highland High School

NEOEA's Representative Assembly held its fall meeting at Highland High School on Saturday, November 8.

The 260 delegates and 25 guests present were greeted by Highland EA President Melany Malquest.

Delegates enacted resolutions for 2014-15, endorsed a candidate for an OEA office to be filled in an election in December, and recognized award recipients.

In a fund-raiser conducted during the Legislative Committee's report and the Representative Assembly, the 260 delegates donated \$3,500 to OEA's Fund for Children and Public Education.

At the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, delegates enacted the NEOEA Resolutions for 2014-15. NEOEA's new resolutions document includes 159 statements setting forth Association principles on topics identified in the organization's Constitution. The new resolutions document contains changes to twelve of the existing resolutions and three new resolutions:

- in A-2, added language expressing belief that "the Secretary of the United States Department of Education must be an advocate for public education";
- in B-2, added gender identification and sexual orientation to a list of biases to be combated by Vocational/Career and Technical

Education; and

- in H-5, reaffirmed the organization's support for the original provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Delegates endorsed Jeff Rhodes (North Royalton Education Association) for election to a vacancy for Ohio NEA Director #5 that will be filled on December 6.

Delegates from Electoral Unit NE-5 elected Karen Stamp (Warren Education Association) to fill a vacancy for Unit 5 Representative on the NEOEA Board of Directors. Delegates elected Martha Miller (Ashtabula Association of Classified School Employees) to fill a vacancy for NEOEA's ESP (Education Support Professional) Representative-at-large.

Delegates passed three New Business Items.

NBI #1, Value Added Data for School Districts: "NEOEA, along with OEA, will call on teachers and school districts to appeal School District Value

Added Data and make public statements revealing the truth of the Value Added ratings based on incomplete and inaccurate data."

NBI #2, Resident Educator License: "NEOEA will call on OEA to investigate the Resident Educator Program and the effects it has on new teachers throughout the state of Ohio. If it is found that the Resident Educator Program is ineffective, NEOEA and OEA will call on ODE to alter the Resident Educator Program to a system that helps new teachers to success."

NBI #4 thanked the Highland Education Association, the Highland Support Staff Association, and the Highland Local Schools for their hospitality in hosting the fall 2014 NEOEA Representative Assembly.

Delegates defeated NBI #3, Funding Endorsed Candidates: "NEOEA supports the establishment of a minimum FCPE donation amount for all OEA-endorsed candidates."

Northeastern Ohio's OEA Representative Assembly delegates, meeting in caucus to prepare for the OEA RA on December 6, voted to support OEA's Legislative Policies and OEA's Systemic Policy Agenda.

The NEOEA Representative Assembly meets again on April 25, 2015, at R. B. Chamberlin Middle School, 10270 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087.



### Were You Represented?

NEOEa's governing body is its Representative Assembly, consisting of delegates elected by NEOEA's local affiliates. This year, 105 of NEOEA's 192 local affiliates certified RA delegates; 260 delegates attended the November 8 meeting at Highland High School.

#### Eighty-four of NEOEA's 192 local affiliates attended the RA,

including ACCESS, Amherst TA, Ashtabula ACSE, Ashtabula Area TA, Ashtabula Co. Emp. Assn. for Mentally Handicapped, Aurora EA, Avon Lake EA, Barberton EA, Bay TA, Bedford EA, Boardman EA, Brecksville-Broadview EA, Brunswick EA, Brunswick ESP Assn., Buckeye EA, Cardinal EA, Champion EA, Chardon EA, Clearview EA, Cloverleaf EA, Columbia Local EA, Copley TA, Coventry EA, Cuyahoga Falls EA, Cuyahoga Heights Assn. of Teachers, East Cleveland EA, Elyria EA, Euclid TA, Field Local TA, Garfield Heights TA, Girard EA, Highland EA, Howland Classroom TA, Independence EA, Kenston EA, Lakewood TA, Lorain County JVS TA, Lorain EA, Maple Heights TA, Maple Organization

