

News & Views

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In February, we sponsored four simultaneous legislative receptions in four areas of northeastern Ohio. In Lakewood, Bay TA's Eileen Meehan met with State Representative Stephanie Howse (D-11). More views on page 7.



A new session at our March Megaconference offered a look at how we can influence local boards of education. Mark Curtis (Twinsburg) and Pat Czech (Sheffield-Sheffield Lake) were among the panelists. See more from Megaconference on page 11.



Beth Drinan of Bay TA was one of the recipients of an NEOEA Mini-Grant for 2016. You can see the winners and more of their ideas on page 8.

President's Message:

Celebrate!

President Jeff Wensing suggests, "Let's not get bogged down by the current political landscape of our profession," and he offers some remedies. 2

District News:

Representative Assembly Delegates Hold Meeting

This year's spring RA was earlier than most. Delegates met in March to elect officials, endorse candidates for OEA statewide offices, take positions on current issues, and hear reports. 3

Spring RA — Were You Represented?

Our semiannual roundup lists the locals who attended the spring RA, and offers some photos of the action. 4

So Long, Thanks, and Farewell

After a year of transition, NEOEA prepares for the departure of Bill Lavezzi, Executive Director 2000-16. And we acknowledge the contributions of six members of NEOEA's Board of Directors who are moving on at the end of August. 5

Baseball, Fireworks, and Farewell

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Calling All Golfers

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NEOE Day Planning Underway

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Politics and Such:

Meeting with Legislators at Home and in Columbus

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We have discounts now on dental work, energy, and wine; and in the fall, special deals on theatre and travel. 10

Workshops and Conferences:

Summer Leadership Conference

NEOE's Summer Leadership Conference returns to Aurora's Bertram Inn in July. We'll welcome a rising NEA leader from Illinois and provide 26 sessions for new and experienced leaders. 12

President's Message

Celebrate!

By Jeff Wensing, NEOEA President



When public education is being discussed these days, some of the terms that seem to go along with it are over-testing, state funding, externships, privatization, DeVos, right to work, and fair share

fee. It's true these are some of the challenges that lie ahead for public education. It's also true that a large number of our members will need to be engaged as well as active in order to successfully resolve our challenges.

"Let's not get bogged down by the current political landscape of our profession."

However, let's not get bogged down by the current political landscape of our profession. These are not the issues that inspired us to become educators. Individuals become educators because we want to make a difference in students' lives. Educators want to inspire the next generation so that they may positively influence the future of our country. Cafeteria workers, bus drivers, teachers, and custodians mentor kids every day so

that they may become better students, citizens, and eventually productive members of society that know the difference between right and wrong. Now is the time to celebrate what we do well.

Celebrate NEOEA for their long history of offering quality professional development. On Saturday, March 4, over 300 educators attended Mega-conference held at Corporate College East. NEOEA members attended three 45-minute breakout sessions from a list of 36 options. The large number of participants year after year indicates that the sessions contain valuable information which is presented by skilled and knowledgeable professionals. It's an enjoyable day of learning as well as an opportunity to network with colleagues.

For members interested in getting more involved, the Emerging Leaders Cookout will be held at the NEOEA office in Garfield Heights on June 9. Quality professional development continues with NEOEA's Summer Leadership Conference on July 26 and July 27, as highlighted in this issue of *News and Views*. And of course, mark your calendar for NEOEA Day on October 13, which is an entire day dedicated to professional development across northeastern Ohio.

Celebrate NEOEA's participation in OEA Lobby Day which took place on March 28. Thirty-three NEOEA members met with legislators in Columbus to advocate for our students and our profession. Some of the topics discussed with representatives from both political

parties included improving the pathways to graduation, reducing the amount of state testing allowable under ESSA, and NOT expanding the current school voucher system.

Celebrate your own local's accomplishments. Some locals have replaced ineffective board members by supporting pro-public education candidates in their school board races. Other locals conducted FCPE drives that successfully increased participation. In addition, there are locals that do a great job of helping students that need school supplies and clothing, providing scholarships to graduating seniors, and donating meals to struggling families regardless of the time of year.

Celebrate the way you perform your job and represent your profession. Most **students couldn't name their** superintendent or a single person on the Board of Education, but they know who you are. You greet them as they get on the bus, you talk to them in the hallways, you feed them in the cafeteria, you teach them in your classrooms, and we keep our students safe every step along the way. Educators, be proud of the job you do. You are public education.

Lastly, celebrate that another successful school year is coming to a close. Over the summer months, enjoy the time with your family and friends. On behalf of the NEOEA officers, thank you for all you do as a professional educator in North Eastern Ohio.

