# Resolution Association News & Views Resolution Service Control Contr

5422 East 96th Street, Suite 200 • Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330 • Phone: 216/518-0200 800/354-6794 • Fax: 216/518-0202 E-mail: desk@neoea.org • Internet: www.neoea.org

### President's Message

### Oh! The Places NEOEA Can Go!



Mary Alice Conkey NEOEA President

Welcome back fellow colleagues, Today is the day! We are making a pact. And we're well on our way!

We have brains in our head,

And our feet in new shoes,

We can steer ourselves in any direction we choose.

We are not on our own, And we know what we know,

We are the ones who'll decide just where we can go!

Check out the newsletter – *News and Views* – visit our website, too.

Our Association offers a variety of workshops designed just for you.

Join an NEÓEA committee; there's work to be done.

In the fall, we have the Ohio voters to sway, Grab one or two of your colleagues and show them the way.

NEOEA Day scheduled in October is, of course, our first big event.

Many, many options to choose from for your day of professional development.

There are the Representative Assemblies with a plethora of information to share,

Everything's necessary, there's no time to spare.

UniServ Councils are planned and scheduled for you to attend,

There are legislative events already on the calendar – members you should send. Some will come willingly and ready to learn, Others just need our encouragement and their respect we will earn.

### Save the Dates

### September 2012 through July 2013

### OCTOBER -

Friday, October 12, 2012
NEOEA Day
Friday, October 12, 2012
Presidents Plus Two Negotiations
Conference

Saturday, October 27, 2012 Environmental Concerns Fall Color Hike

### **NOVEMBER** -

Saturday, November 10, 2012
Presidents Plus Two Negotiations
Conference

Saturday, November 17, 2012 NEOEA Representative Assembly, Elyria High School

### **DECEMBER** -

Saturday, December 1, 2012
OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus

### FEBRUARY -

Saturday, February 23, 2013 Megaconference

### APRIL

Monday, April 8, 2013
Legislative Dinner
Saturday, April 13, 2013
Environmental Concerns Green Tour
Saturday, April 20, 2013
NEOEA Representative Assembly,
Warrensville Heights High School
Thursday, April 25, 2013
Regional Leadership Summit

### MAY

Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, 2013 OEA Representative Assembly Saturday, May 18, 2013 All Committee Conference

### JUNE -

Saturday, June 1, 2013
Ohio NEA delegate briefing, Columbus
Friday, June 14, 2013
Emerging Leaders Cookout

### JULY

Tuesday-Sunday, July 2-7, 2013 NEA Representative Assembly, Atlanta Wednesday-Thursday, July 24-25, 2013 NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference

These dates were accurate as of press time. For the most up-to-date information on the NEOEA calendar, go to our website, **www.neoea.org**, click on the "Private Access Log In," and go to the Presidents' Page.

Expect many things to happen, as the year goes along.

We will meet at the negotiations workshops and Megaconference to help keep us strong. We are a team, no matter the title or local assigned; it always pays to remember,

Not one of us is stronger than all of us together.

Oh! The places NEOEA can go! We are well on our way. We are headed for success; It is truly a new day.

NEOEA – we will make it!

We have the best combination of alphabet stew –

ESPs, LRCs, higher ed, educators, and, yes, the DDs,

All make for a very hard-working crew.

Today is our day! Let's make it a sure bet. This is our year – the best of them yet.

Looking forward to a fabulous year, NEOEA! In solidarity,

Mary Alice

# Member Resource Issue (Retain for future use.)

Later issues of *News and Views* will contain more "news and views"—but this issue contains important information about your career which you may need throughout the year. It's your one-stop guide to information about NEOEA's activities and services. We recommend that you file this issue in your professional folder for reference throughout the year.



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Ohio Education Association
and National Education Association

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David Saywell, Past President

Kim Richards, President-elect

Brian McConnell, Recording Secretary

William S. Lavezzi, Executive Director

Linda Grunden, Executive Assistant and Editor

Address all correspondence to the NEOEA Office, 5422 East 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, OH 44125-5330. Views are not necessarily those of NEOEA, the editor, or the officers and Board of Directors.

Address email for *News and Views* to editor@neoea.org.

