



New Roles for NWOEA Leaders

NWOEA President Jerry Oberhaus was elected as NEA Director #6 at the OEA Fall RA with his term of office to begin immediately. With a vacancy in the presidency of NWOEA, Vice President Jerry Schlick has assumed the office of NWOEA President until the NWOEA RA this spring when an election will be held to determine who will finish the second year in this unexpired term. No longer the President, Oberhaus will assume the position of Immediate Past-President of NWOEA. At the January 2011 meeting of the NWOEA Board of Directors a new Vice President will be appointed to serve until delegates at the NWOEA RA this April can elect someone to finish the Vice-President's term that expires in August of 2012.

Oberhaus was first elected as NWOEA President by delegates at the 2006 Representative Assembly. Prior to this he served four years as Vice President after first

representing Unit I on the NWOEA Executive Committee. He is the Past Chair and member on the Educator Standards Board. Oberhaus is a member of the Liberty Center Classroom Teachers' Association and a teacher of science in the middle school. He received National Board Certification in Early Adolescence Science in 1996. He has served as the Chair of the OEA District Leaders Council since 2006. In 2009 he was in the top 10 as a semi-finalist who received the NEA Award of Teaching Excellence.

Schlick from Seneca East has also served many years as a member of the NWOEA Board of Directors and various district committees. In 2003 he was elected to the Executive Committee as a Unit III Representative. In 2006 he ran as Jerry Oberhaus' Vice President in their first bid for NWOEA office. He chairs the Professional Development Committee and is

a member of the Budget Committee and the Internal Affairs Committee. Schlick also spent several years as a member and the chair of the Awards Committee. He is currently serving his ninth year as President of the Seneca East Education Association. ■

Jerry Schlick (left) congratulates newly elected NEA Director Jerry Oberhaus as he hands over the gavel and NWOEA President's position to Schlick.



Delegates Encouraged to Fulfill Ohio Education Opportunity Act

On December 4, 2010, the Ohio Education Association, representing 130,000 teachers, education support professionals and higher education faculty, held its Fall Representative Assembly at Veterans Memorial in Columbus. The theme of the Assembly was "The Future of Ohio: Our Opportunity and Our Mission."

In her remarks to the delegates, OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks said that she and other OEA officials want to meet with Governor-elect John Kasich to listen to his ideas on public education, including K-12, special education, higher education and overall funding for learning in Ohio. Frost-Brooks emphasized to the more than 1,000 delegates attending that the OEA remains committed to the Ohio Education Opportunity Act, passed as House Bill 1 in July 2009.

"The Ohio Education Opportunity Act is a tough-minded set of challenging reforms that called for everyone involved in public education to change, to do better and to do more," said Frost-Brooks. "We embraced this legislation. We fought for its passage. And we fought for the funding and implementation efforts that followed. And it fulfilled our highest hopes for public education in Ohio." Aware of the many challenges ahead in fulfilling the changes of the Ohio Education Opportunity Act, President Frost-Brooks encouraged delegates to work hard and enthusiastically to ensure its implementation.

Special guests Governor Ted Strickland and NEA President Dennis Van Roekel echoed Frost-Brooks in

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NWOEA Representative Assembly

Thursday, April 14, 2011
 Findlay High School

February 1, 2011 – Deadline for Election of NWOEA Delegates & Alternates

February 10, 2011 – Deadline for submission of NWOEA Delegate & Alternate Election Results to NWOEA Center

Challenges and Power



*Notes from Jerry Oberhaus
Newly elected NEA Director #6 and now NWOEA Immediate Past President*

It is traditional to look forward at the beginning of a new year to see what challenges and

opportunities lay ahead. For education, 2011 will certainly be a year with many challenges. The slowness of the economic recovery to generate income for schools will be catching up with every local's budget. The anti-union, anti-public education mantra which is at a fever pitch may likely force additional legislation in the name of "improving" our public schools. It will be challenging to implement reforms which require intensive time and training when budgets will be experiencing cuts. Health care costs and budget woes are causing some to question the very existence of our retirement systems. Each of the aforementioned issues may be used to divide and fragment us within the profession.