United We Stand,

Jeff

Calendar

Friday-Saturday, May 12-13
OEA Representative Assembly

Friday, June 9

Emerging Leaders Cookout

Friday-Wednesday, June 30-July 5
NEA Representative Assembly
Boston, MA

Friday, July 21
Baseball, Fireworks, and Farewell

Wednesday-Thursday, July 26-27
NEOEa Summer Leadership, The Bertram Inn

Friday, October 13
NEOEa Day

Saturday, November 11
NEOEa Representative Assembly

For the most up-to-date information on the NEOEA calendar, go to our website neoea.org, and under "Resources," click on the Presidents' Page. You will be asked to create a log-in/password.

Web Resources

Check out these resources and much more at NEOEA's website:
www.neoea.org

- Baseball, Fireworks, and Farewell—NEOEa Night at the Lake Co. Captains
- Committee Volunteer form
- Emerging Leaders Cookout
- NEOEA Summer Leadership

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

Jeff Wensing, President
Kim Richards, Past President
Brian McConnell, President-elect
Lillian Tolbert, Recording Secretary
Mary Alice Conkey, Executive Director
William S. Lavezzi, Assistant Executive Director
Linda Grunden, Executive Assistant and Editor

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Address e-mail for *News & Views* to editor@neoea.org

Summary: NEOEA Representative Assembly March 25, 2017—Nordonia High School

NEOEA's Representative Assembly held its spring meeting at Nordonia High School on Saturday, March 25. The RA considered new business items, recognized award recipients, and elected Association officers from northeastern Ohio. In preparation for the May 12-13 session of the OEA Representative Assembly, delegates endorsed candidates for several statewide OEA offices and took positions on issues to be considered there. NEOEA President Jeff Wensing, a mathematics teacher at Parma Senior High School, presided.

Nordonia Hills Educators' Association President Nate Loman greeted delegates on behalf of the Nordonia teaching staff. Nordonia Superintendent Joe Clark welcomed delegates and expressed the **community's pride in its school system** and its staff.

Delegates re-elected Lillian Tolbert, a fifth-grade teacher at Mayfair Elementary **School in East Cleveland**, as NEOEA's Recording Secretary for 2017-20.

Delegates from several of NEOEA's electoral units elected Unit Representatives. Delegates re-elected Barbara Martini (Champion EA) and Jason Scherer (Field Local TA) as NEOEA Directors from Units 5 and 8. Delegates re-elected Barbara Armour (Brunswick

ESP Assn.) as OEA Director from Unit 9, and elected new Directors Diana Beebe (Mayfield EA), Rob McFee (Willoughby-Eastlake TA), and Tammy LaPlante (Ashtabula Area ACSE) as OEA Directors from Units 3, 6, and 10. (OEA Directors from northeastern Ohio serve on both the OEA and NEOEA Boards of Directors.)

During a fund-raiser conducted during the Legislative Committee report, the 209 delegates attending donated \$3,940; since these fund-raisers began in 2005, delegates to NEOEA Representative Assemblies have donated \$107,805 to OEA's Fund for Children and Public Education.

Delegates endorsed candidates for statewide positions to be elected by the OEA Representative Assembly on May 12:

- Emily Osterling (Lakota TA, Butler County, SWOEA) for Ohio NEA Director #1;
- Sophia Rodriguez (Coldwater TO, WOE) for Ohio NEA Director #2;
- Tamika Moss (Canton Professional EA, ECOEA) for Ohio Director-at-large;
- Mary Hargreaves (Educators of Montgomery County, WOE) for OEA ESP Director-at-large.

Delegates passed a New Business

Items expressing delegates' appreciation to their hosts:

*The delegates, Board of Directors, and officers of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association hereby express their appreciation to the **Nordonia Hills Educators' Association** and the Nordonia Hills City Schools for their hospitality in hosting the spring 2017 NEOEA Representative Assembly.*

The motion was submitted by Jeff Pegg and Melanie Hameed of the Warren EA; Harding High School in Warren will be the site of the fall Representative Assembly.

Northeastern Ohio delegates to the Ohio Representative Assembly met in caucus to consider positions to be taken on issues before the OEA RA when it meets on May 12-13. The caucus voted to recommend the adoption of the proposed OEA Resolutions and the proposed OEA Constitution and Bylaws changes.

Delegates received reports from OEA President Becky Higgins, OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro, and OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers.

The Representative Assembly for 2017-18 will meet on November 11, 2017, and April 21, 2018.



Spring RA 2017 Photos



Were You Represented? Report on Spring RA Attendance

NEOEa's governing body is its Representative Assembly, consisting of delegates elected by NEOEA's local affiliates. This year, 102 of NEOEA's 191 local affiliates certified RA delegates; 209 delegates attended the March 25 meeting at Nardon High School.

