



## NWOEA Endorses Myers and Oberhaus



(left) Tim Myers from Elida, candidate for OEA Secretary-Treasurer and (right) Jerry Oberhaus from Liberty Center, candidate for re-election as NEA Director.

During the NWOEA Caucus at the OEA Fall RA, delegates unanimously endorsed Tim Myers from Elida and Jerry Oberhaus from Liberty Center. Tim is running as a candidate for the position of OEA Secretary-Treasurer, and Jerry is running for re-election as a candidate for the NEA Director #6 position. The election for both will be held at the OEA Spring RA on May 11, 2012.

Tim is currently a computer science and science teacher in his 29th year of teaching for Elida Local Schools, his alma mater. Serving as NWOEA's Unit II Representative on the OEA Board of Directors, he is a member of the NWOEA Board of Directors. Tim has held NWOEA

district offices of President, Past-President, and Vice-President and served as an NEA Director. He is an STRS Board Member and Past Chair. Other leadership experiences include the Chair of NEA's Trustee Pension Caucus and the Legislative Committee Member of the National Council of Teacher Retirement Systems.

Tim shared his three goals as Secretary-Treasurer of OEA:

1) Strategic Budget: "We need to continue to base our budget on the needs of our members. Using the OEA Strategic Plan, we can determine what programs to offer. Using a strategic budgeting process allows us the flexibility to evaluate these programs since costs are tied to results. As one of the seven members of the NEA Budget Committee, we started with the programs our members needed most and then figured out how to fund them. I have the training needed to continue to move the OEA in this direction."

2) STRS: "I will work with your own Carol Correthers and the other board members to actively search for solutions to the health care crisis, specifically through the work of the Health and Pension Advocates for STRS. As a member of the STRS Board, I am in a unique position to continue to work to find common solutions

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## NWOEA Appoints New Members

At the September Board meeting the NWOEA Board of Directors appointed Sue Cramer and Rozalind Herzig to fill vacancies. Sue will serve as a Unit II Representative and Rozalind will serve as a Unit I Representative until August 31, 2012.

Sue has been a member of Northeastern Local Teachers Association for her entire 32-year teaching career as a health and physical education instructor. She is currently the association president and attends UniServ Council meetings. Sue is the NWOEA Representative on the OEA Organizing Strategy Core Function Committee. She has been a local delegate at all OEA and NWOEA RA's over the last five years. This past summer Sue was a first-time delegate for the NEA RA in Washington, D.C.

Rozalind began her teaching career at Pioneer Career Center in Shelby, Ohio. For the past 15 years she has been a business/technology teacher at Bowling Green High School and an active member of the Bowling Green Education Association (BGEA). She has served as a building representative and has held the position of Vice-President of BGEA for the past five years. Three years ago she agreed to attend UniServ Council meetings as her local's representative. ■



**Sue Cramer**  
Unit II Representative



**Rozalind Herzig**  
Unit I Representative

## OEA Delegates Celebrate Defeat of Issue 2

Delegates set the mood for the 2011 OEA Fall Representative Assembly on Saturday, December 3, with their cheers of jubilation and loud applause to celebrate the defeat of Issue 2, which repealed Senate Bill 5 (SB 5). They viewed a video that covered the entire campaign, starting with the rally in January when opponents of SB5 were locked out of the State House and ending with the announcement that Issue 2 was defeated. In her remarks to the delegates, OEA President Patricia Frost-

Brooks thanked the OEA members for all their efforts to defeat Issue 2, which included countless miles of canvassing and long hours of phone banking.

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel addressed the delegates and also commended the OEA members for their hard work to protect collective bargaining. Although the campaign to defeat Issue 2 was crucial to OEA members, it was also closely watched and extremely important to all NEA members. ■

# Now That the Dust has Settled...



Notes from NWOEA  
President Jerry Schlick

*Congratulations on the Defeat of Issue 2!  
A big "THANK YOU" for all your efforts  
and hard work to win the battle...  
but the war is NOT over!*

1.3 million signatures on SB 5 petitions.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SB 5 on ballot (Issue 2) .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issue 2 defeated.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sit back, relax and not have to worry about the future of education in Ohio.....WRONG!!!!	

Now more than ever we need to continue to work to get "true" friends of education elected on the state and federal level. We need to be reminded from time to time that the politicians control our profession. If we fail to elect true friends of education, we have failed the profession. I know that these are strong words, but it is true.