Support Team (MOST), Mathews EA, Mayfield Assn. of Support Personnel (MASP), Mayfield EA, Medina City TA, Medina County Vocational Center EA, Mentor Classified Employees, Mentor TA, Midview EA, Niles EA, Nordon Hills Educators' Assn., North Ridgeville EA, North Royalton EA, Olmsted Falls EA, Painesville City TA, Parma EA, Ravenna EA, Revere EA, Richmond Heights EA, Riverside Local EA, Sandusky EA, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA, Southeast Local District TA, Stow TA, Streetsboro EA, Strongsville EA, Struthers EA, Tallmadge TA, Trumbull CTC EA, Twinsburg EA, Vermilion TA, Wadsworth EA, Warren EA, Warrensville EA, Waterloo EA, Weaver Workshop and Support Assn., Wellington Support Staff Assn., Westlake TA, Wickliffe EA,

Willoughby-Eastlake Classified Professionals, Willoughby-Eastlake TA, Youngstown EA, YSU-ACE, YSU-APAS, and YSU-OEA.

#### Twenty-one local affiliates certified delegates but were not represented at the fall meeting:

Austintown EA, Campbell EA, Conneaut EA, Crestwood EA, Fairport Harbor EA, Fairview Park EA, Geneva Area TA, Hubbard EA, Hudson EA, Keystone Local EA, LaBrea TA, Lakeview TA, LEADD, North Olmsted EA, Norton Classroom TA, Poland EA, Rootstown TA, South Range EA, Southington EA, West Branch EA, and West Geauga EA.

Locals not listed in this article have not elected delegates to this year's Representative Assembly.

The Representative Assembly also includes unit delegates elected at-large, student and retired delegates attending statewide, and past NEOEA presidents: eleven retired members and seven past presidents attended the fall meeting as delegates.

Each local is allotted at least two delegates, and more delegates are allotted as local size increases. NEOEA leaders believe that one of the most critical needs for an involved local is the attendance of at least one delegate at each RA. A full report on RA attendance can be found online at [neoea.org/AttendanceFallRA2014.pdf](http://neoea.org/AttendanceFallRA2014.pdf). The next Representative Assembly will meet on **Saturday, April 25, 2015**, at R.B. Chamberlin Middle School in Twinsburg.

### NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Information

This year's NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Orlando, Florida, on **July 1-6**. Each year about 100 NEOEA members serve as delegates to this important governing body; the process of selecting them has several steps.

- **State delegates** are members elected in a ballot conducted in each electoral unit. All active members of OEA's Division of Classroom Teachers (which includes ESP members) may apply to be on the ballot. OEA provides funding for state delegates to attend the NEA RA. Candidacy forms are sent to each local president in

December and must be submitted by **January 31**.

- **NEA-Retired delegates:** filing deadline is **February 15**.
- **Category-2 delegates** are NEA active members who are administrators, supervisors, or retired NEA life members. The filing deadline is **February 15**.
- **Higher Education and Student-NEA delegates** have a filing deadline of **March 15**.
- **Local Association delegates** are elected locally using directions and forms mailed to local presidents in February.

All local affiliates with 76 or more delegates are eligible to send delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The filing deadline is **April 10**.

- **Cluster delegates** are elected where locals with fewer than 76 members "cluster" together to elect delegates. The filing deadline is **April 10**.

The state delegate form is available at [neoea.org/StateDelegateForm.pdf](http://neoea.org/StateDelegateForm.pdf). For further information, call Carol Price, OEA Administrative Services/Conference Coordinator, at 800/282-1500 or email her at [PriceC@ohea.org](mailto:PriceC@ohea.org).

### Happy Birthday to Us by Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

It was, admittedly, possible to miss it: there were other news articles on November 13. But on that date, NEOEA turned a sprightly 145 years old.

As a weary nation turned its attention to Civil War reconstruction, educators began considering ways to improve teacher training and provide for an improved system of common schools.

For their meeting venue on November 13, 1849, they chose the Weddell House, at the corner of

Superior Avenue and present-day West 6th Street. It was a prestigious venue, reflecting the importance of the work they contemplated. Known as "The Astor House of the Great Lakes," the Weddell House was the premier Cleveland hotel of its day: President Lincoln had stayed there and addressed crowds from its balcony while on his way to his first inaugural in 1861, and his room was later converted to a shrine in his memory until the hotel was replaced by the

Rockefeller Building.

Before the evening was over, they had founded the North Eastern

Ohio Teachers' Association (NEOTA), which 120 years later changed its name to the North Eastern Ohio Education Association (NEOEa). For Executive Director Bill Lavezzi's article on the last 145 years, go to [neoea.org/Birthday.pdf](http://neoea.org/Birthday.pdf).



