

# News & Views

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NEOEA has invited Ohio legislators to attend four Legislative Receptions on Monday, February 13. These events provide great opportunities for interactions with the people who make the laws that affect our work. Here Rep. Greta Johnson (center) meets with Barberton EA members Rose Boyd and Annette Wesolowski. We have the story on page 3.



Late winter is a good time for personal, professional, and leadership development. Registration is now open for this year's Megaconference, and we have the information on pages 4-6.



It's not too early to plan for NEOEA Day 2017, especially if you want to join our annual trip to New York City. We have the address for full information available online.

## President's Message:

### Reflecting on the Past and Preparing for the Future

As details start to emerge about the shape of the administration, President Jeff Wensing suggests that we'll need to start preparing for the future rather than simply reacting to events. .... 2

## District News:

### Your New Year's Resolutions for Education

NEOEA's Resolutions Committee provides some information about the function of resolutions in the organization and how you can get involved in the important work of planning our resolutions for the future. .... 3

### Meet the 132nd General Assembly

Many faces will change when the new General Assembly starts its work in Columbus in January. In February, NEOEA presidents and their guests will have an opportunity to meet the continuing members and the new ones in legislative receptions held around Northeastern Ohio. Talk to your local president nicely, and you might be able to attend! .... 3

### Bargaining Report

We report on contract settlements reached in six locals in four NEOEA Counties. .... 3

## Workshops and Conferences:

### Megaconference

Megaconference 2017 is open for business! This year's version offers 32 sessions in a wide variety of topics for professional leaders, local union leaders, and student, active, and retired members, and guests. Admission is a steal for \$15, and free-admission coupons are available from local presidents. .... 4-6

## Brag Box:

### East Cleveland Member Honored as "Unsung Hero"

Meet Karen Winston (East Cleveland EA) honored by the United Labor Agency as an Unsung Hero of the Labor Movement at their annual dinner in November. .... 7

### FCPE Supporters from NEOEA

We're proud of our members honored by OEA in 2016 for their leadership in supporting the Fund for Children and Public Education. We have a list. .... 8

## Consumer Corner:

### Getting Ready for Spring and Fall: Deals for Members

We've posted information for popular member benefits to prepare for spring and fall: discounts to the Great Big Home and Garden Show at the I-X Center in February, and our annual NEOEA Day trip to New York City. .... 8

## President's Message

### Reflecting on the Past and Preparing for the Future

By Jeff Wensing, NEOEA President

The 2016 election season has come and gone leaving some to mourn and others to celebrate. Regardless of which camp you are in, it's time to ponder what the future may hold for our profession and our students. It's time to take inventory as to what the next steps might be if we have any interest in preserving public education as we know it, which has long been considered one of the bedrocks upon which our country was founded.



Remember *Friedrichs v. California Teachers' Association*? Many believed the United States Supreme Court was prepared to rule against organized labor until the untimely passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. Public sector unions faced the prospects of losing "agency fee" or

***"Research shows that community members trust educators."***

"fair share fee" essentially turning the United States into a "Right to Work" nation. The vote wound up being a 4-4 split decision. Newsflash: we have not seen the last of this type of attack on our profession. Legislative experts predict that once the Supreme Court has nine justices, another case similar to *Friedrichs* will quickly be in the pipeline, probably during the 2017-18 school year. Groups such as ALEC and the Koch brothers will continue their attempts to undermine organized labor, diminish union strength, and erode the power of collective bargaining.

Another item to keep an eye on is the possible confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education. She is a billionaire businesswoman from Michigan who supports for-profit charter schools

and expects little to no accountability from them. While campaigning, Donald Trump proposed a federally funded school choice program with a price tag of 20 billion dollars. DeVos may face some pushback if she attempts to implement Trump's campaign promise since his plan requires reprioritizing federal dollars to accomplish it. Truth be told, Betsy DeVos is not a friend of public education and she has never pretended to be one.