This is my last article to you and it will most certainly not be a doom and gloom

piece. Instead I listed the challenges that we are all very familiar with so that we may focus on the opportunity. We are poised with great opportunity. The challenges will only be opportunities if we as a united profession, in concert with other public service employee unions, parents and other organizations come together to espouse public education as the great foundation upon which economic opportunity is built. To meet the challenges for opportunities we must have a unified focus. The issues of how we measure educational quality and how we provide funding to our schools demand not only our voice, but indeed our ownership. Education that fosters creativity and innovation provides great opportunity for the future if we ensure that we monitor and build the quality within the system. Only when we (the education professionals) provide the expertise can there be confidence in quality measures of the multiple components of our educational system. The power lies within the collective commitment, dedication and passion of each of us.

It will take each of us in our communities, our school systems and our state to act on common purpose. Let's get started right away. Hold a drive for the fund for children and public education.

Share your expertise of assessments and student growth with policy makers. Build relationships with policy makers so that they will come to know that for expertise on education issues, they will contact you the education professional. Unite members through the common purpose to make education better for the students of Ohio. Together we can accomplish so much more. Avoid the doom and gloom chatter at the copier or in the lounge. Replace it with brainstorming and planning about how we will claim ownership of the issues that are currently being used as battering rams. We can change the conversation and when we do, we can claim ownership and have the power to make meaningful transformational changes. In all that we do, our passion which drives us is a formidable source of energy. We have the opportunity to use it to not only sustain, but grow our profession.

It has been a great privilege to serve as your NWOEA President. As we move forward working together, the accomplishments that we claim will be the products of the collective energy that we apply to the task. I look forward to the great things that together we will accomplish to provide high quality educational experiences to all of our learners. Have a great new year! ■

NWOEA Endorsed Candidates & OEA Proposals

NWOEA Delegates arriving the night before the December 4th OEA Fall RA met for a Delegate Briefing and Caucus. Jerry Oberhaus, candidate for the NEA Director #6 position, and Robin Jeffries, candidate for the OEA Board of Director At-Large position, addressed the Northwestern delegates. OEA Board member Tim Myers briefed delegates as to what they could expect at the RA and outlined the three proposals to be voted upon by all delegates. The vote was unanimous that NWOEA endorse both candidates and all three proposals. ■



OEA Summer Leadership Conference Scholarships Available in April

Don't miss out! Strengthen your leadership skills and improve your understanding of the association. Plan now to attend the OEA Summer Leadership Conference scheduled for August 1-3. NWOEA especially encourages new and emerging leaders to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Scholarships offered through NWOEA and CentWest cover the cost of registration, most meals, and lodging. The cost is minimal and the experience is priceless!

The conference is held at a Columbus hotel and conference center. Participants have the choice of attending leadership sessions that stress association leadership, collective bargaining, political advocacy, or professional leadership. In addition to the training, participants have the

opportunity to hear nationally recognized speakers address educational topics of interest to all. There is also plenty of time for socializing and networking. Many people who have taken advantage of leadership scholarships find the experience to be so worthwhile that they come back to the conference the next year.

Anyone interested in adding his or her name to the list to receive a mailing in April about the Leadership Conference scholarships, should call the NWOEA Center (1-800-366-9632) or e-mail the NWOEA Executive Director at nwoea_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net. Also check with your local president, who will automatically receive the April mailing, or visit the NWOEA website (www.nwoea.org) in April to view the scholarship information. ■

Retirement Update



By Tim Myers
STRS Board Chair

September 1, 2009, the State Teachers Retirement Board approved a proposed plan to strengthen the solvency of the pension fund. Fifteen months —

and a few plan modifications — later, we are still awaiting legislation that would enable STRS Ohio to implement the proposed changes. However, there is every reason to believe a bill to revise STRS Ohio's current pension plan design will be introduced in the 129th General Assembly that convenes after the first of the year.