## MEGACONFERENCE 2015

MEGACONFERENCE 2015  
Saturday, March 14 — 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Corporate College East, Warrensville Heights



NEOEa invites you to our combined Megaconference, presented by NEOEA's Economic Security and Retirement, Environmental Concerns, ESP Organizing, Leadership Development, Legislative, Minority Organizing, NEOEA-R Organizing, Public Relations, Professional Development, and Social and Human Concerns Committees.

The 2015 Megaconference will be presented at Corporate College East, located in Warrensville Heights at 4400 Richmond Road. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m., and workshops begin at 9:00. The \$15 registration fee (\$25 for nonmembers) covers a continental breakfast, lunch, and parking.

Megaconference features twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots. Topics offered fall into the following three themes; participants are free to choose workshops from different themes. (You can see the whole organization of the Megaconference at a glance in the breakout grid on the next page.) For the latest information about Megaconference, go to [neoea.org/Mega](http://neoea.org/Mega). Graduate credit from Lake Erie College is also available for \$180 for one semester hour. To sign up, go to <https://www.SignUp4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=SPRI223E> and specify course number Ed 7103. For more information, contact Sally Schuler at [GraduateCredit@neoea.org](mailto:GraduateCredit@neoea.org) or 440-826-9736.

**Leadership Development:** Knowledge we need in order to help our local associations serve their members better. Choose from the following topics:

- ALFs and CLCs: Your Local and the AFL-CIO (9C)
- Bargaining Communications with Members and Community (9D)
- Charter Schools: What Voters and Taxpayers Need to Know (10D)
- Community Coalitions Supporting Public Education and Educators (9F)
- Developing a Strategic Negotiating Plan (9A)
- Educating Your Legislators (10E)
- Equity Issues Between and Among

Members and Students (11C)

- Legal Update: Developments in Special Education (10B)
- Legal Update: I'm not a Nurse, but I Play One at School (9B)
- Local PACs and Independent Expenditures (9E)
- Messaging with Neighbors, Friends, and Family (11D)
- OEA's Systemic Practices Task Force: An Update (10A)
- Public Education and Ohio's General Assembly (11E)
- Using the General Fund Analysis and Five-Year Forecasts (11B)
- Working Relationships between K-12s and Educational Service Centers (11A)
- Your Contract and Ohio's Resident Educator Assessment (9L)
- Your Local Public Relations Toolkit (10F)
- Your Local's Labor Citizenship (10C)

**Personal Development:** Knowledge to help us in our daily lives, regardless of our job descriptions. Choose from the following topics:

- 529 Plans and More: Sending the Kids to College (9H)
- Extra Credit: All You Need to Know about Your Credit File (11H)
- Financial Health for Millennials and Generation X (9 I)
- Health and Wellness Screening (11F)
- School Employees Retirement System (SERS) Update (11G)
- State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Update and Retirement Countdown (9-10G)
- Tips for Using Your Personal Technology (11 I)
- To PLOP or Not to PLOP: Does a

Partial Lump-sum Option Make Sense for You? (10H)

- Venti Mocha Latte Decaf: A Simple Strategy for a Secure Future (10 I)

**Professional Development:** Knowledge to help us be more effective on the job. Choose from the following topics:

- INFOhio: Free Online Access to Quality, Common Core Ready, Nonfiction Resources for You and Your Students (10K)
- Navigating RESA: Some Practical Tips (11L)
- PARCC Testing Preparation (10J)
- PBS Learning Media (digital field trips) (11K)
- Resident Educator Summative Assessment Progress Report (10L)
- Science Fair Ideas for Environmental Learning (11J)
- Tablet Computers in the Classroom (9J)
- WVIZ-PBS Sampler (9K)

**Megaconference is a Presidents Plus Two event and is open to all members.** Each local president has received three certificates; each certificate is good for one free admission. To use one of your local's certificates, contact your local president.

Presenters and topics can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Space is limited, so return the registration form as quickly as possible; registrations are due by **Friday, February 27, 2015**. Confirmations and directions to Corporate College East will be sent to registered participants prior to the Megaconference. If the conference is filled, your reservation and fee will be returned immediately.