# Frequently Requested Contacts

National Education Association www.nea.org, 202/833-4000

NEA Member Benefits www.neamb.com, 800/637-4636

Ohio Board of Regents www.regents.ohio.gov, 614/466-6000

# Ohio Department of Education www.ode.state.oh.us

for general information: 877/644-6338 for educator licensure: 614/466-3593 for pupil transportation: 614/644-4230

Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities www.dodd.ohio.gov, 800/617-6733

Ohio Education Association
Main office, Columbus

www.ohea.org, 800/282-1500

Ohio Education Association
OEA regional office: Kevin Flanagan, Assistant
Executive Director/Member Services – Field
800/654-4034

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System www.opers.org, 800/222-7377

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio www.ohsers.org, 866/280-7377

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio www.strsoh.org, 888/227-7877

### **NEOEA Day 2012**

NEOEA Day is on Friday, October 12. This year, most members will receive the NEOEA Day catalog along with this Resource Issue. Every year, some programs fill early; most programs continue to register participants until late in September, and a few continue to accept registrations close to NEOEA Day itself.

Most local contracts stipulate the status of NEOEA Day in the employer's calendar. Local planners should know that NEOEA Day will take place on Friday, October 18, in 2013 and on Friday, October 17, in 2014. Barring changes in state law, the 2012 date should avoid any conflicts with the "October Count." Later this year, NEOEA's Board of Directors will determine the date of NEOEA Day in 2015.

Áll official NEOEA Day professional development workshops provide certificates of participation for presentation to Local Professional Development Committees. Members are advised to check with their LPDCs to determine the suitability of particular workshops for their Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs).

### NEOEA Day Tour Still Scheduling

Travel isn't just fun—it's educational, too. For years, NEOEA has featured a tour as part of its NEOEA Day program. Because the tour fills early, we publish information about each year's NEOEA Day tour in spring issues of *News and Views*, but even now they may have space—if you act now. For information about 20th Century Tours' trip to New York City, call Dave Baker at 330/799-3853. You can view the original flyer for this trip online at the following address: www.neoea.org/ NYC2012.pdf.

### Have You Seen Us Online?

Most items contained in *News and Views* are available online at **www.neoea.org**. You can send links to this content to your most interested local members, or you can print more copies as you need them. We also provide links to other websites for member benefits such as the Attorney Referral Program, Best Benefits Club, Liberty Mutual, and NEA Member Benefits at **www.neoea.org/MemberBenefits.aspx**.

Please check out our Presidents' Page online, located at www.neoea.org/Private/PresidentsPage.asp. (Or just go to NEOEA's home page at www.neoea.org and click on "Private Access Log In.") This location requires site registration, which is simple and free. It does require providing email contact information, which NEOEA does not provide with third parties. Even though it's called the "Presidents' Page," it's open to all members. Although NEOEA's blog is presently focused

Although NEŌEA's blog is presently focused primarily on the NEA Annual Meeting, that doesn't mean it's for delegates only. During the Annual Meeting, Executive Director Bill Lavezzi writes reports called "Notes from Camp," and plenty of members who don't go to the RA have found it to be an interesting way to keep up with what's happening. You can check out the results from this summer! The new location of NEOEA's blog is **NEOEA.WordPress.com**.

Executive Assistant Linda Grunden has been working recently to move our online photo scrapbooks onto Facebook, which claims to be "your life, online" and is also the world's largest photo-sharing site. NEOEA's Facebook page is open to the public, so you can check it out even if you aren't yet a Facebook member: the address is **facebook.com/NEOEA**. While you're there, if you're a Facebook member, be sure to "Like" us!

### Enhance Your Buying Power with Best Benefits Club

NEOEA's group buying power makes discounts possible for our members through Best Benefits Club (BBC). As an NEOEA member, you already belong to Best Benefits Club; you do not take any additional steps or pay any dues to take advantage of BBC membership benefits.

How will I learn about BBC discounts?

Best Benefits Club does not contact individual members directly; it contacts them through their organizations. You can learn about BBC deals in several ways:

• You'll hear about some BBC deals

- You'll hear about some BBC deals through News and Views.
- Some other BBC offers will be included in our mailings to your local association president.
- The best way to learn about BBC offers is through the Best Benefits Club website, www.bbcmember.com. The BBC website contains all of the BBC deals, BBC activities, and the most up-to-date information on them.

How do I access Best Benefits Club discounts?
Best Benefits Club discounts are accessed by visiting the bbcmember.com website where you will learn if you need to print off a coupon, present your proof of membership directly to the vendors at the point of sale, or purchase through the shopping cart. On the website, use the password NEOEA0613. For

answers to BBC questions, you can call BBC at 330/273-5756.