We know our opposition: they have deep pockets, and they want to take money out of public schools. So what do we do? I believe the answer is ORGANIZE. It's time for some grassroots activism. We are not going to be successful in this fight to preserve public education unless members get involved. Educators, we need to get out of our comfort zones and initiate conversations with parents, community members, politicians, and anyone who will listen. If that means we need to knock on some doors instead of sending an email, then so be it! Research shows that community members trust educators. We need to take advantage of this trust and let the masses know that in Ohio the money doesn't follow the student upon returning to a public school. We need to let everyone know what great things are going on in our schools and in our classrooms. We need to have as many one-on-one conversations as we can with potential allies because I believe we are going to need a lot of them in the coming months and years.

Also attend trainings offered by NEOEA, OEA, and NEA. An example of this is NEOEA's Megaconference which is being held on March 4 at Corporate College East. Workshops such as these will enhance your knowledge about your profession as well as increase your skill as an educator. More importantly, you may learn some valuable information which can help you have successful one-on-one conversations. Our students, now more than ever, need us to be their advocates and activists.

United We Stand,

*Jeff*

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  
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Address e-mail for *News & Views* to [editor@neoea.org](mailto:editor@neoea.org)

## Winter Calendar

Saturday, January 28

"Ales and Rails"

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway

Monday, February 13

Legislative Receptions

Saturday, March 4

Megaconference

Corporate College East

Saturday, March 25

NEOEa Representative Assembly

Nordonia High School

## Save the Date

Thursday, April 6

Leadership Summit

Saturday, April 22

Green Tour

Friday, June 9

Emerging Leaders Cookout

Wed.-Thurs., July 26-27

NEOEa Summer Leadership

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

## Web Resources

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

- Communications Contest
- Community Involvement Grant
- Green School Award
- Megaconference
- NEOEA Friend of Education
- NEOEA Legislative Receptions
- Nomination Form/Letter of Intent for Elections at the Spring 2017 RA
- OADDP State Conference Scholarship
- Positive Image Award
- Pre-Retired Workshop

## Labor Lines

*Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.*

- John F. Kennedy

## What are Your New Year's Resolutions for Education?

Every year, as we transition from one calendar year to the next, we often reassess our personal, financial, and economic well-being. How can one improve their social interactions, personal relationships, or economic status?

Often we find ourselves striving to lose weight, be more engaged with our social connections, improve our financial situation, or reduce the stress in our lives. Well, what about your professional resolutions?

Do we set out to improve on a particular unit or lesson; perform at a higher degree of competence in a particular aspect of one's job; look for new and interesting ways to incorporate technology; be more sympathetic to our students' difficulties; or help our department, division, grade level, or academic team members be successful?

Our NEOEA Resolutions document ([neoea.org/Resolutions.pdf](http://neoea.org/Resolutions.pdf)) is there to help. Throughout the school year, the Resolutions Committee attempts to do the above by continually reviewing our professional statements of belief. We consider what needs to be updated, modified, replaced, or discarded. In the Resolutions document you will find a variety of topics that we deal with in the educational arena. Here you

can find belief statements on bullying, vouchers, child abuse, the labor movement, economic life skills, and discipline—to name just a few.

What new educational jargon must we process, accept, reject, or incorporate into our educational lives?

As you look through the document, what issues do you see that need to be addressed more vigorously, modified, or updated? Help your district Resolutions Committee by offering suggestions or simply letting us know whether we have adequately addressed the issue. Become a local delegate to NEOEA's Representative Assembly and express your opinion on an issue, or simply let the committee know what is on your mind. Remember these are statements of belief about public education in an ever-changing world and apply to all facets of our profession, no matter whether you are an educator, coach, advisor, education support professional, or paraprofessional.

You can make a difference by becoming involved in your local and district events. A wealth of useful information about your rights, responsibilities, and professional opportunities are yours for those who are resolving to get all they can from their professional organization! — NEOEA's Resolutions Committee

## Meet Members of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

NEOEA's Legislative Committee will be holding its annual Legislative Receptions on Monday, February 13, 2017.