To what extent this legislation reflects the Retirement Board's recommendations won't be known for a while. However, we do know that complicating the pension plan reform discussion will be the dire budget issues facing this state. All of us will need to be mindful of proposals for employer or employee "contribution holidays" or "contribution reductions" as a way to help address the deficit. We also need to be mindful of a possible movement to place future public employees into defined contribution plans.

In my last newsletter article to you, I spoke briefly about the important role defined benefit plans play in helping to maintain financial security for retired public employees in Ohio. In addition, these defined benefit plans help to fuel Ohio's economy. In calendar year 2009 alone, pension benefit payments from STRS Ohio exceeding \$3.9 billion were distributed among Ohio's 88 counties. Defined benefit plans are also both efficient and economical. A 2008 National Institute on Retirement Security Report found that a defined benefit pension can deliver the same retirement income at almost half the cost of a defined contribution account due to pooling of investment risk, continual diversification of assets and professional investment management.

Through its website and e-mail news service, STRS Ohio has shared with members the recent modifications to the pension plan proposal approved by the Retirement Board in October 2010. These modifications provide for the following:

- The transition period for a retirement benefit at 35 years of service versus 30 years is now phased in from 2015 through 2023.

- There is an option for an actuarially reduced benefit with 30 years of service for members under age 60.
- The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 2% for both current and future retirees. For those who retire after July 1, 2011, however, the COLA will be deferred for 36 months.

The Retirement Board would have the discretion to set a three-, four- or five-year final average salary period on the proposed implementation date of August 1, 2015, for this change, based on the actuarial condition of the pension fund at that time.

With the adoption of these changes, the Retirement Board and the system's major constituency groups represented by the Healthcare and Pension Advocates (which includes the OEA) are now united in their support of the proposed reform package and can work collectively for its passage in the Ohio General Assembly.

The changes the Retirement Board has proposed — as fiduciaries of the system — are not popular changes. However, without these changes, STRS Ohio will eventually be unable to pay benefits. It is also important for you to know that any weakening of these changes or delay in their implementation will result in the need for additional changes.

STRS Ohio will use its website and e-mail news service to keep you posted about events at the Statehouse and to let you know when the time is right to contact your legislators. Decisions regarding the future of STRS Ohio won't be made by newspaper reporters and TV station news anchors, but by the members of the Ohio General Assembly. The active and retired members of STRS Ohio will need to work together to help legislators understand that defined benefit plans represent good public policy; they should be emulated, not discontinued.

I would encourage you to do three things as an STRS Ohio member:

(1) Become knowledgeable about the changes proposed by your Retirement Board.

(2) Be ready to explain the value of the STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan to you — as a public educator now and as a retiree in the future.

(3) Be prepared to "put a face" on discussions that try to pit taxpayers against public employees. You are also a taxpayer who has chosen public education as a career. Think now about how you can share with your legislators the value of that future pension to you, your family and your community. ■

OEA Fall RA Highlights

There were 1,046 registered delegates in attendance of which 97 were from NWOEA representing 26 local associations. Contributions to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) totaled \$32,647.75.

Delegates filled two vacancies on the OEA Board of Directors by electing Jerry Oberhaus from Liberty Center as NEA Director #6 and Robin Jeffries from Columbus City as Board of Director At-Large member.

The delegates voted to adopt three proposals that amended OEA's Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposal #1 will establish the OEA officers' salaries to be based on the second year prior to the budget year. This would match the budget revision passed by delegates last spring at the OEA RA which determined that the budget be based on the average teacher salary from the previous two years.

Proposal #2 removes a list of exceptions to the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession requirement in local, district and affiliated departments, and replaces it with the more general term "IF APPROPRIATE."

Proposal #3, called a "Savings Clause," will give the OEA a remedy if any of the Constitution or Bylaws or its standing rules become contrary to law. Based on the advice of counsel, the board could vote to amend the policy until delegates at the next RA can change it to make it consistent with law.

