



## OEA Representative Assembly Held December 5th

The December 5, 2009 OEA Fall Representative Assembly (RA) was highlighted by visits from two notable individuals. State Treasurer Kevin Boyce and Speaker of the House Armond Budish talked to the delegates about the future of public education in Ohio. The 1,079 delegates registered for the OEA Fall RA passed one new business item and adopted a proposal amending the OEA Bylaws. They also approved the proposed Legislative Policies and the proposed Education Reform Document. Delegates contributed \$34,128 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE).

The approved new business item directs OEA to begin preparing contractual language to protect locals from negative aspects of the “Race to the Top” stimulus money. Passage of Proposal #1 amends the OEA Bylaws to allow the Board of Directors to establish dues for active members of affiliates who are organized as a result of joint organizing agreement between OEA and another union. This



*Proud husband Jerry Ochs and five-week old son Jacob Joseph accompanied Shawn Chalfin Ochs (Rossford EA) to Columbus where delegates at the OEA 2009 Fall RA recognized Shawn for her FCPE donations.*

amendment allows OEA flexibility to enter into agreements with other employee

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## NWOEA Engage Grants Still Available

The four newly established NWOEA Engage Grants for 2009-2010 are still available, and eligible local associations are encouraged to apply. These grants provide opportunities for more locals to be involved in association activities.

**The FCPE Drive Assistance Engage Grant** will provide training, support, and incentives for a local to conduct a Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) 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 (2008-2009).

**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 five school years. Preference will be given to delegates who attend the OEA Fall RA and whose local has the highest percentage of member participation in FCPE as of December 31, 2009. Deadline to apply is February 20, 2010.

**The Cluster Delegate to NEA RA Engage Grant** will provide funding for an additional cluster delegate to attend the 2010 NEA RA. Locals of 75 or fewer members who have not had a NEA delegate in the past five years are eligible to receive this grant.

For more information visit the NWOEA website at [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org), e-mail [nwoea\\_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nwoea_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net), or call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632. ■

## NWOEA Board Appoints New Member

At the September Board meeting the NWOEA Board of Directors appointed Jessica Freeborn to fill the vacancy on the Board as a Unit I Representative until August 31, 2010. Jessica has been a member of the Penta Career Center Education Association (PCCEA) since 2001. For the past four years she has



served as PCCEA’s representative on the Black Swamp UniServ Service Council. This past summer Jessica was a first-time delegate for the NEA-RA in San Diego, where she was appointed to serve as the secretary for the Vocational & Career Technical Education Caucus. ■

## Perceptions: A Reflection on Our Response to Change



Notes from  
NWOEA President  
Jerry Oberhaus

Recently I was attending a Jennings Scholar lecture where the guest speaker, Dave Caperton (author of

*Happiness, It's a funny thing*), was speaking of perceptions. It is often said that a person's perception is their reality. Caperton detailed that it is actually a person's RESPONSE to a perception that builds the reality based on that perception. For each perception that we form, we have the choice of how to react to the perception. I chose to engage this topic for this article as we enter a new year where our responses certainly do build our reality. The arrival of 2010 thrusts us into a world with the heavy weight of economic challenges amidst great opportunities to make large fundamental changes in huge systems. Not slighting the enormity of health care reform, foreign policy changes and a new domestic energy policy, I will focus only on the opportunities in the education system and our profession.

My point is that our own responses to our perception of what these opportunities bring, in fact will form reality. Perceptions are based on observations. It is fairly easy to observe that there is a large amount of change happening in education.

Change is certainly not foreign to education. We are constantly "changing" education. These changes

however go deeper, are more fundamental, and are focused on advancing us to a new, better place. That is the part that bends perceptions. How we perceive the challenges/opportunities before us is based on our experience, aptitude and attitudes. That alone presents challenges for the reform efforts. How we act on those perceptions however will form the reality that will shape and mold our education system and profession.