We will host four simultaneous legislative receptions from 5:00 to 7:30 in four locations. We have divided northeastern Ohio House and Senate Districts into four zones, with a separate reception in each zone.

For this event, NEOEA invites all lawmakers, regardless of



*East in Burton*



*West in Amherst*



*North in Broadview Hts.*



*South in Akron*

political party or previous endorsement. And this year, we're inviting members of the State Board of Education as well.

This is a Presidents Plus Two event, open to NEOEA Directors, Legislative Committee members, and local presidents and guests. Presidents will receive registration materials in their January packets. Members interested in attending should contact their local presidents.

## Bargaining Report

Following is a list of local contract settlements since the bargaining report we provided in the Late Fall issue. These are very brief summaries of rather complicated agreements; consult your OEA Labor Relations Consultant for more detailed information.

- **Cuyahoga:** Cuyahoga County Board of DD, ACCESS (West Shore Regional, Middleburg Hts.). In mid-November, ACCESS members ratified a three-year contract effective January 1, 2017, with increases of 2%, 1.75%, and 1.75%.
- **Lorain:** Lorain City, Lorain Assn. of Class. Emp. (West Shore Regional, Middleburg Hts.). In mid-October the classified employees ratified a three-year agreement effective July 1, 2016, with increases of 3%, 2%, and 2%.
- **Mahoning:** Lowellville Local, Lowellville EA (Western Reserve,

Boardman). At the end of September, the teachers agreed to a three-year contract with increases of 1.25% each year.

- **Portage: Rootstown Local, Rootstown EA (Unified Portage, Hudson).** In mid-September, the teachers agreed to a two-year contract with increases of 2.5% each year.
- **Portage: Streetsboro City, Streetsboro EA (Unified Portage, Hudson).** In September the Streetsboro teachers ratified a three-year contract effective July 1, 2016, with increases of 1.75%, 1.75%, and 2%, and added Step 27.
- **Portage: Streetsboro City, Streetsboro SSP Assn. (Unified Portage, Hudson).** In September the classified employees ratified a three-year agreement effective July 1, 2016, with increases of 1.75%, 1.75%, and 2%, and added Step 27.



# MEGACONFERENCE 2017

Saturday, March 4 — 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 Environmental Concerns, ESP Organizing, Leadership Development, Legislative, Minority Organizing, NEOEA-R Organizing, Personal Welfare and Finance, Professional Development, Public Relations, and Social and Human Concerns Committees.

The 2017 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. For the latest information about Megaconference, including graduate credit, go to [neoea.org/Mega](http://neoea.org/Mega).

**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.

For the third year, we'll again offer an optional pre-retired workshop after lunch. The registration form has a place to reserve your spot. Information is available at [neoea.org/PreRetiredWorkshop.pdf](http://neoea.org/PreRetiredWorkshop.pdf).

## 9:00-9:50 SESSIONS

**9A, RESA—Foundational Years 1 and 2:** Intended for teachers interested in mentoring or currently active in mentoring as well as teacher candidates at the university and/or entry-year teachers holding a Resident Educator license, this session will provide an overview of Ohio's 4-Year Residency Program. **More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**9B, Introduction to Creating and Managing Google Classroom:** He's back! SPARCC Technology Integration Specialist Eric Curtis is back by popular demand! Google Classroom is a blended learning platform for schools that aims to simplify by creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way. Eric will teach you how to create, manage, grade, use classroom extensions, and interact with your students using Google Classroom. **Users are encouraged to bring their laptops! More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**9C, Turning Down the Heat:** Education support personnel want to provide a safe, secure, and caring environment. You are uniquely positioned to be the first responders to help students in distress. In this workshop you will gain insights, confidence, and assertiveness to defuse many conflict situations that occur every day in a school environment.

**9D, FCPE Campaigns and the ABCs of Talking to Legislators:** This two-part informative session teaches locals how to run a fun and successful FCPE campaign as well as how to interact with legislators. Come hear about new and innovative ways to make your FCPE campaign interactive, fun, and successful. Also, learn about ways your local can engage and interact with your legislators to effectively convey your message.