Best Benefits Club advantages:

- Best Benefits Club covers a wider area within NEOEA, and many discounts are available while you're vacationing away from northeastern Ohio.
- Best Benefits Club has an on-line shopping cart that you can use to purchase amusement park tickets, HoneyBaked Ham gift certificates, etc.
- Best Benefits Club offers pickup service at their offices just off I-71 in Hinckley, Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 4:00.
- Best Benefits Club offers downloadable coupons, vouchers, tickets, and discount flyers on their website.
- Best Benefits Club offers activities throughout the year such as special days at PlayhouseSquare, Swings-N-Things, Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, and more, where the discount or added value is even greater than their usual benefit.
- NEOEA members can sign up on the BBC website to receive BBC's weekly Enews and the new Benny's Deal of the Week which comes every Thursday into your inbox to keep you informed of new discounts and activities.

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### **Serving Members**

### **NEOEA Grants and Awards**

### Community Involvement Grant

NEOEA is offering Community Involvement Grants in 2012-13 to encourage local affiliates to become actively involved in a local charitable event such as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Reach Out and Read, Special Olympics, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, or other highly-visible community charitable event.

The Five-Star Award recognizes high-functioning local associations, as evidenced by their having achieved at least five of a set of six criteria established by the Board of Directors. Winners are announced at the fall Representative Assembly.

At the fall Representative Assembly, NEOEA recognizes outstanding local newsletters from different sizes and types of local associations.

### Political Action Awards

At the fall Representative Assembly, NEOEA recognizes local associations that have led the way in donations to the Fund for Children and Public Education.

### Positive Image Awards

At the spring Representative Assembly, NEOEA recognizes programs and activities of local associations and individual members whose work receives positive media attention.

### **Public Relations Mini-Grants**

Each year, NEOEA awards \$250 grants to local associations for projects that promote your association's image within the community.

### OEA Regional Staff

Within the counties that make up NEOEA, the Ohio Education Association maintains six field offices. The field offices are staffed by OEA's Labor Relations Consultants (LRCs), a Communication and Political Action Consultant (ComPAC) (Gary Carlile in the Boardman office), the Region 3 Director (Kevin Flanagan in the Hudson office), and administrative staff. Local affiliates serviced by each LRC constitute a service council which meets regularly with the LRC; following is a listing of LRCs and their service councils.

### **BOARDMAN OFFICE**

330/726-3250 800/637-1659

Helen Matusick, Mahoning Valley

Vic Marchese, Mahoning-Trumbull

Portage 2 Alf Nelson, Western Reserve Lynn Bartlo, Donna Lester, and Peggy Smith, Admin-istrative Secretaries

Linda May, Trumbull-Portage 1 Herman Pipe, Trumbull-

### **HUDSON OFFICE**

330/650-9200 800/654-4034

Dan Day, Summit-Portage A Beth Chandler-Marks, Summit-Portage B

Mark Costantino, Summit Portage C

Lynne Rumsey, Chagrin River

Anne Thomas, Summit-Portage D Arlene Doubledee, Admin-

istrative Assistant Linda Martin and Daphne Midcap, Administrative Secretaries

### **MAYFIELD HEIGHTS OFFICE**

440/442-2922 800/330-2677

Kathleen O'Connell-Burton, Cuyahoga Highlands Lynnette Howell, Unit 6 Lori Navin, Administrative Secretary

### **MENTOR OFFICE**

440/639-1300 800/686-4228 Todd Jaeck, North Coast A Kim Lane, North Coast B Chlo Leidy, North Coast C Eric Urban, Northeast

### Mentor (con't)

Arlene Burnside and Kim Ziegler, Administrative Secretaries

### MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS **OFFICE**

440/243-6030 866/871-4567

Tad Colbeck, Emerald Coast Gary Kovach, Medina County

L. Ernest Blanden, South-

Sheila Saad, West Cuyahoga Regional

### Middleburg Heights (con't)

Maisha Lloyd and DeAnn Satterleé, Administrative Secretaries

### **VERMILION OFFICE**

Secretary

440/967-0168 800/527-2258 Airica Clay, Firelands B Mick Bates, Lorain County Miriam Rosa, Administrative

Not sure which is yours? A listing of local affiliates, LRCs, and service councils appears in the Resource Issue of OEA's journal, Ohio Schools.

