

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
 CANDIDATES FOR OEA-RETIRED DELEGATE POSITIONS
 CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS
 2024 OEA FALL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

<p>Debbie Bernauer Brecksville, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>I am very excited to be able to run as an OEA-R delegate again after having taken a few years off due to family responsibilities. During those years, I continued to fight to protect our public schools through my work on several pro-public education groups - including serving as the secretary of Public Education Partners. I have also continued to lobby our state legislators re: important bills related to our public schools. Additionally, as a Cuyahoga County Democratic Central Committee member, I have been actively involved in campaigning for candidates who support our cause. If I am lucky enough to be elected as a delegate again, I am really looking forward to reconnecting and working with my fellow OEA family members.</p>
<p>Karen Carney Youngstown, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>My name is Karen Carney and I am running for OEA-Retired Delegate. As a classroom teacher for close to 40 years, I was highly involved in Union work at the local, regional and state level throughout my career. As a newly retired educator I would like to continue in that service--advocating and making our voices heard through local, regional and state platforms. I am asking for your support to empower me to continue this important work as an OEA-Retired Delegate. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Gerry Curran Lewis Center, OH Capital District</p>	<p>I was very happy to attend last year's OEA RA and represent OEA-Retired at this summer's NEA RA in Philadelphia.</p> <p>I am grateful for your votes and the kind thoughts and prayers you have extended during my recent illness.</p>
<p>Marti Franks Reminderville, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>When I retired from the classroom I did not retire from education advocacy. I feel that retired educators have a responsibility to serve when ever and wherever we can. I am so grateful for the opportunity to stay in the fray and to use my energy and time in support of the most important job in the world. This is gift I do not take lightly. This is good and necessary work and I know that strong unions make it happen.</p>

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<p>Hank Haynes Olmsted Township, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>Elect me, Hank Haynes, as OEA-Retired Delegate and I will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to preserve economic security and retirement benefits for retired members and support political activity and professional development. • Represent the interests of OEA-Retired members at the OEA Representative Assembly and the OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly. • Promote OEA-Retired professional development programs and events available to OEA active members. • Work to increase OEA-Retired membership, especially among recently retired local association leaders. • Work to involve more OEA-Retired members as mentors and consultants to local association leaders in all aspects of local operations.
<p>Mary Kennedy Dublin, OH Central OEA-NEA District</p>	<p>I have represented members at the local, state and national levels for over 30 years as an active, and now retired member. It would be my honor to continue to be a voice for public education.</p>
<p>Bill Lavezzi Bedford, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>Since NEA remade itself in the early 70s, the Representative Assembly has been the main instrument of organizational democracy in NEA and its state and district affiliates.</p> <p>As a retired member, I know that control of OEA needs to remain in the hands of active members; but retired members still have a role to play.</p> <p>As a retired delegate, I will continue to consider fairly and carefully the issues confronted by the delegates; to model effective advocacy from the RA floor; and to apply the lessons of experience to the issues of the future.</p>
<p>Gretchen Y. Washington Cincinnati, OH SWOEA District</p>	<p>I have been an OEA Representative Assembly delegate for 18 out of 20 times as an active teacher. During this time I was an OEA Board of Director and a NEA Board of Director member. I have appreciated being elected as an OEA-R delegate since I retired in 2017. I would truly love to be a delegate once again for 2024 - 2025. I would appreciate your vote.</p>
<p>Jené Wilson Highland Heights, OH NEOEA District</p>	<p>"This is how we used to do it," should not be a rationale for how things should work presently. We all need to continue to be open to new structures and ways of doing things. However, I do believe the retired members have the experience to provide the necessary historical and institutional knowledge to help inform the current organization. They also have the ability to learn new things and new ways, as well as the time and energy to continue to help the Association succeed and grow at all levels. I am running for OEA-R RA delegate to bring both perspectives to the larger Association.</p>