The 2010-2011 Legislative Policies and the 2010-2011 proposed Education Reform Package were adopted. The Representative Assembly also approved a New Business Item directing OEA to develop and implement a "rapid response" plan to immediately, forcefully, and publicly respond to, and refute, counter attacks on public education and public educators by the media and anti-public groups.

Delegates also adopted the new OEA Vision Statement: "The Ohio Education Association is the hallmark for excellence in education." ■

NWEOA Teachers Achieve National Board Certification

Three members of NWEOA are among the 81 Ohio teachers to achieve National Board Certification in 2010. More than 8,600 teachers and school counselors achieved National Board Certification this year bringing the total number of accomplished educator by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to more than 91,000. Ohio ranks 22nd nationwide in the number of new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT's) this year and seventh in the total number of NBCT's over time with 3,268. Forty school districts have at least ten NBCT's with seven of these districts having forty or more.

National Board Certification is the most prestigious credential a teacher can earn. Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to develop, recognize, and retain accomplished teachers. NBCT's have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills, and practices through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. As part of the process, teachers build a portfolio that includes student work samples, assignments, videotapes, and a thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Additionally, teachers are assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach. For more information about the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, visit the NBPTS website at www.nbpts.org.



NWEOA congratulates the following NWEOA members for obtaining the teaching profession's highest honor, National Board Certification:

- ◆ Julie Herring, Upper Sandusky EA ◆
Generalist/Middle Childhood
- ◆ Jennifer Theis, Findlay EA ◆
Generalist/Middle Childhood
- ◆ Kelly Wohlgamuth, Findlay EA ◆
Generalist/Middle Childhood

NWEOA CENTER

101 W. Sandusky Street,
Suite 302
Findlay, OH 45840
1-800-366-9632 or 419-424-1708
Fax: 1-419-422-3417

Open Monday-Thursday
1:00 – 5:00 PM

Represent Ohio and Your Local at the 2011 NEA RA

Take an active part in NEA's highest decision-making body and join over 9,000 delegates in the world's largest democratic, deliberative body. Become a representative to the 2011 NEA Representative Assembly to be held in Chicago, Illinois from June 30-July 5, 2011. There are several options for gaining delegate status.

State-At Large Delegates: These delegates are determined by election in each of the three Northwestern Units. The declaration of candidacy form for state delegates is sent to local presidents and is also available through OEA. The form must be filed with OEA no later than January 31, 2011. State delegates will receive at least a \$1000 stipend from OEA to offset expenses at the NEA RA.

Cluster Delegates: Local associations with 75 or fewer members may join together (cluster) with other locals of like-size within the same electoral unit to elect cluster delegates. OEA will determine the "clusters" upon receiving the cluster delegate forms. Interested members may request a Cluster Delegate Declaration Form from OEA. The deadline for filing this form is April 10, 2011. NWEOA provides \$1,500 for each of three cluster delegates (one

per unit) and one at-large cluster delegate. Also available this year is the NEA RA Engage Grant to fund an additional delegate eligible for the NWEOA Cluster Delegate status.

Local Association Delegate Status: Local Associations with 76 or more members may elect local delegates to the NEA RA based upon the formula of one delegate per 150 active members or major fraction thereof. NEA will mail official election report forms to presidents of locals with 76 or more members in early February. This completed form must be received at the OEA Offices by April 10, 2011. Funding is determined by the local association's funding policies. NWEOA Local Delegate Assistance to NEA RA Engage Grants provide \$750 of funding to delegates from eligible locals with 76 or more members. The deadline to apply for this Engage Grant is February 1, 2011.

To find more information on how to become a delegate to the NEA RA visit the NWEOA website at www.nwoea.org. Select the "Special Events" button and then select "NEA RA." For more information about NWEOA funding and Engage Grants, please call the NWEOA Center at 1-800-366-9632. ■

Local Leader Will Share Expertise as LRC

Helen "Dee" Groman from Findlay Education Association will leave the classroom to become the OEA Labor Relations Consultant (LRC) in Canton, Ohio as of January 1, 2011. Dee, a 4th grade teacher, has served the Findlay Education Association for over forty years.