ACCESS	Cuyahoga Heights Assn. of Teachers	Mentor Classified Employees	Struthers EA
Amherst TA	East Cleveland EA	Mentor TA	Tallmadge TA
Ashtabula ACSE	Elyria EA	Newton Falls ACE	Trumbull CTC EA
Ashtabula Area TA	Euclid TA	Nardon Hills Educ. Assn.	Twinsburg EA
Aurora EA	Field Local TA	North Ridgeville EA	Vermilion TA
Barberton EA	Garfield EA	North Royalton EA	Wadsworth EA
Bay TA	Garfield Heights TA	Norton Classroom TA	Wadsworth SSA
Bedford EA	Girard EA	Olmsted Falls EA	Warren EA
Brecksville-Broadview EA	Howland Classroom TA	Orange TA	Warrensville EA
Brunswick EA	Independence EA	Painesville City TA	Waterloo EA
Brunswick ESP Assn.	Kenston EA	Parma EA	Weaver Workshop and Support Assn.
Campbell EA	Lakewood TA	Revere EA	Wellington Support Staff Assn.
Cardinal EA	Lorain EA	Richmond Heights EA	Westlake TA
Champion EA	Maple Heights TA	Riverside Local EA	Willoughby-Eastlake
Chardon EA	Maple Org. Support Team	Rootstown TA	Classified Professionals
Clearview EA	Mathews EA	Sandusky EA	Willoughby-Eastlake TA
Columbia Local EA	Mayfield Assn. of Support Personnel (MASP)	Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA	Youngstown EA
Copley TA	Mayfield EA	Southeast Local District TA	YSU-ACE
Coventry EA	Medina City TA	Stow TA	YSU-OEA
Crestwood EA		Streetsboro EA	
Cuyahoga Falls EA		Strongsville EA	

The Representative Assembly also includes unit delegates elected at-large, retired delegates elected statewide, past NEOEA presidents, and student delegates: 14 retired delegates, 10 past presidents, and 1 student attended the spring meeting as delegates as well as 33 visitors for a total of 242 in attendance.

Representation at RAs is proportional to local affiliate size, but each local is entitled to at least two delegates. NEOEA leaders believe that one of the most critical needs for an involved local is the attendance of a least one delegate at each RA. A full report on RA attendance can be found online at neoea.org. Delegate certification materials will be sent to local presidents in August; the 2017-18 Representative Assembly will meet on Saturday, November 11, 2017, and Saturday, April 21, 2018.

So Long, Thanks, and Farewell

by Mary Alice Conkey, NEOEA Executive Director, and Linda Grunden, NEOEA Executive Assistant

This summer marks the end of a long and memorable career for Bill Lavezzi as the Executive Director of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association.

Bill began his education career teaching English and theatre at Warrensville Heights High School. He finished his teaching career at Aurora High School and Harmon Middle School in Aurora, teaching English, theatre, and psychology. During his employment as a teacher, Bill served as president of the Warrensville, Aurora, and North Eastern Ohio Education Associations and on the Ohio Education Association Board of Directors.

In 2000, Bill became Executive Director of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association, where he coordinated NEOEA Day and the rest of **NEOEA's program of professional development** for educators.

Bill and his wife Lynn will celebrate their 46th anniversary in September. Their three children graduated from Bedford High School and Ohio colleges. Their oldest daughter, Heather Gansler, is a Bedford EA member and the chairperson of NEOEA's Elections Committee.

If we were to list all the comments from everyone who wanted to share **their thoughts on Bill's presence in their lives**, it would fill an entire issue of *News*

and Views. So, we've limited it to just **NEOEA's current officers who work with him every day**.

NEOEA President Jeff Wensing affirms, **"Bill has the ability to remove his personal beliefs from almost any issue confronting NEOEA. Bill emphasizes that by following NEOEA Policy, trusting the process, and believing in your elected leadership is the way that fair and equitable decisions are made."**

As an NEA Director and current Past President of NEOEA, Kim Richards states, **"Bill was always so helpful to me in my role as President, and I was honored to work with him. I always said he was the smartest man in the room."** She joins with others who will miss the historical perspective and wisdom Bill brought to each committee and directors meeting.



Brian McConnell, who first began working with Bill as our Recording Secretary, shared that his fondest memories of Bill are riding to other **district's representative assemblies**. He noted that Bill loves to take the back roads and scenic routes to get to and from a destination. Bill also shared lots of information and fun facts about the towns they passed through. No trip

would be complete without stopping for ice cream on the way home!

Our current Recording Secretary Lillian Tolbert says that HISTORY is the first word that comes to mind when you think about Bill. He is a wealth of knowledge and is very comfortable sharing his knowledge with those **around him**. Lillian said, **"I often laugh to myself when I think about the types of questions he has the answer to, as well as the many tools he carries around in his handy, dandy backpack. It seems that whatever is needed at the time, Bill has what it takes to solve the problem ... from an extension cord, to a flashlight, to a parliamentarian question; Bill is available."**

Bill has a true passion for the work he has completed as Executive Director and has shown unwavering loyalty to our organization over the years. He has accomplished many goals and moved our association forward at each turn; no task or hurdle was too large. He is respected and admired across the state.