### **Protect Your Voting Rights**

By Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

Most of us believe strongly in the importance of each vote; and as educators, many of us work hard to impress on our students the importance of participating in our democracy by registering and voting. We need to practice what we preach by making sure that we're registered to vote.

Voting officials have made a point this year of "purging" inactive voters from the voting rolls. If you have moved or changed your name, or if it's been a while since you voted, there's an excellent chance that you need to register in order to vote in this fall's election. If you know anyone who turns 18 before November 6, he or she can register now and be eligible to vote on Election Day. Mail registration requires that you provide your driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

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Registrations are open until 30 days before Election Day: this year, mailed registrations must be postmarked by Sunday, October 7.

You can download the Ohio Voter Information Guide at sos.state.oh.us/SOS/upload/ publications/election/vig\_2012.pdf, and you get a voter registration form at sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/Voters/ register.aspx.

### Elections Boards in Northeastern Ohio

Ashtabula: 440/576-6915,

www.electionsonthe.net/oh/Ashtabula/

Cuyahoga: 216/443-3200, http:// boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Erie: 419/627-7601

www.electionsonthe.net/oh/erie/

Geauga: 440/285-2222, ext. 2030, http://www .co.geauga.oh.us/Departments/BOE/Main.aspx

Lake: 440/350-2700 or 440/918-2700,

www.lakeelections.com/ Lorain: 440/326-5900 or 5901.

www.loraincountyelections.com Mahoning: 330/783-2474, http://

www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/ Departments/Agencies/Departments/ BoardofElections/tabid/740/Default.aspx

Medina: 330/722-9278, http:// www.boe.co.medina.oh.us/

Portage: 330/297-3511,

www.co.portage.oh.us/election/index.html

Summit: 330/643-5200, www.summitcountyboe.com/

Trumbull: 330/369-4050,

www.electionohio.com/trumbull/

All of the web addresses contained here were current as of August 2012, but web addresses change frequently. If you find a correction, please let NEOEA know.

# **NEOEA Offers Levy Endorsement**

NEOEA policy permits the Board of Direchelping to pass a local bond issue or levy, be tors to endorse local levies when requested to sure that your local association president do so by the president of a local affiliate. sends a request for the NEOEA endorsement. If your local association is involved in Requests should go to desk@neoea.org. In

order for the Board of Directors to approve endorsements at its October meeting, we must receive your endorsement request by Friday, September 28.

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### Governing the Association

### **NEOEA Governance and Staff Directory**

The Representative Assembly is the main governing body of the Association; NEOEA's RA meets twice a year. Between assemblies, the 37-member Board of Directors listed below governs the Association. See the website (www.neoea.org) for a listing of NEOEA electoral units.

### Officers

President: Mary Alice Conkey (East Cleveland EA) ConkeyMA@neoea.org

President-elect: Kim Richards (Cardinal EA) RichardsK@ohea.org

Past President: David Saywell (Euclid TA) SaywellD@neoea.org

Recording Secretary: Brian McConnell (Warrensville EA) McConnellB@neoea.org

### **NEOEA Unit Representatives and Representatives-at-Large**

Unit 1: Meisha D. Baker (Lorain EA) BakerM@neoea.org Unit 2: Amy L. Butcher (Westlake TA) NEOEA02@gmail.com Unit 3: Irene Spraggins (East Cleveland EA) Spragginsl@neoea.org
Unit 4: Teri Mackey (Wadsworth EA) MackeyT@neoea.org Unit 5: Mary O'Toole (Kenston EA) OtooleM@neoea.org

Unit 8:

Unit 9: Karen Wright (Wellington Support Staff) NEOEA09@gmail.com
Unit 10: Joe McCrone (ACCESS) McCroneJ@neoea.org

Melanie Hameed (Warren EA) HameedM@neoea.org

Unit 11: Sarah Carver (Mentor Classified Employees) CarverS@neoea.org

Unit 7: Deb Lipnos (Twinsburg EA) NEOEA07@gmail.com

Unit 6: Tom Moscovic (Willoughby-Eastlake TA) Moscovic T@neoea.org

Education Support Professionals Representative-at-large: Karen Wright (Wellington Support Staff) WrightK@neoea.org Higher Education Representative-at-large: Dr. Annette M. Burden (YŠU-OEA) Burden @neoea.org Minority Representative-at-large: Verlene DeWitt (Westlake TA) DeWittV@neoea.org Retired Representative-at-large: Beryl Burkle (Bedford EA-retired) NERetRep@gmail.com Student Observer: Bradley Dalzell (Kent State SEA) NEStdtRep@gmail.com