Starting as a building representative during her first year at Findlay, Dee continued to serve her local as a negotiator, vice-president and then president for fifteen years. She has been a delegate to numerous

OEA RAs and has welcomed fellow NWEOA delegates for many years to the NWEOA RA at Findlay High School.

Dee has also represented NWEOA as a member of the OEA Organizing Strategy Core Committee for the past three years. Her leadership skills and steadfast and unceasing passion to advocate for the professional respect and professional recognition of teachers will

serve her well as she assumes her new role as OEA Labor Relations Consultant. ■



FCPE Contributions Acknowledged at OEA Fall RA

The following NWOEA member was recognized for her continued donations to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE):

**Executive Club Award Recipient
(\$500 in 5 years)**

Christina L. Joyce – Tiffin EA

The following three NWOEA locals in the Northwestern District were recognized for contributions made by their members as a whole in 2009-2010. Awards are determined on a per capita basis:

**Liberty Center CTA - \$35.62 per member
Seneca East EA - \$19.73 per member
Pandora Gilboa EA - \$17.23 per member**

Congratulations to All!

NWOEA Engage Grants Still Available

2010-2011 NWOEA Engage Grants are still available and eligible local associations are encouraged to apply. In order to provide the opportunity for more locals to apply for these grants and be involved in association activities, changes in the eligibility rules have been made.

The FCPE Drive Assistance Engage Grant will provide training, support, and incentives for a local to conduct a Fund for Children and Public Education drive. This grant will reimburse up to \$150 each to two locals per NWOEA unit whose FCPE percentage of member participation was 5% or less last year (2009-2010).

The Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage Grant will reimburse up to \$100 for overnight lodging and \$50 for mileage to a delegate attending the OEA Spring RA from a local that has not sent delegates to an OEA RA in the previous two school years. Deadline to apply is February 1, 2011.

The Local Delegate Assistance to NEA RA Engage Grant will provide each of the three NWOEA units funding of \$750 for the 2011 NEA RA to a delegate from a local of 76 members or more that has not had a NEA RA delegate in the previous two school years. Deadline to apply is February 1, 2011.

The Cluster Delegate to NEA RA Engage Grant will provide funding for an additional cluster delegate to attend the 2011 NEA RA. Locals of 75 or fewer members who have not had a NEA delegate in the previous two school years are eligible to receive this grant.

NWOEA will gladly secure a mentor to help understand the representative process and guide grant delegates through the RA experience. For more information visit the NWOEA website at www.nwoea.org, call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632, or e-mail nwoea_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net. ■

Visit the NWOEA Website
www.nwoea.org



Apply Now for the NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the \$1,000 NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship are available to NWOEA members pursuing graduate study in the education field, excluding administration. To obtain a copy of the form, call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632 or visit the NWOEA website at www.nwoea.org. The deadline to submit the completed application to the center is Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Finalists will be interviewed on Monday, March 14, 2011, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at Findlay High School. This scholarship provides Northwestern Ohio Education Association the opportunity to assist members, who are involved in their local and district associations and are pursuing their education goals in the field of teaching. ■

Delegate Orientation Offered at NWOEA RA

First-time delegates attending the NWOEA Representative Assembly at Findlay High School on April 14, 2011, are encouraged to attend a brief orientation session prior to the RA. Local presidents are asked to mark first-time attendees on the NWOEA delegate verification form so that the new delegates will receive notification of the orientation session. This session is also open to veteran delegates, if they wish to attend.