From my viewpoint there are several things that influence responses to perceptions. Change is stressful and change has emotional realities. Change evokes uncertainty; uncertainty begs fear of the unknown. Fear often brings strong rapid responses. Responses based on fear require little thought, little information, and little conscious effort. In fact responses to fear are innately automatic and designed to protect. So what is in the Ed Reform plan that does generate fear? Is it the changes to licensure? Is it the four year residency? Perhaps it is the mentoring by teachers that demonstrate practice at the accomplished or distinguished levels? Is it the all day every day kindergarten? Is it the reduced class sizes? Is it the emphasis on quality professional development and resources to make it available? Is it a model evaluation system based on the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession? Is it the unknown details that we have the opportunity to define? Or is it more simply the change itself?

As noted before change of itself can create stress, discomfort, uncertainty, and fear. Now add in to that, the changes we

are facing will provide new opportunities for education professionals, changes which we have the opportunity to shape. It is a recipe for varied perceptions: some perceptions steeped in cyclical "reform" efforts of the past, some jaded by the unfulfilled promises of previous "change" movements, some perceptions framed with the positive hope of tomorrow. We own our perceptions. Our response however builds a reality not only for ourselves but for those around us. Our response colors the perceptions of those around us. In fact each of our own individual responses impacts the collective response. The success of our efforts depends upon collective response.

2010 brings to us the opportunities to build public education into a stronger and more vital component of citizenry. That reality will only be realized with action. The perceptions that we chose to act upon will define the path that we take, the road that we build, and the destination at which we arrive. In an information driven world it is important that the perceptions we act upon are formed from the best information that we can obtain. In a world of vast change it is important that our perception includes a view of the future in which we hope our students will engage. It is when our perceptions are tempered with facts and a target destination that we can best respond to the challenges before us.

Welcome to 2010, a year where so much of the destiny of public education lies in our hands. Together we will build a brighter future. Thank you for all that you do for our students and for our profession. ■

### OEA Representative Assembly

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organizations to explore and engage in organizing opportunities and therefore, furthers the interests of OEA to ensure that organizing opportunities are maximized.

Attending the OEA RA from NWOEA were 66 registered delegates representing 25 local associations and the NWOEA Retired. ■

### OEA Women's Caucus to Host Leadership Training

The OEA Women's Caucus will be hosting the NEA Women's Leadership Training "Group Process Skills – GPS" June 11-13, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel Columbus/Worthington. GPS is designed to help diverse groups of male and female association leaders learn various effective communication and decision-making skills that are necessary for creating a vital organization. GPS provides participants with extensive practice in a variety of

leadership experiences and skills such as listening, attending, and responding to member needs as well as developing inclusive organizational goals and programs to meet the needs of all members.

Registration is for both the training and hotel accommodations. Training spots are limited. For more information call Jane Gorka at 419-884-3980 or 800-325-6244 or e-mail her at [gorkaj@ohea.org](mailto:gorkaj@ohea.org). ■

# Retirement Update

## Northwestern Ohio Education Association Important Dates

### 2010

- January 15** Deadline for submission of NWOEA Awards Nominations
- February 1** Deadline for election of NWOEA RA Delegates and Alternates
- February 1** Deadline for submission of NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship Applications
- February 10** Deadline for submission of NWOEA Delegate & Alternate Election Results to NWOEA Center
- February 10** Deadline for submission of Local Delegate Assistance to NEA RA Engage Grant Applications
- February 12** Deadline for filing letters of intent for NWOEA Officers and Board of Directors
- February 20** Deadline for submission of Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage Grant Applications
- March 2** Awards Banquet Findlay Country Club 6:00 p.m.
- March 31** NWOEA Delegate Default Election Results due at NWOEA Center by 5 p.m.
- April 15** NWOEA Representative Assembly 5 p.m. Findlay High School Light dinner served
- August 9** PDC Leadership Training Sessions University of Findlay 8:30 a.m.