**9E, Bargaining Impacts of OTES Changes:** Time was when the state pretty much left it up to employers and unions to work out evaluation systems that worked locally. Now OTES influences individual evaluations in ways that may not have been anticipated. OEA Collective Bargaining and Research Consultant Eric Urban will provide information about how your local can affect the impacts of OTES changes on teacher evaluations.

**9F, Enhancing Problem-Solving and Mitigating Adversarial Paths during the Contract Term:** Many locals and employers have been utilizing Interest-Based Bargaining and other alternative bargaining models to reach contract settlements, but those agreements still need to protect member rights. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Commissioners Mike Franczak and Yamini Adkins will present a session on "paths to peace."

**9-10G, General Fund Analysis (double session):** School districts' five-year forecasts have assumed greater importance in recent years as treasurers have been required to sign off on potential contracts. Learn from OEA's researchers how to read the Five-Year Forecast and make use of OEA's General Fund Analysis.

**9H, Hot Topics for Bargaining:** Join an update on contract issues in northeastern Ohio. (Time permitting, almost any topic could come up; it wouldn't be "hot topics" otherwise!)

**9 I, On My Own—Medical Considerations:** The first session of our track on the concerns of single persons will present an overview of the special medical concerns of people who are single, especially long-term singles, whether non-married, widowed, or divorced. The session will suggest how to navigate the options of health care as people age, many of which are also appropriate earlier in life as people face surgeries and other medical procedures. **More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**9J, INFOhio:** This hands-on session will introduce you to the free 24x7 access to quality information resources available to your students from school or home. Explore electronic versions of magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, websites, media assets, and more. Many can be incorporated into content management systems, and most respond to the standards-based need to integrate literary nonfiction across the curriculum. Use this time to identify resources to integrate into lessons. *(Limited to 18 participants.)* **More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**9-10K, STRS Retirement Countdown:** This session is especially aimed at members who are in their final few years before retirement under STRS. Tamla Cole, Member Education Coordinator for the State Teachers Retirement System, will present an extended session covering the following important topics: Retirement Process, Important Dates, Plans of Payment Options, Health Care (future changes as well), and Other Retirement Savings Opportunities (includes Social Security overview).

**9L, School-to-Prison Pipeline:** Participants will have the opportunity to discuss policies and procedures in their locals that create the school-to-prison pipeline, share restorative practices, and determine ways they can personally assist in eradicating the school-to-prison pipeline. Information will be given about the NEA edCommunities network. The pipeline group will engage in meaningful, rigorous, and exciting discussions dealing with the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

## 10:00-10:50 SESSIONS

**10A, YouTube for Schools:** What is available on YouTube for schools? If you want to reach students, YouTube is an excellent option since 81.9% of teens use YouTube. How do we browse for educational videos, subscribe to channels, save videos on your own playlist, embed, share, or create your own YouTube Channel? Eric Curts, Technology Integration Specialist for SPARCC, will show you how. **Please bring your laptop.**

**10B, LPDC Tune-Up—A Shift in Focus:** OEA Education Policy and Practice Consultant Ellen Adornetto will lead a session exploring LPDC updates, including record-keeping, online license renewal, and professional development aligned with teachers' needs and based upon Ohio's standards for Professional Development. Learn how the new federal law (ESSA) strengthens your right to quality PD and increases state monitoring of Title II funding dollars.

**10C, ESPs and ESSA:** Your work as an ESP impacts the success of your school district. In this workshop the important contributions you make under the Every Student Succeeds Act will be explored, discussed, and encouraged. ESSA has something for you and you have something for ESSA!

**10D, How to Change Your Local School Board:** Local school board members impact many important decisions and issues facing our public schools. This session will teach locals how to recruit, screen, and support local school board candidates. Come meet with a panel of NEOEA-supported school board members and learn how to conduct a successful screening process as well as how to establish and use a PAC to endorse local candidates.