As education professionals we pride ourselves in planning and implementing the standards of our individual discipline. We need to also research and study the candidates. I know that you hear this over and over, but we need to vote our profession not our politics. We have a process in which candidates for office are invited to screen and seek our endorsement. When the process is complete, do you vote for the education friendly endorsed candidate or not?

As a former football coach I learned the hard way many years ago that if you

are going to win, you need to out work and out prepare the opponent.

Are we willing to outwork our opponent? Are we willing to go the extra mile to win? One sure way is to contribute to the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). This is a crucial time in history. Though we have protected our right to bargain, we still have a long way to go to insure quality education for all public school children. We need to elect those who are truly friends of education in Columbus and Washington.

I urge all of you to think long and hard about the future of education. Are we going to sit in the stands and watch what is going on around us or are we going to participate and "out work" the opponent?

Research...Participate...Contribute... Do what you can to insure quality education and opportunity for the children of Northwestern Ohio. ■

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that are fair to both retired and active members. I will also work with all of our ESP members (including your own SERS board member, Beverly Woolridge) to improve the health care and benefits for ALL OEA MEMBERS."

3) OEA's Message: "We need to mobilize ALL of our 3.2 million NEA members in our effort to get the message of public education out to the voters. This past election showed what we can do when we work together. My plan involves face-to-face conversations with many of OEA's affiliates before the November 2012 elections to show the need for FCPE drives and electing pro-public education candidates."

Jerry is running for re-election as NEA Director #6, a position to which he was elected by the delegates at the 2010

OEA Fall RA. He is the Past-President of NWOEA after serving over four years as the District President. He has also held the positions of NWOEA Vice-President and Unit II Representative on the Board of Directors. Jerry is currently serving as a Member and the Past Chair of the Ohio Educator Standards Board. In his twenty-fifth year of teaching and a National Board Certified Teacher, Jerry is currently instructing science at Liberty Center. In 2009 he was OEA's nominee for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence and received The I Can Learn Award for Teaching Excellence. ■

## Leaders Wanted for NWOEA Positions

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 19, 2012.

- NWOEA President, two-year term
- NWOEA Vice-President, two-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I, three-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I, two-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit II, three-year term
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit III, three-year term
- NWOEA At-Large Education Support Professional Representative, one-year term
- OEA Board of Directors, Unit III, 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 17, 2012.

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](mailto:pricec@ohea.org)) and request a Declaration of Candidacy Form. The OEA form must be received in Columbus no later than February 4, 2012 and a copy of the form should be sent to the NWOEA Center. ■

## Congratulations Tim Myers!



*Tim was endorsed by the OEA Board of Directors for re-election to an active seat on the STRS Board. Check with your local president for the opportunity to sign a nomination petition for Tim to ensure his name is placed on the STRS ballot. The STRS Board election will be conducted throughout the month of April in 2012.*



By Tim Myers STRS  
Board Member and  
Past Chair

# Retirement Update

## Strategic Planning under Way for Pensions and Health Care

In previous newsletters, I have provided you with updates on STRS Ohio's proposed plan to strengthen the financial condition of the pension fund. As you may recall, the plan calls for changes that will affect both active teachers and retirees. The plan is contained in S.B. 3 and H.B. 69 that are on hold while the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) studies the plans submitted by all five Ohio public retirement systems. The ORSC recently selected an independent actuarial firm, Pension Trust Advisors, to review and advise the Council on the pension reform plans. STRS Ohio will cooperate with the study, while we continue to review data on the health of the pension and health care funds and determine what steps are needed to meet our fiduciary responsibility to our members.

In November, the Retirement Board's actuarial consultant, Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), reviewed the results of the 2011 annual actuarial valuation report. The report indicated the pension system's funded ratio stands at 58.8% – down from 59.1% last year. PwC noted that as retirement systems mature, it is common for these funds to experience negative cash flow – that is, for benefit payments to exceed contributions collected. However, PwC said that it is happening at a faster than projected rate at STRS Ohio due to an uptick in retirements (more benefits are being paid) and slower

growth than expected in teacher payrolls (fewer contributions).

Also in November, the Retirement Board's investment consultant, Callan Associates, updated the board on its ongoing asset-liability study that began in August. As part of the study, Callan is providing both long-term and short-term capital market projections. Callan concluded that STRS Ohio's current investment policy target would be challenged to achieve an 8% return for the next five and perhaps 10 years. However, Callan reported that based on this investment policy target and historical data, STRS Ohio could expect to generate an 8% to 8-1/2% return over the longer-term 30-year horizon.