By Tim Myers, STRS Board Vice Chair

When my last message to you was published in our fall 2009 newsletter, the State

Teachers Retirement Board had unanimously adopted a plan to strengthen the financial condition of the retirement system. Our sister systems in Ohio have taken similar actions, as have public pension systems across the country.

The sustainability of the defined benefit plan for public employees has become a popular topic in both the media and in state legislatures. We expect to see the same discussion in our state in the coming months. The responsibility for ensuring the sustainability of STRS Ohio's Defined Benefit plan lies with the Retirement Board, working in conjunction with the Legislature. The changes we are proposing require action by the Ohio General Assembly; we anticipate that a bill will be introduced early in 2010. We know that changes to the bill may occur during the legislative process. However, the worst thing that can happen is nothing. As we have shared with STRS Ohio members, reasonable and measured changes are needed to ensure the STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan is preserved for current and future public educators in this state.

At a time when thousands of Ohioans have seen their pensions, health care and jobs disappear, there is little sympathy for public employees who complain about having to work longer to receive what are perceived as generous benefits and health care coverage in retirement. Most Americans are working longer; Social Security changes, rising health care costs and the decline in accumulated savings are underlying factors. "Pension envy" is causing some to think that defined benefit plans should be discontinued for public employees.

Unfortunately, what is often overlooked is the value of the defined

benefit plan not only to its participants, but also to the communities and states where those defined benefit plan members reside. STRS Ohio alone pays more than \$3.6 billion in benefits to Ohio residents each year that they then spend in Ohio.

The National Institute for Retirement Security recently conducted a study that further reinforces the value of Ohio's defined benefit plans. The study, titled "Pensionomics: Measuring the Economic Impact of State and Local Pension Plans," noted that in 2006 "each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.33 in total economic activity in Ohio." Further, the report stated "each dollar 'invested' by Ohio taxpayers in these plans supported \$5.73 in total economic activity in the state."

The "Great Recession" and additional economic and demographic factors are impacting each of Ohio's public pension systems and each is proposing changes to ensure its sustainability in the future. But sacrificing the defined benefit plan that provides a reasonable lifetime benefit for thousands of retirees is not an option. STRS Ohio and its counterparts are not interested in competing in a "race to the bottom." Rather, we believe our defined benefit plans could serve as a role model for ensuring retirement security of Americans who now face the real possibility of outliving their savings in their "golden years," thanks to depleted 401(k) accounts.

Both the Retirement Board and STRS Ohio staff will continue to share our plan for the future with our membership and the Legislature. By making changes now, a viable STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan can be preserved for the foreseeable future. If we wait too long to make changes, the changes will have to be much more drastic. While the task of developing STRS Ohio's plan took many months of research and discussion, it was just the first step. In the months ahead, the board, staff and STRS Ohio members must remain focused on the task at hand — preserving the Defined Benefit Plan and a sound retirement for generations of teachers.

We will continue to use the STRS Ohio newsletters, Web site and e-mail news service to share the progress of our plan with you. ■

## NWEOA Teachers Achieve National Board Certification

Ten members of NWEOA are among the 213 Ohio teachers to achieve National Board Certification of the total 8,882 nationwide for 2009. Ohio ranks seventh nationwide in the number of new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) and seventh in the total number of NBCTs over time.

National Board Certification is the most prestigious credential a teacher can earn. Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers – and make them better. NBCTs have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge skills and practices through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. For more information about the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), visit the NBPTS website at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).