**10E, OEA Policy and Positions around ESSA:** Since the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) gives more control to individual states, it's important that educators and their organizations provide input to the process while that input can still be useful. OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro will inform attendees of OEA's plans to optimize ESSA for Ohio educators and learners.

**10F, Degrees Not Debt:** OEA Collective Bargaining and Research Consultant Eric Urban will show attendees how to use NEA's "Degrees Not Debt" program to reduce the burden of college debts. Find out about opportunities for Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF), Teacher Loan Cancellation (TLC), Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), and Loan Consolidation.

**9-10G, General Fund Analysis** (*continues from 9:00 session*)

**10-11H, Preparing for Bargaining (double session):** The most successful locals make bargaining a continuous process. OEA Labor Relations Consultant Airica Clay will provide a plan to prepare for bargaining, whether your next contract is coming up this year or a year or two down the road.

**10 I, On My Own—Legal Considerations:** In this second session of our track on the concerns of single persons, attorney Erin Eurenus will present an overview of the special legal considerations of people who are single, especially long-term singles, whether non-married, widowed, or divorced.

**10J, Digital Literacy:** WVIZ/PBS ideastream® offers PBS LearningMedia, a free online streaming service, to all educators. This session will overview the curricular website, and each participant will establish a free account. Hands-on time will be provided. Includes short videos, audio clips, images, digital documents, interactive media, curricular collections, clip art, lesson plans, and more. Search by keyword, subject, grade level, and/or standards. (*Limited to 18 participants.*) **More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**9-10K, STRS Retirement Countdown** (*continues from 9:00 session*)

**10-11L, Building Diversity (double session):** With public school populations becoming more diverse than ever, focusing on this strength becomes important for both instruction and leadership. OEA Region 1 Director Patricia Collins Murdock will present.

## 11:00-11:50 SESSIONS

**11A, Performance Assessment (RESA) and Leadership Exploration: Years 3 and 4:** Intended for teachers interested in becoming state-trained facilitators or those currently serving in that capacity, as well as REs who wish to prepare for the Year 3 Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) or those who may need to retake portions of the RESA. **More content available at [neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf](http://neoea.org/Megaconference.pdf).**

**11B, High-Performing Teacher Designations and HB 64:** OEA Education Policy and Practice Consultant Ellen Adornetto will lead a session exploring changes in state law which will renew emphasis upon the requirement to have a master teacher committee, ability to attain Senior or Lead licensure, and High-Performing Teacher status.

**11C, Adopt-a-Spot:** The Adopt-a-Spot is about community engagement and adding biodiversity and beauty to otherwise dull street corners, parks, and parking lots. Volunteers prepare a designated spot early in the spring and care for the location throughout the growing season. Lakewood TA takes care of a spot at Lakewood Park each year, and it's their way of showing their community they care about keeping Lakewood beautiful and they support the community's movement and hard work to promote green space within the community.

**11D, Legal Briefing – Avoiding Financial Improprieties:** Financial and instructional responsibilities don't always mix well. Leaders need to know how to help members stay out of trouble when considering stipends, running trips, and handling funds.

**11E, Bargaining Health Insurance:** Next to salary itself, insurances may be the most important economic benefit we negotiate. We'll take a look at best and current practices.

**11F, Loot for Locals:** The session will introduce members to a wide range of available grants from NEA, OEA, and NEOEA. Learn how to enhance classroom projects, boost local's image in the community, and build membership involvement. Available for K-12, ESP, DD, and higher education.

**11G, Taking Charge in Changing Environments:** OEA Membership Consultant Todd Jaeck will give leaders tools to help their locals deal with an environment that's changing both for educators and their unions.

**10-11H, Preparing for Bargaining** (*continues from 10:00 session*)

**11 I, On My Own—Financial Considerations:** In the final session of our track on the concerns of single persons, Don Koller will focus on the special financial concerns of people who are single, especially long-term singles, whether non-married, widowed, or divorced. Learn some of the ways in which your needs for accumulation, management, and distribution of assets may be different from those of people with spouses.