Thank you, Bill – thank you for being an amazing Executive Director – thank you for always encouraging each of us to be awesome leaders and members in our own locals – thank you for your unwavering dedication to NEOEA! So long, Bill!



Thanks and Best Wishes

NEOEA thanks the following members of our Board of Directors whose terms of service end this summer:

- OEA/NEOEA Unit 10 Director Diana Charters, Ashtabula ACSE
- OSEA President William Palma, Youngstown State SEA
- OEA/NEOEA Unit 6 Director Danielle Russo, Mentor TA
- NEOEA Student Representative Aubrey Ryan, Kent State SEA
- OEA/NEOEA Unit 3 Director Kecia Sanders-Stewart, East Cleveland EA
- OEA ESP Director-at-large Karen Wright, Wellington Support Staff Assn.



Baseball, Fireworks, and Farewell— NEOEA Night at the Lake County Captains

Join NEOEA members and guests for “NEOEA Night at the Captains” as we say goodbye to Bill Lavezzi, our Executive Director for the past 17 years.

He'll be going out with a “bang”—fireworks and all—as the Lake County Captains play the Kane County (Illinois) Cougars on Friday, July 21, 2017.

Tickets are \$20 (\$17 for children 4-12). This includes:

- a box seat
- admission to the Picnic Plaza

- unlimited hamburgers, hot dogs, mac and cheese, and baked beans (1-1/2 hours)
- unlimited chips, cookies, lemonade, iced tea, and ice water (1-1/2 hours)
- fireworks!
- plus lots of prizes and surprises in store!

Please send form (neoea.org/captains.pdf) and payment to the NEOEA office. Questions? Please call us at 216-518-0200 or email us at

desk@neoea.org. Form and payment must be received by Friday, July 7.



Answer the Monthly Quiz and Have Dinner on Us

Congratulations to Jennifer Kallister from Lakewood TA and Lauri Ropchock from Coventry EA, winners of the last two “Monthly Quiz” contests.

The fourth survey this year concerns

the use of technology, especially the use of personal technology.

We'll welcome all entries, but to be considered for the restaurant gift card, the winner needs to answer by Friday,

June 2. To answer, go online to <http://tinyurl.com/NEOEA201704>.

Thank you to all who have participated!

Committees Seek Members

If you have an interest in improving our profession and the welfare of our members, NEOEA has a committee for you!

NEOEA succeeds because of the talent

and dedication of almost two hundred committee volunteers. Most committees meet a few times a year; NEOEA pays expenses, including mileage, and provides meals.

The specialties of NEOEA's fourteen committees, and a form for applying, are available on the NEOEA website at neoea.org/CommitteeVolunteer.pdf.

Calling All Golfers

Two organizations that NEOEA participates in are having golf outings in June, and NEOEA would like to give members a chance to represent us. Both are four-person scrambles.

The Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce will hold its “Tee Off ‘Fore’ the Chamber” event on Wednesday,

June 21, at Grantwood Golf Course in Solon. Registration and breakfast start at 8:00, and play begins with a shotgun start at 10:00.

The United Labor Agency will hold its ULA Open on Thursday, June 22, at Pine Hills Golf Club in Hinckley. Registration and breakfast start at 9:00, and play

begins with a shotgun start at 9:30.

Winners will be drawn on Friday, June 2. Interested members should send an email to desk@neoea.org with the word “golf” in the subject line. In the message please indicate whether you're applying to play on June 21 in Solon or June 22 in Hinckley.

NEOEA Day Dates Set; 2017 Planning Begins

At their February meeting, NEOEA's Board of Directors set the date of NEOEA Day in 2019. The dates of the next three NEOEA Days are:

- October 13, 2017;
- October 12, 2018;
- October 11, 2019.

The process of planning NEOEA Day 2017 began in February, as NEOEA staff sent Requests for Proposals (RFP) to an extensive mailing list. The NEOEA Day

Committee met in April to review and approve proposals.

The committee is always looking for quality presentations to consider. Members who are, or know of, a potential program provider should encourage the provider to contact the NEOEA office by phone or email to receive an RFP and be placed on the distribution list. In addition, NEOEA Day materials are maintained online year-

round at neoea.org/neoea_day/neoea-day/, and the 2017 RFP appears there along with last year's catalog.

Each year we randomly survey NEOEA Day participants. As an incentive for them to return their survey, they get a chance to win Indians tickets. After a drawing from last fall's survey respondents, this year's lucky winner is Julie Pagnotta from Mahoning County CTC EA. Congratulations, Julie, and Go Tribe!