### OEA/NEOEA Unit Representatives and Representatives-at-Large

Unit 1: Joel Gleason (Clearview EA) GleasonJ@ohea.org Unit 2: Jeff Wensing (Parma EA) WensingJ@ohea.org

Unit 3: Kecia Sanders-Stewart (East Cleveland EA) SandersK@ohea.org Unit 4: Jeff Rhodes (North Royalton EA) RhodesJ@ohea.org

Unit 5: Kim Richards (Cardinal EA) RichardsK@ohea.org

Unit 6: Patrick J. Snee (Mentor TA) SneeP@ohea.org Unit 7: Becky Miller (Tallmadge TA) MillerR@ohea.org

Unit 8: Jeff Pegg (Warren EA) Peggl@ohea.org
Unit 9: Barb Armour (Brunswick Support Staff) ArmourB@ohea.org
Unit 10: Patricia Cohen (PATMR) CohenP@ohea.org

Unit 11: Martha Miller (Ashtabula ACSE) MillerM@ohea.org

Support Professionals Representative-at-large: Barb Catalano (Mayfield EA), CatalanoB@ohea.org Higher Education Representative: Ivan Maldonado (YSU-ACE) Maldonadol@ohea.org

NEA Directors from northeastern Ohio: Dale Kain (#3) (Mayfield EA) KainD@ohea.org, André Taylor (#5) (Twinsburg EA) TaylorA@ohea.org, and Jim McClure (ESP) (Mentor Classified Employees) McClureJ@ohea.org

OEA Director-at-large: Lillian Tolbert (East Cleveland EA) TolbertL@ohea.org OEA officer from northeastern Ohio: Patricia Frost-Brooks (OEA President) frostbro@ohea.org OEA Student Observer: Molly Rogers (YSU Student EA) RogersM@ohea.org

### NEOEA Staff

Executive Director: William S. Lavezzi, 216/518-0200, lavezzi@neoea.org Executive Assistant and Editor: Linda Grunden, 216/518-0200, grunden@neoea.org

### Your Local and Electoral Unit

Who represents your local? The answer depends on your electoral unit. OEA's members are apportioned among electoral units of about 3,000 members each, plus members of the Higher Education division. Local delegates elect district and state unit representatives at meetings of the district Representative Assembly. Members directly elect at-large unit delegates to the state and national RAs using ballots sent to local presidents in the fall and spring. Find out which unit your local is in at www.neoea.org/units.pdf.

# Governing Your Association: The Role of the Representative Assembly

The National Education Association and its affiliates share a strong democratic tradition. At the national, state, and district levels, Representative Assemblies exemplify this characteristic. Representative Assemblies elect Association officers, control the level of dues, adopt policy statements, set legislative priorities, and approve budgets.

These governing bodies consist primarily of locally-elected delegates apportioned according to the size of each local. At NEOEA's Representative Assemblies, each local can certify at least two delegates. NEOEA and OEA send delegate certification packets in August; delegates for those RAs must be elected by October 10 and certified to NEOEA and OEA by October 15. If your

local association doesn't send delegates to the Representative Assembly, then you're forfeiting the rights you have as a member of a democratic organization.

The single most important thing you can do as a member to make sure that the Association is representing your interests is to make sure that you are being represented at the Representative Assemblies by local delegates. Consider becoming a local delegate! Ask your local president for more information, or call the NEOEA office for assistance.

A concrete example of Association governance at work is the NEOEA budget. NEOEA Bylaws set the rates of NEOEA dues: this year's full-time teacher dues amount is \$29.00. The NEOEA budget divides expenditures into five

categories: the amount of the overall dues going to each category is as follows:

- Association Affiliation (maintaining relationships with NEA, OEA, and local affiliates): \$1.98;
- Communication (News and Views and neoea.org): \$6.17;
- Governance (Representative Assemblies, Board of Directors, and officers): \$4.25;
- Member Education (workshops at NEOEA Day, collective bargaining conferences, Megaconference, Summer Leadership, etc.): \$4.33;
- Operations (maintaining the Conference Center and providing staff): \$12.27.

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