*(continued on next page)*



# MEGACONFERENCE 2015

9:00-9:50 a.m.	10:00-10:50 a.m.	11:00-11:50 a.m.
<b>9A</b> Developing a Strategic Negotiating Plan	<b>10A</b> OEA's Systemic Practices Task Force: An Update	<b>11A</b> Working Relationships between K-12s and Educational Service Centers
<b>9B</b> Legal Update: I'm not a Nurse, but I Play One at School	<b>10B</b> Legal Update: Developments in Special Education	<b>11B</b> Using the General Fund Analysis and Five-Year Forecasts
<b>9C</b> ALFs and CLCs: Your Local and the AFL-CIO	<b>10C</b> Your Local's Labor Citizenship	<b>11C</b> Equity Issues Between and Among Members and Students
<b>9D</b> Bargaining Communications with Members and Community	<b>10D</b> Charter Schools: What Voters and Taxpayers Need to Know	<b>11D</b> Messaging with Neighbors, Friends, and Family
<b>9E</b> Local PACs and Independent Expenditures	<b>10E</b> Educating Your Legislators	<b>11E</b> Public Education and Ohio's General Assembly
<b>9F</b> Community Coalitions Supporting Public Education and Educators	<b>10F</b> Your Local Public Relations Toolkit	<b>11F</b> Health and Wellness Screening
<b>9-10G</b> State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Update and Retirement Countdown		<b>11G</b> School Employees Retirement System (SERS) Update
<b>9H</b> 529 Plans and More: Sending the Kids to College	<b>10H</b> To PLOP or Not to PLOP: Does a Partial Lump-sum Option Make Sense for You?	<b>11H</b> Extra Credit: All You Need to Know about Your Credit File
<b>9I</b> Financial Health for Millennials and Generation X	<b>10I</b> Venti Mocha Latte Decaf: A Simple Strategy for a Secure Future	<b>11I</b> Tips for Using Your Personal Technology
<b>9J</b> Tablet Computers in the Classroom	<b>10J</b> PARCC Testing Preparation	<b>11J</b> Science Fair Ideas for Environmental Learning
<b>9K</b> WVIZ-PBS Sampler	<b>10K</b> INFOhio: Free Online Access to Quality, Common Core Ready, Nonfiction Resources for You and Your Students	<b>11K</b> PBS Learning Media (digital field trips)
<b>9L</b> Your Contract and Ohio's Resident Educator Assessment	<b>10L</b> Resident Educator Summative Assessment Progress Report	<b>11L</b> Navigating RESA: Some Practical Tips

# MEGACONFERENCE 2015

## Megaconference — March 14, 2015

Mail to: NEOEA, Megaconference, 5422 East 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, OH 44125-5330. Make checks payable to NEOEA. If using certificates (record certificate number on the form), you may fax to 216/518-0202 OR email to desk @neoea.org. Questions: Please call us at 216/518-0200 or 800/354-6794. For a Word-fillable form, go to [neoea.org/Megaconference.rtf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.rtf).

### Registrations due by Friday, February 27, 2015

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association or Organization (full name, please) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering \_\_\_\_\_ members @ \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering \_\_\_\_\_ non-members @ \$25 = + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 for certificate(s) enclosed = - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total registration fees enclosed (check payable to NEOEA) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please register the following participants and their workshops. (To register more participants, attach another form.) **Registrations will be confirmed by email around March 9.**

Participant(s)	Staying for lunch?	First Time Attendee?	Identify 9:00 Workshop	Identify 10:00 Workshop	Identify 11:00 Workshop
			(letters A through L)		
Name -----					
Email address					
Name -----					
Email address					
Name -----					
Email address					
Special food needs (diabetic, vegetarian)					

*This conference is free to association representatives using "Presidents Plus Two" certificates, but ... NEOEA policy 8.09b states that "local associations shall be held financially responsible for conference expenses incurred by NEOEA whenever a pre-registered member of a local association fails to attend an NEOEA conference. A bill for such expenses shall be mailed to the local association within five working days of the conference. Cancellations for associations will be accepted up to 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday preceding the conference. NEOEA must be notified of any emergency situation that would prevent individual attendance after that hour."*

Presenters and topics can change due to circumstances beyond NEOEA's control.

Confirmations, any necessary schedule announcements, and directions to Corporate College East will be sent to registered participants.

Cancellations accepted up to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12.