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

◆ **Jill Anderson, Pike-Delta-York EA** ◆  
Generalist/Early Childhood

◆ **Melissa Bennett, Elida EA** ◆  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

◆ **Rachel Haas, Findlay EA** ◆  
English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

◆ **Douglas Hinton, Liberty Center CTA** ◆  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

◆ **April Krouse, Wayne Trace EA** ◆  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

◆ **Kristin Lee, Lima EA** ◆  
Art/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

◆ **Kathryn Neil, Elida EA** ◆  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

◆ **Jennifer Pugh, Spencerville EA** ◆  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

◆ **Joy Richmond, Bryan EA** ◆  
Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

◆ **Pamela Righi, Liberty Center CTA** ◆  
School Counseling/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

## The Role of the NWEOA RA Delegate

The Association is governed by Representative Assemblies (more commonly called RAs) at all levels – national, state, and district. Delegates to these meetings elect officers, adopt budgets, approve governing documents, and set the policies that determine the direction of the Association. Locals that do not send delegates to the Representative Assemblies are forfeiting the rights they have as a member of a democratic organization.



OEA delegates attend the OEA RA in the fall and in the spring. They are also automatically seated as delegates at the NWEOA Representative Assembly.

In addition to a local's OEA delegates, each local is entitled to elect delegates who attend only the NWEOA RA on April 15, 2010. Attendance as a NWEOA delegate to the NWEOA RA is an excellent way to introduce and involve new leaders in the democratic process.

Some locals have their OEA alternates become NWEOA delegates. This way the OEA alternates who are also NWEOA delegates are seated at the NWEOA RA and are prepared to go to Columbus in the event that their OEA delegate cannot fulfill their obligations.

Locals must report their NWEOA delegates to the NWEOA Office. Certifying state delegates to OEA does not certify NWEOA delegates. The deadline for the election of NWEOA delegates and alternates is Monday, February 1, 2010. The deadline for submitting names of NWEOA delegates and alternates to the NWEOA Office is Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LARGER REPRESENTATION AT THE NWEOA RA AND ELECT NWEOA DELEGATES.**

For more information about electing NWEOA delegates, please call the NWEOA Office at 1-800-366-9632. ■

## NWEOA RA Schedule Includes Delegate Orientation

First-time delegates attending the NWEOA Representative Assembly at Findlay High School in Findlay on April 15, 2010, are encouraged to attend a brief orientation session prior to the RA. Local presidents are asked to indicate 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. ■

## Educator Standards Board Tackles Busy Schedule

by *Jerry Oberhaus, Chair*  
*Ohio Educators Standards Board*

Members of the Ohio Educator Standards Board (ESB) face a variety of responsibilities as they undertake a heavy workload for 2010. Currently the Educator Standards Board is working on the recommendations for the requirements of the new senior professional and lead professional educator licenses. The board is working through a 45 member writing team to development recommendations for the requirements of the 4-year residency

educator license. A writing team is also submitting recommendations to the Standards Committee of the ESB for school treasurer standards. Jerry Oberhaus also represents the ESB on a 25 member writing team developing recommendations for a model teacher evaluation system based on the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession.

The process for the development of each of the aforementioned products also includes an opportunity for stakeholder feedback. For more information visit the Ohio Educator Standards Board website at [esb.ode.state.oh.us](http://esb.ode.state.oh.us). ■

## OEA Summer Leadership Conference Scholarships Available in April

Mark your calendar! Start making plans to attend the OEA Leadership Conference scheduled for August 2-4. 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 are provided the opportunity 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 Conference 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 [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org) in April to view the scholarship information posted on the NWOEA website ■

## Save the Dates for the 2010 OEA New Teacher Forums

All early-career teachers belonging to the OEA are invited to a series of regional New Teacher Forums throughout Ohio each year, and 2010 is no exception. OEA, in partnership with NEA Member Benefits, is offering early-career teachers a fun and informative evening with food, free gifts and information on how to get the most out of their OEA and NEA membership.

Program sessions will focus on professional issues, union advocacy work, consumer information and services, and

opportunities to maximize the value of Association membership. The forums provide an excellent opportunity to network with other new teachers and to

### Region 4

**March 9, 2010** OEA Defiance Office,  
25568 Elliott Road, Defiance 43512

**March 23, 2010**

Findlay, location to be determined.

To register, contact Jane Gorka at  
800-325-6244 or at [gorkaj@ohea.org](mailto:gorkaj@ohea.org).

receive important information and resource materials.