The Retirement Board will analyze how the new actuarial data, along with the asset-liability study, will impact its proposed plan to reach the statutory requirement of a 30-year funding period. Some elements of the board's plan are scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2012. If legislation is not passed in time for a July 1 implementation, the 30-year funding requirement will again be in jeopardy. If further changes are necessary, the board will review its alternatives in the coming months.

The board is also committed to another important retirement benefit that STRS Ohio offers, our health care program. Unlike the pension benefit, health care is not a statutory requirement. However, the Retirement Board along with STRS Ohio staff is looking at options to extend the long-term life of the Health Care Stabilization Fund. The board wants to be able to continue to

offer health care and make it something retirees and even active members can rely on in the future. The board and staff are developing a long-term strategic plan that will include specific initiatives for 2012 through 2015.

In a recent presentation to the board, STRS Ohio staff data projects that the current health care program is only expected to remain solvent until 2024, and there is little prospect for additional funding. The board also learned that 69% of benefit recipients enrolled in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program also receive Medicare benefits, while 31% are non-Medicare – yet subsidies for non-Medicare retirees account for 62% of all subsidies.

With this in mind, staff proposed a vision for the future that would establish the Medicare program as the cornerstone for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program – to help the largest number of retirees for the longest period of time. This plan would increase out-of-pocket expenses to reduce premium increases and merges the Medical Mutual Plus and Basic plans into one plan by 2016. The most significant changes would affect the non-Medicare program. These changes would more closely align costs with the marketplace.

In the coming months, staff will present a more detailed plan concerning health care for the board's review. We will be discussing this plan along with the fiscal strength of the pension fund in future board meetings before taking any action. Watch *Board News*, your STRS Ohio newsletters, and STRS Ohio's website ([www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)) for more information. ■

## OEA Fall RA Highlights

There were 1,029 registered delegates in attendance of which 67 were from NWOEA representing 27 local associations and the NWOEA-Retired. Representing NWOEA, the Gibsonburg High School Golden Notes Jazz Band provided the pre-RA entertainment and played the National Anthem for the opening ceremonies. Contributions to the Fund for Children and Public Education totaled \$33,704.

Delegates elected Tammy Koontz to

fill the OEA Board of Directors At-Large position for a term ending August 31, 2013. They also adopted the proposed 2011-2012 Legislative Policies and the *Systemic Policy Agenda of the Ohio Education Association: Supporting a High-Quality Public Education System in Ohio*, formerly titled the *Education Reform Package*. The new Systemic Agenda is the OEA vision for a high-quality system of public education that acknowledges the right of every child to an opportunity for a high-quality education and supports educators,

communities, and policymakers in creating such a system.

Delegates approved two new business items. New Business Item #1 directs OEA to continue to develop appropriate and necessary action plans that strengthen the role of the local associations, OEA District Associations and Regional Coordinating Councils. New Business Item #2 directs OEA to remind members about who voted for and against Senate Bill 5 with "Remember Issue 2" literature. ■

## FCPE Contributions Acknowledged at OEA RA

The following NWOEA members were recognized at the 2011 OEA Fall RA for their continued donations to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE):

### Executive Club Award

James Berta – NWOEA-Retired  
Jessica Freeborn – Penta Career Center EA  
Linda Salvati – New Riegel EA

### Presidents Club Award

Jennifer Long – McComb TEA

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Gary Kapostasy – Findlay EA

### Legacy Award

Jerry Oberhaus – Liberty Center CTA

The following NWOEA locals were recognized for their contributions in 2010-2011:

Liberty Center CTA - \$35.94 per member  
Seneca East EA - \$18.54 per member  
Pandora Gilboa EA - \$16.39 per member

***Congratulations to All!***

## 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 scholarship application, call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632 or visit the NWOEA web site at [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org). The deadline to submit the completed application to the center is Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Finalists will be interviewed on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on Thursday, April 19, 2012, at Findlay High School in Findlay, Ohio.

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. ■

## Become a Representative to the 2012 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 2012 NEA Representative Assembly to be held in Washington, D.C. from June 30-July 5. There are several options for gaining delegate status.

### State-At Large Delegates:

These delegates are determined by election in each of the three NWOEA 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, 2012. State delegates will receive a stipend of approximately \$1,500 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, 2012. NWOEA provides up to \$1,500 for each of three cluster delegates (one per unit) and one at-large cluster delegate.