Doors open at 5:00 PM and sandwiches and snacks will be available at this time. The tentative start time for the orientation is 5:15 PM. The first RA session begins at 5:45 PM and registration closes at 6:00 PM. Deadline for submission of New Business Items and Resolutions is 6:30 PM. The OEA Delegate Briefing will be held concurrently with the NWOEA RA. ■

Educator Standards Board Update

By Jerry Oberhaus
Past Chair and Member of the Ohio
Educator Standards Board

The Resident Educator Program will begin in the fall of 2011 for all teachers that are licensed after January 1. The program is built on four years of differentiated mentoring based on the Resident Educators' demonstration of practice according to the Ohio Standards of the Teaching Profession. It utilizes formative assessment tools to inform and guide the mentoring as the Resident Educator grows, develops and progresses in their practice. The program also includes a summative assessment tool to measure demonstration of practice which must be at the proficient indicator level of the Ohio Standards of the Teaching Profession (OSTP) to advance to a professional license. ODE will provide some baseline requirements for mentor selection. Locals will have the opportunity to go beyond those baseline requirements. Instructional Mentoring Training is required of all mentors, including those that were trained for the Resident Educator Transition Program.

The Educator Standards Board (ESB) has worked the past year through a writing team and its own standards committee on a model teacher evaluation system. Components of the system are in various

stages of field testing to gather data to inform the final recommendations in late spring. The framework of the Ohio Model Teacher Evaluation includes self assessment opportunities using the OSTP and analysis of student data. Components include a goal setting and professional growth plan, formal observation processes, and coaching and formative assessment opportunities, as well as the collection of artifacts as evidence indicators, and a written summative evaluation. The process would differ slightly for teachers that are in the first seven years of their career compared with those that have been teaching eight years or more.

As referenced in the Teacher Evaluation Components, the Ohio Education Opportunity Act also directs the ESB to propose recommendations for metrics of measurement for academic growth. This language replaced what was originally in the bill as value-added data. The measures of academic growth are to be a component of multiple measures that inform eligibility for licenses, the Ohio Resident Educator Program, and Model Teacher and principal evaluation processes. There is still a strong emphasis from many directions to use value-added data. We know that the student performance data must come from a variety of sources, must take place over time, and must be teacher-driven. The primary framework

recommendation will be formed in late spring. The full body of the ESB will be working on the recommendations for measures of academic growth. Areas of pupil performance data that must provide opportunities from all educators not just the core subjects, include teacher designed formative and summative assessments, grade level subject assessments, portfolios, performances, products and mastery tasks, and standardized test scores and value added data when available.

The ESB Standards Committee is working with a writing team to collect the best practices of PAR that we already have in our state. From the examples that we have studied within our state we will have a recommendation for model PAR components. There are some essentials to successfully building and implementing a PAR program. They include an appropriate climate within the district, a defined governance structure to oversee the PAR, clear processes and procedures, and of course quality training.

The ESB Licensure Committee has begun review of the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession which were adopted five years ago. The Standards will not change but the ESB may make modifications to language in the indicators that clearly identify growth and issues of linguistics, English language learners, as well as 21st century skills terminology. ■

Expand Your Horizons! Run for a NWOEA Position!

Get to know other leaders in the district, learn what is going on in other locals, and find out about opportunities at the state level. Run as a candidate for one of the following positions up for election at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on April 14, 2011.

- NWOEA Vice President, one-year term
- NWOEA Secretary, two-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I, three-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit II, three-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit III, three-year term
- NWOEA At-Large Minority Representative, three-year term
- NWOEA At-Large Education Support Professionals Representative, two-year term

• OEA Board of Directors, Unit I, three-year term

If you are interested in running for any of the NWOEA offices listed above, send a letter of intent stating the position for which you are declaring yourself a candidate to the NWOEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky St., Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840. The deadline for filing letters of intent is February 11, 2011.

