

Welcome...

After a several year lapse the NWOEA-R newsletter is back and we hope looking better than ever. Our apologies. It is the intent of your NWOEA-R Committee to make this organization stronger by providing ways to keep you informed of advancements -or lack thereof- in the field of education along with opportunities to keep up with your fellow NWOEA friends. We will continue to cover STRS developments as they unfold. Now that you are retired some of you may be interested in going to Columbus to see an STRS meeting in action. They meet on the third Thursday and Friday of each month. Invite a friend, or two, and make a day of it.

We have been taking part in the regular NWOEA Fall and Spring Workshops and are responsible for one of the sessions. This year the focus is on health care and the many groups that are coordinating efforts for improvement. Past years' topics include identity theft and a panel presentation on the possibilities retirement can bring.

Please feel free to notify the committee of topics that need to be covered, both in the newsletter and in the workshops. We are here to serve all the retired members in the NWOEA district.

Marj Castanien, NWOEA-R Committee Chair

Several Health Care Program Changes Approved for Calendar Year 2008

During its June meeting, the STRS Board continued its discussion about health care costs and potential changes for calendar year 2008.

The board approved these changes to prescription drug coverage:

* Add coverage for over-the-counter Prilosec at retail for a 28-day supply for a \$5 copayment; increase copayments for all other tiers (generic and brand-name) of proton pump inhibitors, such as omeprazole, Nexium, Protonix and Prevacid, to \$25/\$50/\$75 at retail and \$65/\$125/\$190 through mail-service. This change applies only to this class of medications for enrollees in the Aetna and Medical Mutual Plus and Basic Plans and the Paramount health care plans. To obtain the over-

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What's New in Retirement?

NWOEA-R is offering retired members two opportunities for learning and fellowship with invitations to two "luncheon dates." On Nov. 8 the luncheon will be at the Henderson Dining Hall of the University of Findlay (on Frazier St.) Meeting at 11:30 in the Rosewood Room



across the hall. The group will then go into the dining hall which features an "endless buffet." Cost will be \$6.00

The speaker will be Guy Kendall-Freas of NEA Member Benefits who will tell the "21 Financial Mistakes You can't Afford to Make."

Reservations can be made by calling the NWOEA office at 1-800-366-9632 or by e-mailing Marj Castanien at marjc@defnet.com by Nov. 3rd.

The second luncheon will be April 8 at the Art Museum in Toledo. Mary Karazim, a retired NWOEA member, will be our docent. More details will be coming in the next newsletter.

This is your last chance...

to register for the OEA-R Statewide Fall Conference, Sept 12 from 9:30 to 3. Cost is \$15 which covers lunch and materials. Parking provided at STRS building on 300 E. Broad in Columbus. Speakers will be from STRS and OEA with Karen Berry speaking on Wellness.

Reservations need to be in by Sept. 4. For questions call Don Holub at OEA (800 282 1500.)

NWOWEA-R Committee Welcomes Two New Members

James Berta of Anthony Wayne Local and Diane Streeter, Bellevue Education Association, have been appointed members of the NWOWEA-R Committee. Both are newly retired and have been very active in Northwest and OEA. The committee is glad to welcome them.

Other members of the committee include:

Muriel Stevens, Bryan

muriel43506@yahoo.com

Don Corfman, Washington Local

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Sandy Wasielewski, Washington Local

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Barbara Pease,

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Rose Pruszynski,

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Serving as chair and Northwest's representative to the OEA-R Advisory Council is Marjorie Castanien, of Northeastern Local, marjc@defnet.com

We will miss two long-time members who are leaving the group: Mary Ann Switzer and Margaret McAdams. They brought much to the group and will be missed.



OEA/NEA Delegate Procedure for Retired Educators

Keep active in OEA and NEA by being a delegate to the Representative Assemblies. To be a retired delegate to the OEA-RA assembly, a person must submit a Declaration of Candidacy Form which should reach the OEA office by Sept. 20, 2007.

This form can be requested by mail from the OEA office at 225 East Broad St., Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43216; by e-mail at www.ohea.org; or by phone at 800-282-1500.

The names and biographical data of potential delegates will be placed on a ballot which is mailed to all retired OEA members for their vote. Applicants receiving the most votes will be the delegates; the remaining applicants will be alternates and take the place of any delegate who can not serve.

To be a retired delegate to NEA-RA, a person must complete a Declaration of Candidacy Form for NEA state delegate candidacy. Declaration forms will be available at the Veterans Memorial Convention Office at the December Representative Assembly or through the OEA office. This form must be completed and sent to OEA in care of Becky Slaughter so that it arrives by January 31, 2008.

An Increasing Scam

Unsolicited mail with bogus checks have been increasingly showing up in mailboxes. These checks appear to be from real banks or large companies and come with a contact number. If that number is called, an "employee" affirms the legitimacy of the transaction. The caller is asked to deposit the check and forward a given amount to a new address. Soon the bank calls to inform the unsuspecting person the deposited check is a fake. The address no longer exists and the "employees" are long gone, along with the *their* money. People who are scammed, generally cannot get their money back, but a report can be filed with the Federal Trade Commission(www.ftc.gov), the local Consumer Protection agency, or the postal authorities (www.usps.gov/web sites/depart/inspect).

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the-counter Prilosec 28-day supply for a \$5 copayment, enrollees will need a prescription from their physician. **No other prescription drug copayments will be changed for 2008.**

* Offer a voluntary pill-splitting program for specified drugs. Program enrollees are prescribed double-strength medications that they split in half to get the lower strength. In return, they pay only half the current copayment amount. This change also applies to enrollees in the Aetna and Medical Mutual Plus and Basic Plans and the Paramount health care plans. Enrollees wishing to participate in this program will need to discuss it with their physician and obtain a prescription specifying the double-strength dosage and pill splitting.

* Increase the Basic Plan's prescription drug maximum annual benefit to \$10,000 from \$5,000. With this change, a plan enrollee would pay 100% of the full cost of Tier 2 and Tier 3 drugs only after STRS Ohio has paid \$10,000 in retail and mail-service prescription costs. The Basic Plan is available through Aetna and Medical Mutual."