Local Leaders Meet with Statehouse Legislators

Local leaders and Statehouse legislators from all over northeastern



Ohio met on February 13 in simultaneous receptions held at four locations in northeastern Ohio. The event was the latest version of a familiar event that started as the NEOEA Legislative Dinner.

The annual Legislative Reception is one of NEOEA's longest-running events. Sponsored by NEOEA's Legislative Committee, this "Presidents Plus Two" event has taken many forms over the years, but its purposes have stayed the same: to educate members about the impact that legislation has on us and our work, and to provide an opportunity for local leaders to educate legislators about

our issues.

These are intended as nonpartisan affairs. For a while, invitations alternated between the two major political parties, and in more recent years invitations have gone to all state lawmakers from northeastern Ohio regardless of their party and endorsement history with OEA.

In an effort to get the interactions closer to the members and lawmakers, in legislative zones covering NEOEA's



eleven counties (an area about the size of Connecticut), we continued our format of having four simultaneous receptions—this year in Amherst,



Burton, Lakewood, and Medina. To increase the opportunity for interaction, the format remained "heavy appetizers" and with lots of interaction.

Eighteen legislators from both political parties accepted invitations this year, and the dialogue was substantive at each location.

Evaluation of this year's Legislative Receptions is underway, and next year's event is scheduled for early March. If this sounds like your cup of tea, consider volunteering for NEOEA's Legislative Committee, or let your local president know of your interest.



Legislators at the Receptions

John Boccieri, HD 59 (D)	John Patterson, HD 99 (D)
Nicholas Celebrezze, HD 15 (D)	Joseph Schiavoni, SD 33 (D)
John Eklund, SD 18 (R)	Michael Skindell, SD 23 (D)
Stephanie Howse, HD 11 (D)	Kent Smith HD 8 (D)
Frank LaRose, SD 27 (R)	Dick Stein HD 57 (R)
Gayle Manning, SD 13 (R)	Martin Sweeney, HD 14 (D)
Nathan Manning, HD 55 (R)	Emilia Sykes, HD 34 (D)
Larry Obhof, SD 22 (R)	Vernon Sykes, SD 28 (D)
Michael O'Brien, HD 64 (D)	Sandra Williams, SD 21 (D)

Northeast Members Lobby for Education

By Sue Messinger, NEOEA Unit 2 Director

It isn't every day that educators get to lobby at Ohio's Statehouse, but that is exactly what thirty-three NEOEA members did on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

NEOEA sent a busload of educators to Columbus for a full day of speaking with legislators about issues such as teacher evaluations, testing, and vouchers. Members first attended a briefing by Government Relations staff at OEA headquarters, and then spent the day advocating on behalf of students and

public education. Once the appointments were complete, an early evening reception was held at the statehouse for legislators and lobbying members alike, and then it was time to head for home.

Attendees worked to build relationships with legislators from both houses including Representatives Dan Ramos (D-56), Dave Greenspan (R-16), and Kristina Roegner (R-37), and Senators Mike Skindell (D-23), Kenny Yuko (D-25), and Gayle Manning (R-13). Bay

Teachers' Association President Lauren Stanislav had this to say about her experience, "As a first time Lobby Day participant, I was impressed to see the great turnout of OEA members. It was very informational to meet with the legislators, and I feel like I really got an inside look into the process of government. It was an inspiring day." Numerous attendees reported it was a successful day working to further the goals of public education.

Thirty-three Locals Receive PR Mini-Grants

In NEOEA's annual program of PR mini-grants, 33 local affiliates have received grants for projects designed to improve the image of NEOEA's local affiliates. They are:

Ashtabula ACSE: Trunk or Treat
 Avon TA: Graduate Yard Signs
 Barberton EA: Congratulations Graduates
 Campbell EA: Celebrating the Class of 2017
 Canfield EA: Congratulation Yard Signs for Seniors 2017
 Champion EA: Champion Middle School Art Show at the Eastwood Mall AND Champion Middle School Performs
 Clearview EA: CEA t-shirts
 Crestwood EA: Sponsorship of Little League Teams
 Cuyahoga Falls EA: Trunk or Treat
 East Cleveland EA: Back to School Rally
 Euclid TA: Big Show Program Ad
 Field Local TA: FLTA Loves Field Grads
 Firelands EA: "We Are Firelands" Celebration
 Garfield Heights TA: GHCS Senior Graduation Signs
 Lorain EA: Bring a Veteran to Lunch
 Lowellville EA: Student Support
 Medina City TA: Community Fun AND Home Run Fence
 Mentor Classified Emp.: One Book One School