**11J, State School Board Panel:** Ohio's State Board of Education has received more attention recently than in previously years. We've invited all four of Northeastern Ohio's elected State Board of Education members to join us and share their experiences on the Board and their impressions of the current issues faced by the Board.

**11K, School Employees Retirement System (SERS) Update:** Join SERS Service Retirement Counselor Marie Carroll for an update on what's happening at the School Employees Retirement System. This presentation will be suitable for anyone paying into SERS for retirement planning purposes, no matter how many years of service you currently have.

**10-11L, Building Diversity** (*continues from 10:00 session*)

# MEGACONFERENCE 2017

## Megaconference — March 4, 2017

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**.

### Registrations due by Friday, February 17, 2017

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

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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 for their workshops. (To register more participants, attach another form.) **Registrations will be confirmed by email around February 27.**

Participants	First Time Attendee?	Identify 9:00 Workshop ----- (provide letter A through L for each selection)	Identify 10:00 Workshop -----	Identify 11:00 Workshop -----	Staying for lunch?	Attending Pre-Retired Workshop?
Name -----						
Email address						
Name -----						
Email address						
Name -----						
Email address						
Special accommodations (dietary restrictions, access issues)						

*This conference is free to association representatives using "Presidents Plus Two" certificates, but ... NEOEA policy 8.09b states that "local associations will be held financially responsible for conference expenses incurred by NEOEA whenever a pre-registered member of a local association fails to attend a free NEOEA conference. A bill for such expenses will 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 2.

Corporate College East,  
Site of Megaconference 2017



### Were You Represented?

NEOEa's governing body is its Representative Assembly, consisting of delegates elected by NEOEA's local affiliates. This year, 102 of NEOEA's 192 local affiliates certified RA delegates; 253 delegates attended the November 12 meeting at Brookside High School.

**Eighty-two of NEOEA's 192 local affiliates attended the RA**, including ACCESS, Amherst TA, Ashtabula ACSE, Ashtabula Area TA, Aurora EA, Barberton EA, Bay TA, Bedford EA, Boardman EA, Brecksville-Broadview EA, Brunswick EA, Brunswick ESP Assn., Campbell EA, Cardinal EA, Champion EA, Chardon EA, Clearview EA, Columbia Local EA, Copley TA, Coventry EA, Cuyahoga Falls EA, Cuyahoga Heights Assn. of Teachers, East Cleveland EA, Elyria EA, Euclid TA, Fairview Park EA, Field Local TA, Garfield EA, Garfield Heights TA, Girard EA, Highland EA, Howland Classroom TA, Independence EA, Lakeland Faculty Assn., 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, Mentor Classified Employees, Mentor TA, Newton Falls ACE, Niles EA, Nordonia Hills Educators' Assn., North Ridgeville EA, North Royalton EA, Olmsted Falls EA, Orange TA, Painesville City TA, Parma EA, Ravenna EA, Richmond Heights EA,

Riverside Local EA, Rootstown TA, 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, Wadsworth SSA, Warren EA, Warrensville EA, Waterloo EA, Weaver Workshop and Support Assn., Wellington Support Staff Assn., Westlake TA, Willoughby-Eastlake Class. Prof., Willoughby-Eastlake TA, Youngstown EA, YSU-ACE, and YSU-OEA.

**Twenty-two local affiliates certified delegates but were not represented at the fall meeting:** Austintown EA, Avon Lake EA, Bay Individual/Small Group Instructors Assn., Buckeye EA, Conneaut EA, Crestwood EA, Geneva Area TA, Hubbard EA, Kenston EA, Keystone Local EA, LaBrae TA, Lakeview TA, LEADD, Midview EA, North Olmsted EA, Norton Classroom TA, Perry EA, Polaris EA, Revere EA, South Range EA, Southington EA, and Wickliffe 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: thirteen retired members and twelve 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/AttendanceFallRA2016.pdf](http://neoea.org/AttendanceFallRA2016.pdf). The next Representative Assembly will meet on **Saturday, March 25, 2017**, at Nordonia High School.