Corporate College East,  
Site of Megaconference 2015





### Bargaining Report

Following is a list of local contract settlements since the bargaining report we provided in the November-December issue. Each entry in the following report begins with a listing of the county, employer, local affiliate, service council, and OEA office. These are very brief summaries of rather complicated agreements; consult your OEA Labor Relations Consultant for more detailed information.

- **Cuyahoga: Cuyahoga Heights Local, Cuyahoga Heights Assn. of Teachers (Unit 38, Hudson).** In October the teachers ratified a three-year contract with increases of 1% each year.
- **Mahoning: South Range Local, South Range EA (Western Reserve, Boardman).** In October the teachers ratified a one-year contract.
- **Summit: Copley Fairlawn City, Copley TA (Summit/Portage C, Hudson).** In

November the teachers authorized a three-year contract with increases of 2.2%, 2.1%, and 2.2% as well as an additional one-year contract to expire in 2018. (Updated from the November-December report.)

- **Summit: Green Local, Green EA (Summit/Portage C, Hudson).** In October the teachers ratified a three-year contract with increases of 2%, 1%, and 2%.
- **Summit: Summit County Board of DD, Weaver EA (Summit/Portage A, Hudson).** In October the staff at WEA I and II each ratified a three-year extension of their current contract. Effective until 2018, each bargaining member's actual salary including members at the top of the salary schedule will be increased by 2.5% each year with no step movement.

- **Summit: Summit County Board of DD, Weaver Workshop and Support Assn. (Summit/Portage A, Hudson).** In October the staff ratified a three-year extension of their current contract. Effective until 2018, each bargaining member's actual salary including members at the top of the salary schedule will be increased by 2.5% each year with no step movement.
- **Trumbull: Brookfield Local, Brookfield ASE (Trumbull County B, Boardman).** In August the support staff ratified a three-year contract with increases of 1% each year.
- **Trumbull: Trumbull County ESC, Trumbull County Board Professional Staff Assn. (Trumbull County B, Boardman).** In November the staff ratified a three-year contract with increases of 1.5%, 1.5%, and 1.75%.

### Green School Award

Created in 2010 by the Environmental Concerns Committee, NEOEA's Green School Award honors schools within local affiliates that are leaders in environmental education. To receive the NEOEA Green School Award, a school building that is part of a local association needs to demonstrate having met at least one criterion in each of the

objective areas.

Examples of activities and documents verifying that your school is an NEOEA Green School are listed on the form, available at [neoea.org/GreenSchoolAward.pdf](http://neoea.org/GreenSchoolAward.pdf). If you are uncertain about the activities at your school or about the appropriate documentation, please contact Ken Riley of the

Environmental Concerns Committee, at 330/606-7562 or email him at [krileyjr1@gmail.com](mailto:krileyjr1@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting your application is Friday, March 13, 2015.



### Meet Members of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

NEOEa's Legislative Committee will be holding its annual Legislative Dinner on Monday, February 23.

Over the years, this event has taken several forms: legislative trainings, single guest speakers, get-acquainted dinners with all northeastern Ohio legislators, and most recently, complementary presentations by leaders of both parties and both chambers of the Ohio General

Assembly.

This year's event will use a new format. Instead of inviting everyone to one centrally-located event, we will host three simultaneous legislative receptions from 5:00 to 7:30 in three locations. We have divided northeastern Ohio House and Senate Districts into three zones, with a separate dinner in each zone. The venues are:

- West: Ziggy's Pub and Restaurant, Amherst;
- Central: St. Michael's Woodside Party Center, Broadview Heights;
- East: Welshfield Inn, Burton.

This is a Presidents Plus One event, open to NEOEA Directors, Legislative Committee members, local presidents and their guests. Presidents are receiving information in their January packets.

### Monthly Quiz

Congratulations to Lisa Whiley from Edison TA, winner of the last issue's "Monthly Quiz" contest.

The third question this year is: **what is the cost to attend Megaconference if**

**you have a coupon from your President?**

We'll welcome all entries, but to be considered for the restaurant gift card, the winner needs to answer by Friday, February 13. To answer, go online to

<http://tinyurl.com/NEOEa201501>.

Thank you to all who have participated!

### Save \$5 on Great Big Home and Garden Show

Spring is just around the corner! RENEW, REFRESH, AND RESTORE YOUR HOME from February 6 - 15, 2015, at the Great Big Home and Garden Show at the I-X Center!