There is no cost to attend but advanced registration is required. Space is limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so please register soon to secure a spot in one of the sessions. Members can go to a session in one's region or attend another regional session, if the date or location is more convenient. For specific dates, times, locations and registration information visit [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org). ■

## Why Hold a Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) Drive?

NWOEA members demonstrate a commitment to the future each and every day by providing students quality public education, and each and every day public education is affected by decisions made by state legislators. Public employees have a personal stake in the outcome of decisions made by public officials. Employment, working conditions, and ability to bargain collectively depend on legislation enacted or funded by the State of Ohio.

The OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) provides the funds necessary to carry out OEA's Legislative Commission's platform which is decided upon by the membership at the annual FCPE Convention. These platform issues cover all aspects of employment in public

education, such as school funding and tax reform; continued collective bargaining rights; healthcare; retirement benefits and level of compensation; school safety; employment protections – rights to continuing contracts, board paid health care, due process for allegations of performance, rights to representation, guaranteed retirement benefits; and funding of member lobby days.

Through FCPE, public school teachers are able to support those who support them. Candidates are invited to interview with the District Screening Committee. The committee then recommends those candidates who will receive the endorsement of the Association. Membership dues cannot be used for support of political

candidates or endorsed candidates. All FCPE funds are voluntary contributions.

To ensure that the voice of public education continues to be heard by state legislators and to support candidates who truly advocate for strong public schools will mean support of FCPE funds. NWOEA encourages all local associations to hold a FCPE Drive. Locals that did not hold a drive last year or locals that would like to increase participation from their members can contact the NWOEA Center (1-800-366-9632) for assistance in conducting an effective FCPE campaign. Local associations can also obtain information about NWOEA's newly established FCPE Drive Assistance Engage Grant by visiting [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org). ■

### New Teacher Kits: Coming Soon!

All new teachers joining OEA for the first time will receive a complimentary welcome kit that includes useful information and free gifts through the mail. Kits will be arriving this month! ■

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



## FCPE Contributions Acknowledged at Fall OEA RA

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

### Executive Club Award Recipients

(\$500 in 5 years)

Shawn Chalfin Ochs - Rossford EA

Laura Herroon - NWOEA Retired



### Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

(\$3,000 in lifetime)

Samuel Radel - OEA Staff/NWOEA Retired

The following three NWOEA locals in the Northwestern District were recognized for contributions made by their members as a whole in 2008-2009. Awards are determined on a per capita basis:

Liberty Center CTA - \$31.23 per member

Seneca East EA - \$19.87 per member

Pandora-Gilboa EA - \$18.26 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 form, 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 Monday, February 1, 2010. Finalists will be interviewed on Monday, March 8, 2010, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 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. ■

## NEA Member Benefits Web Site Sweepstakes

**December 17 – January 21, 2010**

**Ten \$100 Gift Cards from The Container Store!**

**January 22 – February 14, 2010**

**Two "Sweet on You Valentine Packages"**

**February 15 – 28, 2010**

**Ten \$100 Target Gift Cards!**

NEA members can register in the "ENTER TO WIN" area of the NEA Members Benefits web site ([neamb.com](http://neamb.com))

## Get Involved! 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 a position to be elected at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on April 15, 2010.

If you are interested in running for any of the NWOEA offices, send a letter of intent stating the position for which you are declaring yourself a candidate to Tim Myers, NWOEA Past President and Nominating and Elections Chair, 101 W. Sandusky St., Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840. The deadline for filing letters of intent is February 12, 2010.

If you are interested in an OEA Board of Directors position, contact your local president or Carol Taylor at OEA (1-800-282-1500 or [taylorc@ohea.org](mailto:taylorc@ohea.org)) and request a Declaration of Candidacy Form. The OEA form must be received in

Columbus no later than February 21, 2010, and a copy of the form should be sent to the NWOEA Center.