### Monthly Quiz

Answer a few quick questions, and you could be our next winner of a restaurant gift card!

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 12. To answer, go online to <http://tinyurl.com/NEOEa201701>. Thank you to all who have participated!

### Brag Box

#### East Cleveland Member Honored at United Labor Agency Annual Dinner

By Mary Alice Conkey, Executive Director

The United Labor Agency (ULA) is a community service agency committed to strengthening our communities by focusing resources, compassion, and commitment toward the labor movement. Through their Employment Services and Business Services they have assisted hundreds of dislocated and unemployed persons find employment with a livable wage. The ULA is active primarily in Lake, Geauga, and Cuyahoga Counties. Each year their Annual Dinner honors "Unsung Heroes of the Labor Movement." Several volunteers from local unions were recognized this year on November 18.

NEOEa's honoree was Karen Winston from the East Cleveland Education Association (ECEA). Karen was nominated by fellow union colleague Dawn Magnasco. Karen has been involved in union activities for ECEA since her first year as a teacher in the district. She serves as a building representative and is a member of several local committees. Typically, Karen is among the first to volunteer her talents and time to collaborate within the school district.

At the NEOEA and OEA level, Karen has been a delegate to the Representative Assemblies for several years. She stays current on education policy by attending training at the Summer Leadership Academy, NEOEA Day, and Megaconference. Karen serves on the NEOEA Board of Directors as the Minority Representative-at-large. She was a member of the Educators Standards Board, where she also chaired the committee. Dawn noted in her letter

of nomination, "Her commitment to public education is unparalleled."

In her own community, Karen attends school board meetings and canvasses neighborhoods in support of education-friendly policies and political candidates. She is active in the "Heights Coalition for Public Education" and she sits on the board of "Reaching Heights," a non-profit organization that mobilizes community resources to support public schools in the community. She has been called on to present in support of school levies, closing the achievement gap, special education, reformed testing for all children, the arts, and parent engagement.

Karen noted in her acceptance remarks, *I cannot help but comment about my union roots this evening. You see, I am a fifth generation union member. Most of my family members belong to the United Automobile Workers (UAW) or the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. My dad is a retired UAW member from the General Motors Parma Plant. I grew up in the Fisher-Body Plant neighborhood of Collinwood, in the city of Cleveland. So the common thread on my street was being in a union family. The thought of being a fair-share member never crossed my mind, unless I planned to find a new family to spend my holidays with!*

Consider nominating a member of your own local next year for this prestigious honor as ULA's Unsung Hero.





### The Fund for Children and Public Education has Loyal Supporters from NEOEA

#### Hall of Fame (\$6,000 total)

Leonard Codispoti – Springfield TA-R

#### Lifetime Achievement (\$3,000 total)

Christine Bartzis – Brecksville Broadview EA  
Amy Butcher – Westlake TA  
Barbara Martini – Champion EA  
Kecia Sanders-Stewart – East Cleveland EA  
John Veverka – Fairport Harbor EA-R  
Kimberly Vivolo – Lakewood TA

#### President's Club (\$1,000 in 8 years)

Kathleen Abrahamson – OEA Independent  
Meisha Baker – Lorain EA  
Terry Bennett – Parma EA  
Michael Bonick – Willoughby-Eastlake TA  
Shirley Browning – Twinsburg EA  
Ernestine Davis – East Cleveland EA  
Patricia Duncan – Bedford EA  
Richard Felton – East Cleveland EA  
Matthew Fundak – Willoughby-Eastlake TA  
Abigail Gleason – Lakewood TA  
Jessica Holland – Lakewood TA  
Michael Kerensky – Canfield EA  
Tracy Ledsome – Niles EA  
Teri Mackey – Wadsworth EA  
Dawn Magnasco – East Cleveland EA  
Suzanne Neff – Columbia Local EA  
Jeffrey Rhodes – North Royalton EA  
Mary Kay Ryan – Lakewood TA  
Jason Scherer – Field Local TA  
Irene Spraggins – East Cleveland EA  
Gloria Stansberry – ACCESS  
Karen Winston – East Cleveland EA