Members save \$5 per ticket (regular price \$15 - discount price \$10) when you order tickets online (<http://goo.gl/17NZ4y>) with promo code NEOEA2015.

Please visit [www.greatbighomeandgarden.com](http://www.greatbighomeandgarden.com) for details on the show, hours of operation, and to order discount tickets.

*Get inspired. Get started.*

## Brag Box

### Labor Organization Recognizes NEOEA Member

In November, a local labor organization named an NEOEA member and volunteer as an "Unsung Hero of the Labor Movement." The recognition occurred on November 13, when the United Labor Agency recognized retired member Dennis Lewis of the Parma Education Association with the honor at its Annual Dinner. Dennis was one of several volunteers from local unions to receive the award.

Dennis began his involvement with the Parma Education Association (PEA) by representing his colleagues as a Building Representative. He informed his fellow educators as to current issues both within the school district as well as within the state. During his tenure with the Association, his accomplishments and contributions have been abundant.

At the local level, Dennis was and continues to be dedicated to the PEA. He has served on a myriad of committees including: Audit, Community Relations, Constitution & Goals, Elections, Instructional Development & Improvement, Membership, Negotiations & Planning (and voting

Negotiations Team member), Professional Rights & Responsibilities, Scholarship and Teacher Welfare.

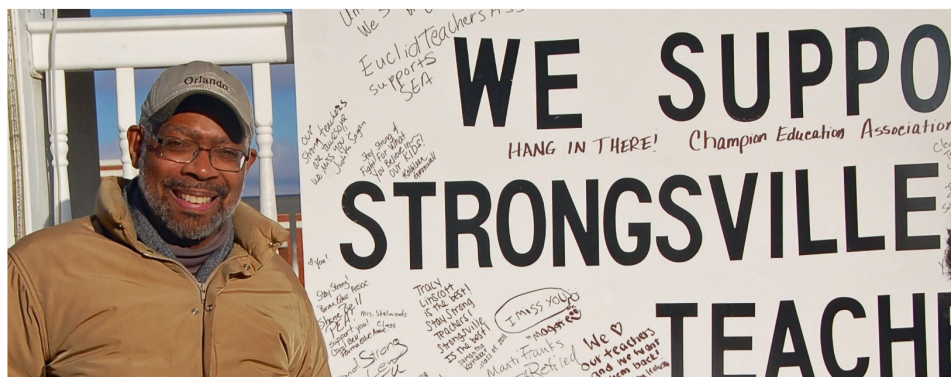
Dennis' commitment to the PEA has extended to leadership roles as both PEA Treasurer and PEA Vice President. Each year as Treasurer, he received the Outstanding Local Treasurer's Award from the Ohio Education Association.

Since his retirement, Dennis has continued to lend his expertise to PEA as their Transition Consultant and as Operations Manager to mentor new PEA Treasurers.

Dennis Lewis has been a tireless advocate for children and teachers in

public education. His contributions shine brightly and encourage the rest of us to follow his example in celebrating the devotion and success of our educators.

As its name suggests, the United Labor Agency is a community service agency drawn from local community and labor organizations. It provides job skills training for workers who have lost employment due to plant closings, economic downturns, and changes in the labor market. The ULA is active primarily in the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake.



## Art Work

A big "thank you" to the Pymatuning Valley Middle School students in Melissa Raptis' art room whose art work adorns our largest conference room.

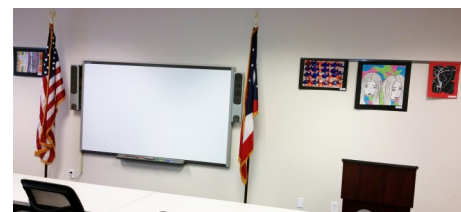
Melissa (pictured) is originally from Texas but moved to Ohio in January 2004. After having taught for seven years in the Warren City Schools, this fall Melissa was hired by Pymatuning



Valley Schools and is now their middle school art teacher. She currently lives in Cortland with her husband and three kids (7-year-old son and 4-year-old twins [boy and girl]).

NEOEA is looking for art teachers K-12 to submit student art work for display at the office. The work does not need to be matted or have any special mounting to it. Any two dimensional piece, from water colors to photography, is welcome. Now is the time to spotlight your local student's art

work. Your local will also be recognized in our News and Views. Please contact Kim Richards at [Kim.Richards@CardinalSchools.org](mailto:Kim.Richards@CardinalSchools.org) for further information on how to spotlight your student's art work.