### 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. In early February, NEA will mail official election report forms to presidents of locals with 76 or more members. This official report form must be received at the OEA Office by April 10, 2012. Funding is determined by the local association's funding policies.

To find more information on how to become a delegate to the NEA RA visit the NWOEA website at [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org). Select the "Special Events" button and then select "NEA RA." For information about NWOEA funding, please call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632. ■

## OEA Summer Leadership Academy Scholarships Available in April

With the school year almost half over are you starting to dream about summer and what you will be doing? Don't forget to add the OEA Leadership Academy from August 6-8 to plans for the summer. 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!

This conference is held at a Columbus hotel and conference center. Participants have the choice of attending sessions that stress association leadership, collective bargaining, political advocacy, or professional leadership. In addition to the training, participants are able to hear nationally recognized speakers who

provide much food for thought on 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 Academy scholarships, should call the NWOEA Center (1-800-366-9632) or e-mail the NWOEA Executive Director at [nwoea\\_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://www.nwoea.org)) in April to view the scholarship information. ■

**Visit the NWOEA Website**  
**[www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org)**



# NWEOA 2011 FALL WORKSHOP

Fifty-three members representing twenty-three locals plus NWEOA-Retired attended the NWEOA Fall Workshop at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center on September 27. Guests at the dinner included OEA Vice President Bill Leibensperger, OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks, OEA Assistant Executive Director – Member Services/Program Rachelle Johnson, and Labor Relations Consultant Denise Carmack from the Holland Office. During the dinner Larry Wicks gave an update on the campaign to defeat Issue 2 and urged members to take an active role to ensure the repeal of SB 5.



*From left:* Don Traxler (NWEOA-R) with help from Jerry Oberhaus (Liberty Center) encourages members to get involved in the campaign to defeat Issue 2.



*From left:* Jennifer Long and Laura Courtad (McComb), Jerry Schlick (Seneca East), and Brian Krawetzke (Shawnee) contemplate the legal ramifications of what they do and do not do in the classroom as explained by presenter Rachelle Johnson, OEA Assistant Executive Director - Member Services/Program.



*From left:* Congratulations to Melinda King (Lima) winner of the Fund Raising Basket Drawing, Don Traxler (NWEOA-R) winner of the gift certificate door prize, and Mary Karazim (NWEOA-R) winner of the Fund Raising Share of the Wealth Drawing.



*From left:* Karen Rumschlag (Hopewell-Loudon), Kay Langhals (Spencerville) and Deb Steinhauer (Hopewell-Loudon) are updated on Issue 2 and what devastating effects public educators will face if SB 5 is not repealed.

## Delegate Orientation Offered at NWEOA RA

First-time delegates attending the NWEOA Representative Assembly at Findlay High School in Findlay on April 19, 2012, are encouraged to attend a brief orientation session prior to the RA. Local presidents are asked to mark first-time attendees on the NWEOA 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 NWEOA RA. ■

## Engage Grant Provides Assistance to OEA Spring RA

To help locals become involved in the Association at the state level and to provide support for NWEOA candidates running for election at the OEA Spring RA, NWEOA is offering the Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage Grant. This grant provides funding to reimburse \$100 for overnight lodging and \$50 for mileage to the OEA Spring RA for one delegate from a local that has not sent delegates to an OEA RA in the previous two school years.

Funding will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is exhausted. Preference will be given to delegates who attended the OEA Fall RA and whose local has the highest percentage of member participation in the Fund for Children and Public Education as of December 31, 2011. Receipts would be required for reimbursement of up to \$150.

Any delegate interested in applying for this grant should submit a letter of interest including delegate contact information and local association president's signature. Letter should be sent by March 1, 2012, to the NWEOA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840. ■

101 W. Sandusky - Suite 302  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

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*Pamela Orr from McComb TEA (left), winner of the NWOEA Christmas Shopping Spree drawing at the OEA Fall RA, accepts gift cards from NWOEA Fund Raising Committee Member Mary Hart, NWOEA-R.*

## Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Banquet

Come celebrate with NWOEA at the 28th Annual Awards Recognition Program as we honor individuals nominated by their local for their contributions to their association either on the local or district level. NWOEA will also present certificates to locals that have increased membership by at least 5% or have 100% membership.

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 6, 2012
- 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, Baked Potato, 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 21, 2012.*

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 submitting award nomination forms is January 17, 2012. If you need nomination forms, please call 1-800-366-9632 or visit [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org).**

**Attendance at the Awards Banquet will count as one of the two attendance requirements for a 2011-2012 PR Grant.**