Mentor TA: Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
 Niles EA: NEA Canned Food Drive
 North Ridgeville EA: Fine Arts Banquet/Pride Day
 Olmsted Falls EA: OFEA Logo Window Clings
 Revere EA: Congratulations Graduating Seniors AND Veterans Day Recognition Partners/Yearbook Ad 2017
 Sandusky EA: Celebrating Seniors! AND Go Streaks! Banner Project
 Southeast Local District TA: Senior Class 2017 Yard Signs AND Veterans Day Breakfast and Assembly
 Streetsboro EA: SEA Pride AND SEA Senior Signs
 Strongsville EA: Relay for Life
 Twinsburg EA: Bring a Veteran to Lunch
 Vermillion TA: Yearbook Ads
 Wadsworth ESP Assn.: Back Pack Students
 Warrensville EA: Dr. Seuss Day Celebration
 Youngstown Student EA: Read Across America
 YSU-APAS: Cat Love for YSU APAS

These 33 locals have submitted 40 mini-grants which have been approved and are sharing the \$12,500 budgeted by the PR Committee. A total of 42 PR mini-grants were applied for in this year's project.

In a development authorized twelve years ago, locals which attended the fall Representative Assembly are permitted to apply for a second grant. Six eligible locals did just that. A list of the locals who received PR mini-grants as well as a brief description of each project is available on the NEOEA website under Resources/Awards and Grants/Public Relations Mini-Grants.

The next Public Relations award for this school year is May 5, the deadline for the Communications Contest. Information about this event is available at neoea.org/CommunicationsContest.pdf.

Past Mini-Grant Projects



Ashtabula ACSE "Trunk or Treat"



Clearview EA graduate sign



East Cleveland EA "Back to School Rally"



Wadsworth EA banner



Westlake TA "One School, One Book"

Positive Image Award Winners

Delegates honored winners of the Positive Image Awards, which are selected each year by the Public Relations Committee to honor members and locals whose actions show public education and educators in a favorable light.

The Brunswick Education Support Professionals Association showcased “Buster the Bus” for the annual



Halloween Spooktacular. B E S P A members dressed as superheroes to talk with the children about

Halloween safety. With a photo station, pizza, and balloons, it was a “spooktacular” event!

Sponsored by Firelands Education Association and the local community, almost 500 people gathered for the “We are Firelands” Celebration to raise money for the school levy.

Geneva Area Teachers’ Association honored local Geneva High School graduates by placing Eagle Pride congratulatory signs in the yards of 2016 graduates throughout the district. They teamed up with a local business to share the costs of the signs.

Social media pages are a great tool to show the impact of educators in a local community. **Medina City Teachers’ Association** is promoting its members and their contributions to the community through Facebook (facebook.com/Medina-City-Teachers-Association) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MedinaTeachers>) accounts. The posts list the accomplishments of Medina teachers in and out of the classroom, such as running in races, earning a doctorate, or working on a fishing boat in Alaska. The posts also highlight educators as advocates for children by showing representatives at protests, meetings with politicians, and union assemblies.

When the Tallmadge City Schools

decided to put two bond issues on the November ballot, the Tallmadge TA knew it would take everyone’s help to inform the community and ultimately get both issues passed. **Audrey Cunert** worked relentlessly to inform her community on the needs of students and teachers. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and relentless work helped show the Tallmadge TA in a very positive way.

Twinsburg EA’s Joan Cottrill goes the distance and competes in ultramarathons (50 miles). She translates that training into her teaching style by helping students to breakdown a large goal and create daily, weekly, and monthly goals.

The **Vermilion Teachers’ Association** sponsored a Community Candidate Night for community members to listen to and ask questions of local, regional, and state nominees for office. VTA President Becky Jessen was the moderator.

Congratulations to these Positive Image Award winners—you make us proud!

Green School Award Winners

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 following objective areas: Curriculum and Instruction; Operation, Design, and Maintenance of School Building and Grounds; and School and Community Partnerships.

The Environmental Concerns Committee was proud to announce three winners for this year’s Green School Award:

- Norton Classroom TA’s Teresa Kozak,

Michelle Eberhardt, Brittany Christy and the Norton Primary third graders for their recycling program.

- Euclid TA’s Sue Galandiuk and the Bluestone Elementary School for their wonderful gardens.
- • West Branch EA’s Sue Dattilio and Damascus Elementary for their amazing community of environmentalists.

Oh, the Places We Go

By Beryl Burkle, NEOEA-R Organizing Outreach Chairperson

We celebrated Read Across America, March 1-31 all across north eastern Ohio spreading the message that reading is FUN! Fun for students and fun for adults. We read books and traveled to many schools, libraries, and other events that had students to read to.

THANK YOU to the retired teachers and Kent Student Education Association students that with enthusiasm read to large and small groups. We are a

growing group of the retired that pick a time and a place to read. Please join us next March for the fun.

THANK YOU to teachers that invite us



and welcome us into their classrooms.

THANK YOU to the students in education at Kent State University that planned and arranged a program at Ravenna High School for local children and their parents.

THANK YOU to the NEOEA Board of Directors that gave us a grant so we could buy new books to gift where we read. This March 2017 was very successful in helping to celebrate Read Across America, Dr. Seuss Style.

Summer Discounts and Deals for NEOEA Members

BRIGHT NOW! DENTAL

Bright Now! Dental has been involved in the union community for nearly 40 years and is pleased to be providing the NEOEA an exclusive discount on general and specialty dental care (brightnowdental.com). Whether you have dental benefits or not, you will experience cost savings of up to 35% on general dentistry and 30% on specialty dentistry.

This is not an insurance plan. There is no cost to participate and no restrictions. Your choice to receive dental care at one of their offices is voluntary. There are seven locations in Cleveland making access to one of their offices convenient. Evening and weekend hours are also available.

Contact Bill Jedrzejek, Union Account

Executive, directly with your questions at bill.jedrzejek@smilebrands.com or 440-409-5412.

ENERGY PRICE CHOICE

Confused about where and how to find the best prices for your gas and electricity?

WHERE: Energy Price Choice

- Lock in low prices
- NOPEC? No problem! Get rid of bad variable rates today
- No early cancellation fees for leaving NOPEC
- Expert energy consultants to help you along the way

HOW: Sign up online

(EnergyPriceChoice.com/NEOEA).



VINTAGE OHIO WINE FESTIVAL AND A LITTLE BREW, TOO

Come join us at Vintage Ohio, the premier food and wine event on August 4-5 at the Lake Metroparks Farmpark at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road in Kirtland, Ohio. Sample wines from Ohio wineries, enjoy scrumptious food, cooking school demonstrations, three stages of live music entertainment, artisans, shopping, and spectacular Friday fireworks. To receive your \$10 discount, use the code "VONE17" when you order tickets before August 1 at www.VisitVintageOhio.com (tickets are \$35 at the gate).



Cleveland Play House

The Academy Award-winning romantic comedy *Shakespeare in Love* comes to the stage, complete with swordfights, secret trysts, and backstage drama. Young playwright Will Shakespeare is short on inspiration until he encounters the beguiling Viola, and their star-crossed love inspires a masterpiece. Filled with action-packed adventure, fiery romance and wit, get ready to fall head over heels for CPH Artistic Director Laura Kepley's lush,

lavish, and lusty production that celebrates the power of live theatre.

Join us for *Shakespeare in Love* on Saturday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. or Sunday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Special pre-sale offer before the general public on-sale! Discount price is \$37 (regular price is \$65). Don't wait! Purchase deadline is May 31.

*Please note: Your purchase will guarantee your seats for the show, but specific seat locations will be assigned

after June 1. We will contact you with your specific seat locations once they are assigned. To purchase your discounted tickets go to: <https://www.groupmatics.events> (access code is neoea). **Online offer only. Not valid at box office. Offer not valid with any other discount, promotion, or prior sale.

For questions, contact Bob Yun at 216-400-7044 or byun@clevelandplayhouse.com.

NEOEA Day Weekend — Two Different Tours Available!

NEW YORK CITY—OCTOBER 12-15, 2017! NEOEA Day will be here before you know it, and now is the time to make your reservation.

New York City tour includes lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights lodging in New York City, a guided city tour, and dinner on the way home. A ticket for one **Broadway Show**, the **911 Memorial Museum**, and dinner at **Carmine's** in NYC are optional.

More details are available at neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf.

WINERIES, CASTLES, AND CRUISING IN THE 1000 ISLANDS, NEW YORK—OCTOBER 13-15, 2017!

Our deluxe motor coach will depart to

the **1000 Islands**. At our first stop we will watch as a chef creates our **3-course wine pairing lunch**. After lunch we will continue to the 1000 Islands and check into the **Bonnie Castle Hotel**.

On Saturday, we will board **Clayton Island Tours** boat for a **Boldt Castle and Two-Nation Tour**. We will continue to **Coyote Moon Vineyard** for lunch and wine tasting. Following lunch we will have a wine tasting at **Northern Flow Winery**, **Otter Creek Winery** for a wine tasting with chocolate pairing, and then to the **St. Lawrence Spirits Distillery**.

On Sunday, our first stop of the day is at **Thousand Island Winery** for a tour and tasting. After our tasting we will visit

Tibbett's Point Lighthouse in Cape Vincent. Our last stop before heading home is **Cape Winery** for a **5-course wine pairing lunch** in an historic barn. After lunch enjoy a wine tasting. Dinner is on your own, and approximate arrival time in Austintown will be around 9:30 p.m.

More details are available at neoea.org/WineTour2017.pdf.



Workshops and Conferences

Emerging Leaders Cookout



Hamburgers on the grill, an ice cream social — yum! Come join us at the NEOEA Emerging Leaders Cookout in June.

Eight years ago, NEOEA introduced a fun new format for emerging association leaders: the Emerging Leaders Cookout. This event was a big hit with those who have attended in the past: think speed networking for association leaders.

This is a one-stop shop for

information on how to jump start your local association and make life better for your members. We'll offer prizes, food, and giveaways, but most of all, we'll offer contact with people who can help you make a difference at your workplace.

If you're an emerging leader, or you'd like to be, you should join us. If you're an established leader but you have emerging leaders in mind, bring them! Mark your calendar: **Friday, June 9, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Megaconference 2017

Each year, NEOEA interrupts the late winter to offer its Megaconference, a member gathering covering the widest array of member concerns. Since the cost is subsidized by NEOEA and OEA dues, Megaconference represents a significant value: the registration fee is a fraction of the cost of the event, and local presidents receive coupons for up to three free admissions.

This year's Megaconference drew

members of over 66 NEOEA locals and student chapters to Corporate College East for a day of presentations on Leadership Development, Personal Development, and Professional Development. Members and their guests chose from thirty-three workshops covering topics as diverse as YouTube for Schools, Adopt-a-Spot, RESA, LPDC, Degrees not Debt, Loot for Locals, and a new and popular track called "On My

Own" with financial, legal, medical experts.

The day started with breakfast and the program officially ended with lunch, but over thirty participants stayed after lunch for a special Pre-retired Workshop offered by the NEOEA-R Organizing Committee.

Next year's Megaconference is tentatively planned for Saturday, February 24, 2018.



Workshops and Conferences

Summer Leadership Conference—July 26-27, 2017 The Bertram Inn

Maximize your local association's potential by attending this summer's NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference. Join other local leaders from around northeastern Ohio in an intensive program of professional development, leadership training, and networking. The registration fee of \$125 (\$75 if commuting) covers . . .

- double-occupancy lodging at The Bertram Inn in Aurora
- conference facilities at The Bertram Inn in Aurora
- all meals, including dinner
- evening and luncheon networking sessions
- your choice of twenty-six workshops

Details available at
neoea.org/SLC



Keynote Speaker: Eric Brown—NEA Director

On Wednesday, July 26, our keynote speaker will be Eric Brown, a biology teacher in Evanston, Illinois, who was elected to the NEA Executive Committee in July 2015 for a three-year term.

Brown has represented educators and students on the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. He also currently serves in an essential role on the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

Brown recognizes the importance of organizing and engaging the entire NEA membership in efforts to make great public schools for every student. With that philosophy as his primary **motivator, Brown's work at all association levels** has focused on developing leaders by providing them with opportunities to contribute to their professional community and the association.

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

Preview of This Year's Tentative Offerings

Session 1 Wednesday, 2:30-4:00	Session 2 Thursday, 9:00-10:30	Session 3 Thursday, 10:45-12:15	Session 4 Thursday, 1:00-2:30
1A Legacy of NEA and Our Proud Heritage	2-3A Community Power Study	2-3A Community Power Study	4A Special Education—Challenges and Suggestions
1B Effective Bargaining Techniques	2-4B Grievance Processing and Member Problem-solving	2-4B Grievance Processing and Member Problem-solving	2-4B Grievance Processing and Member Problem-solving
1C Turning Down the Heat: The Passion of Advocacy	2-3C Developing Strong Distributed Leadership Structures in the Worksite	2-3C Developing Strong Distributed Leadership Structures in the Worksite	4C Creating an ESP Membership Engagement Plan to Build Capacity
1D Surviving Leadership with Yoga and Nutrition	2D Legal Update	3D Legal Update	4D Legal Update
1E Treasurers' School	2E Your Political Power: What Can You Do with It?	3E I'd Like to Buy a Vowel, Please? ESSA, OTES, ODE, RESA, and OEA Updates	4E The Attack of the 50 Foot Public Educator: You Can Fight DeProfessionalism Locally in a Big Way!
	2F Contract Bargaining "Hot Topics"	3F Contract Bargaining "Hot Topics" (ESP focus)	4F Contract Bargaining "Hot Topics"
	2-3G Reaching Higher Up the Tree: Membership after the Low-hanging Fruit has been Gathered	2-3G Reaching Higher Up the Tree: Membership after the Low-hanging Fruit has been Gathered	4G Communications School: Messaging
	2H Protecting Your Association from the IRS	3H Meetings that Work	4H Getting Started in Association Leadership: Just the Basics
	2-3 I Your Guide to the Representative Assembly and Conducting Local Elections	2-3 I Your Guide to the Representative Assembly and Conducting Local Elections	4 I "Tune Up" Your Local Constitution

Labor Lines

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future. — John F. Kennedy