## Delegates Honor Nineteen Locals for Communications Contest

At the fall Representative Assembly at Highland High School, delegates honored winners of the Communications Contest for 2013-14. The annual Communications Contest is a project of NEOEA's Public Relations Committee.

As the Outstanding Communication for 2013-14, delegates recognized *The Tigers' Roar*, prepared by Howland Classroom TA member **Jane Price**, and presented the local with a \$100 check.

**Two locals received \$50 for their Awards for Excellence:**

Willoughby-Eastlake TA: *WETA NEWS* – **Tom Moscovic**

Field Local TA: *In Talk* – **Jason Scherer**

**Eight Honorable Mentions received certificates:**

Brunswick ESP Assn.: *Brunswick ESP Association Newsletter* – **Diana Kornokovich**

East Cleveland EA: *Communiqué* – **Mary Alice Conkey**

Lorain County JVS TA: LCJVS Teachers Association Newsletter – **Dawn Balog**

Mayfield EA: *MEA News and Views* – **Nicki Rucci-Macauda**

Nordonia Hills EA: *NHEA Today* – **Nate Loman**

Trumbull CTC EA: mobile app – **Brian Fouty**

Twinsburg EA: *Update* – **Nora Suder-Riley**

Warren EA: *WEA News* – **Stephanie Porterfield**



## Locals Recognized for Political Action

At the fall Representative Assembly at Highland High School, delegates honored winners of the Political Action Awards for 2013-14. Presented by NEOEA's Legislative Committee, these annual awards recognize locals that have gone "above and beyond" in support for the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). Winners received plaques acknowledging their accomplishment.

- The award for Highest Total Contributions went to the Lakewood Teachers' Association, whose members donated a total of \$9,615.00.
- The award for Highest Average Contribution per Member went to the Clearview Education Association, whose members donated an average of \$45.38.
- With a 88.2% participation rate, the Clearview Education Association also took the award for Highest Percentage of Member Donors.



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## Representative Assembly Honors Leading Locals

In 2001, NEOEA's Public Relations Committee and Executive Committee created the "Five Star Local Award" to recognize local affiliates that set an example of engagement with the Association at large.

In order to win the award, local affiliates participated in a variety of activities offered by NEOEA and the Ohio Education Association. Those activities involved:

- professional and leadership training for local members;
- accessing resources provided to the local affiliate by the larger organization;
- meeting with colleagues in neighboring associations;
- involving members in the Association's legislative program; and
- representing their members at Representative Assemblies.

Five Star Locals receive a plaque honoring their accomplishment, and collective plaques honoring each year's winners are kept on permanent display at the NEOEA Conference Center.

Of NEOEA's 193 locals, 101 have received the designation award at least once, and five locals have qualified all twelve times.

Each year's Five Star Locals are honored by the Representative Assembly in the following fall; on November 8, the RA honored the 46 locals who earned this recognition for 2013-14; they constitute almost one-fourth of NEOEA's local affiliates.

Following are the newest winners. (\* Local received the award for the first time; # Local earned all of the six stars available.)



ACCESS  
Barberton EA  
Bay TA #  
Bedford EA  
Brecksville-Broadview EA  
Brunswick EA  
Brunswick ESP Assn.  
Campbell EA  
Cardinal EA  
Champion EA #  
Clearview EA #  
Columbia Local EA #

Cuyahoga Falls EA #  
Cuyahoga Heights Assn. of  
Teachers  
East Cleveland EA #  
Elyria EA #  
Euclid TA  
Fairport Harbor EA \*  
Field Local TA #  
Garfield Heights TA  
Howland Classroom TA  
Independence EA  
Kenston EA

Keystone Local EA \*  
Lakeview TA #  
Lakewood TA  
LEADD #  
Lorain County JVS TA  
Maple Heights TA #  
Mayfield EA  
Mentor Classified Employees #  
Mentor TA  
Nardon Hills Educators'  
Assn.  
North Ridgeville EA

Olmsted Falls EA  
Painesville City TA  
Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA #  
Southeast Local District TA  
Streetsboro EA  
Strongsville EA  
Twinsburg EA #  
Vermilion TA #  
Warren EA #  
Wellington Support Staff Assn.  
Westlake TA #  
Willoughby-Eastlake TA #