Positions to be elected:

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

## Interested in Becoming a Representative to the 2010 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 2010 NEA RA to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 1-6, 2010.

To find out 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 more information, please call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632. The deadline for filing for NEA State At-Large Delegate status is January 31, 2010. The deadline for filing for NEA Cluster Delegate status is April 10, 2010. ■

## OEA Spring Representative Assembly

Friday and Saturday, May 7 & 8, 2010

Veterans Memorial Auditorium Columbus, Ohio

# NWEOA 2009 FALL WORKSHOP

Eighty-one members representing 28 locals plus NWEOA Retired attended the NWEOA Fall Workshop at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center on September 29. Guests at the dinner included OEA Secretary-Treasurer Jim Timlin and CentWest Regional Director Jeanette Cooper. Following the dinner members attended one of the four break-out sessions.

- **Educators, Beware When Using the Internet & Other Forms of Electronic Messaging!**  
Rachelle Johnson, OEA Assistant Executive Director – Member Services/Program and OEA Director of Legal Services
- **How the Legislature Is Affecting Your Job**  
William Leibensperger, OEA Vice President
- **Getting the Most for Your Dues – What NEA Member Benefits Can Offer You**  
Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits
- **STRS Update: Learn Today What Tomorrow Will Mean for You**  
Tim Myers, STRS Board Vice-Chair



*Above: Bill Leibensperger, OEA Vice President, updates local leaders on current issues during his workshop session how the Legislature Is Affecting Your Job.*

*Right: Findlay EA Members from left, Teresa Yeater, Diana Schweinfurth, and Kim Fillhart, give serious thought as to the ramifications of upcoming legislation.*



*Above: Rachelle Johnson, OEA Assistant Executive Director-Member Services/Program and OEA Director of Legal Services, lightens the mood for workshop participants after giving some serious advice during her presentation "Educators, Beware When Using the Internet & Other Forms of Electronic Messaging!"*

*Inset: (Left to right) Mary Jane Schneider of Ottoville, Jennifer Long of McComb, Don Traxler of NWEOA-R, and Daniella McAfee of Defiance listen intently to possible dangers that face educators when using the internet.*



*Left: Tim Myers, (in far background) Vice Chair of the STRS Board, updates a large crowd of NWEOA members with a wide range of teaching experience about the recent STRS proposals in his session "STRS Update: Learn Today What Tomorrow Will Mean for You."*

*Right: Members attending the STRS Update session carefully study pension and health care handouts and contemplate their future.*



*Guy Kendall-Freas from NEA Member Benefits explains to Mary Lou Altenburger from Fort Jennings how to get the most for her dues thanks to the many opportunities and services offered by NEA Member Benefits.*



*From left: Congratulations to the winners of the Share of the Wealth Drawing – Rose Pruszynski of NWEOA-R, Door Prize – Rebecca Perry of Elmwood, and Longaberger Basket Drawing – Dee Groman of Findlay.*



*Christy Knudsen and Cara Foos from Bellevue discover a wide variety of offerings available to them through NEA Member Benefits.*

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Findlay, Ohio 45840

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*Jim Wilhelm of SEOEA (left), winner of the NWOEA Christmas Shopping Spree drawing at the Fall OEA RA, accepts gift cards from NWOEA Fund Raising Chair Mary Hart, NWOEA-R.*

## Twenty-Sixth Annual Awards Banquet

Come celebrate with NWOEA at the 26th 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 recognize members who have received National Board Certification in the year 2009 and present certificates to locals that have increased membership by a least 5% or have 100% membership.

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 2, 2010
- PLACE:** Findlay Country Club, 1500 Country Club Drive
- TIME:** **Cash Bar:** 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. • **Dinner:** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. • **Presentations:** 7:30 p.m.
- 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 23, 2010.

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 15, 2010.**  
**If you need a nomination form, please call 1-800-366-9632 or go online to [www.nwoea.org](http://www.nwoea.org).**