If you are interested in the OEA Board of Directors position, contact your local president or Carol Price at OEA Headquarters, (1-800-282-1500 or pricec@ohea.org) and request a Declaration of Candidacy Form. The OEA form must be received in Columbus no later than January 29, 2011 and a copy of the form should be sent to the NWOEA Center. ■

Education Opportunity Act

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their remarks. Governor Strickland, who signed the Ohio Education Opportunity Act into law in August 2009, stressed the need to hold Ohio policymakers accountable for public education, noting that the legislation is an opportunity to ensure the best possible future not only for students but also for Ohio. "We are going to take back our profession, and we are going to own education reform," said NEA's Van Roekel. ■

Christmas Shopping Spree Winner

The winner of the NWOEA Christmas Shopping Spree held at the OEA Fall RA was Vernia Shaffer from Lancaster EA. She will enjoy \$75 worth of gift certificates for shopping, dining and gas.

OEA Spring Representative Assembly
Friday and Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2011
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Columbus, Ohio

NWOWEA FALL 2010 WORKSHOP

Fifty-six members representing twenty-six locals plus NWOEA-R attended the NWOEA Fall Workshop at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center on September 28. Guests at the dinner included OEA Vice President William Leibensperger, CentWest Regional Director Jeanette Cooper, OEA Director of Membership Mary Suchy, and OEA Manager of Legal Services Rose Keller. Following the dinner members attended one of the break-out sessions.

Creating Collaborative Professional Development Opportunities to Support Quality Teaching: Master Teacher, Tiered Licenses, and Teacher Evaluation

Jerry Oberhaus, Member and Past-Chair of Ohio Educator Standards Board

STRS Update: Learn of the Challenges – Be Prepared!

Tim Myers, STRS Board Chair

Understanding Your Local Constitution & Bylaws Will Lay the Foundation for a Stronger Association

Mary Suchy, OEA Director of Membership

Legislative and Health Care Updates

William Leibensperger, OEA Vice President



Bill Leibensperger, OEA Vice President, listens to the concerns of the NWOEA members during his workshop session "Legislative and Health Care Updates."



Members with a wide range of teaching experience filled the room to hear the latest STRS Updates as presented by Tim Myers, STRS Board Chair.



Rhea Young and Karen Herrera from TAWLS carefully review their local's constitution during the session "Understanding Your Local Constitution & Bylaws Will Lay the Foundation for a Stronger Association" as presented by Mary Suchy, OEA Director of Membership.



Winners of the Fund Raising Drawings were Linda Laux from McComb and Mary Karazim, NWOEA-R.



Becky McClure from Spencerville and Leslie Benton and Jacquie Buckner from Bellevue learn first-hand about Master Teacher, tiered licenses, and teacher evaluation from Member and Past-Chair of Ohio Educator Standards Board Jerry Oberhaus during his session "Creating Collaborative Professional Development Opportunities to Support Quality Teaching."



Congratulations to Don Traxler, NWOEA-R, who won the notebook organizer door prize and Jerry Schlick, Seneca East, winner of the Share of the Wealth Drawing.

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Six NWOEA members were among the 29 from OEA who participated in the One Nation March in Washington D.C. on October 2.

Twenty-Seventh Annual Awards Banquet

Come celebrate with NWOEA at the 27th Annual Awards Recognition Program as we honor individuals nominated by their local for their contribution to their association either on the local or district level. NWOEA will also recognize members who have received National Board Certification in the year 2010 and present certificates to locals that have increased membership by at least 5% or have 100% membership.

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 1, 2011
- PLACE:** Findlay Country Club, 1500 Country Club Drive
- TIME:** Cash Bar: 6:00 – 6:30 PM • Dinner: 6:30 – 7:30 PM • Presentations: 7:30 PM
- MENU:** Sirloin Steak, Redskin Potatoes, Salad, Vegetable Medley and Dessert
- COST:** \$12.00 NWOEA members/\$20.00 non-members

Please complete the reservation form below and return with check to NWOEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840 by Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

I would like to make _____ reservation(s) at a cost of \$12.00 per member/\$20.00 per non-member.
I have enclosed a check payable to NWOEA in the amount of \$_____.

Name _____

Local Association _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The deadline for the submission of award nomination forms is January 18, 2011. If you need a nomination form, please call 1-800-366-9632 or go online to www.nwoea.org.