#### Executive Club (\$500 in 5 Years)

Nora Boch Airwyke – Warren EA  
Elizabeth Aylmer Hankins – Lakewood TA  
Bryan Bain – Willoughby-Eastlake TA  
Charles Barber – Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA  
Tiffany Baugh – Brunswick EA  
Benjamin Beukeman – Euclid TA  
Kenneth Beuther – Parma EA  
Denise Bevins – Clearview EA  
Sharron Callahan – Cardinal EA  
Rita Chahda-Gonzalez – Lakewood TA  
Mayra Coughlin – Lorain EA  
Monique Davis – East Cleveland EA

OEA's donations to endorsed candidates don't come from member dues: they come from voluntary donations to the Fund for Children and Public Education. Those donations go to candidates of both parties who win OEA and NEA endorsements by meeting with screening committees composed of local presidents and their designees.

Donors to FCPE include thousands of members of NEOEA. Over the years, OEA's program of incentives has honored hundreds of those members for achieving specific levels of contributions. Awards are given out at the two meetings of the OEA Representative Assembly. At the May and December RAs in 2016, the following members received awards for their leadership in supporting FCPE.

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

Shari Lynn Dewever – Brunswick EA  
Elizabeth Gawen – Elyria EA  
Kathleen Gray – Lakewood TA  
Ann Grosz – Willoughby-Eastlake TA  
Scott Robert Hastings – Orange TA  
Mary Beth Hearn – Kenston EA  
Rachel Horowitz – East Cleveland EA  
Nancy Hvizdos – Lakewood TA  
Kathleen Janesh – Riverside Local EA  
Abbey Juillerat – Warren EA  
Denise Kirk – Elyria EA  
Cynthia Langelier – Mentor TA  
Barbara Maras – Trumbull CTC EA  
Edward Mason – Kenston EA  
Marcus Maxhimer – Lakewood TA  
Sean McGuan – Lakewood TA  
Laura McLaughlin – East Cleveland EA  
Michael McNamara – Brecksville Broadview EA  
Cara McPherson – Twinsburg EA  
Sonaray Miller – East Cleveland EA

Michelle Miller – Brunswick EA  
Deborah Molnar – Clearview EA  
Nora Murray – Lakewood TA  
Melisa Norton – Euclid TA  
Kevin Peacock – Nordon Hills EA  
Sandra Peloquin – Lorain EA  
Jason Peterson – Kenston EA  
Marcy Richards – Twinsburg EA  
Christine Rizkallah – Warren EA  
Kathleen Rog – Lakewood TA  
Lisa Shaffer-Gill – Lakewood TA  
Sharon Staskus – Lakewood TA  
Christopher Vasil – Kenston EA  
Barbara Washington – Twinsburg EA  
Marcus Whiteamire – Sheffield-Sheff. Lake TA  
Edward Whittaker – Howland Classroom TA  
Susan Withers – Euclid TA  
Joseph Yarwood – Brunswick EA  
Annette Zahradnik – Painesville City TA

*Thank you to all who have contributed!*

## Consumer Corner

### Great Big Home and Garden Show Tickets

Spring is just around the corner! RENEW, REFRESH, AND RESTORE YOUR HOME from February 3-12, 2017, 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://tinyurl.com/NEOEA-GBHGS>) with promo code NEOEA2017.

### New York City

Join us on our annual tour of New York City during NEOEA Day weekend (October 12-15, 2017). Motorcoach transportation, lodging, some meals, and a guide from 20th Century Tours are included. See a Broadway show, have dinner at Carmine's, or visit the 911 Memorial Museum. Details available at [neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf](http://neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf).