

## OEA-R Candidate Campaign Statements

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Local	Electoral Unit	Campaign Statement
Chuck	Steinbower	S.C.O.P.E.	OEA - RETIRED	<p>Hi My name is Chuck Steinbower and I am seeking your support as a Candidate for the positions of OEA Retired NEA delegate and for a position as the At Large member of the OEA Retired Executive Board.</p> <p>I have never been to an NEA RA nor have I ever been a member of the OEA Retired Executive Board. However, in every endeavor that I have undertaken, I have always gone about it with the utmost of my ability and have been willing to do the grassroots work to get things done. I hope to explore extensive ways that Educators can engage in their Community and bring Equity and Equality for all in these positions. I have participated in several teacher seminars on the topic of Social Justice and have administered three NEA Student Achievement Grants, of which there is a 20 percent chance of a successful application. I am a regular at the OEA RA and have participated in OEA Organizing, and Civil Rights Committees and Doris L Allen Minority Caucus.</p> <p>I am a new and fresh Voice and promise to listen to your ideas and communicate with you as you deserve. You are important as retirees and I will be a person who listens.</p>
Gery	Curran	COLUMBUS E. A.	OEA - RETIRED	<p>I want to thank all of you for your gracious thoughts and prayers during my recent encounter with ill health. Without your support, I'm sure things wouldn't have turned out well for me. I'm back in the pink now and ready, with your continued support, to represent you at the 2025 NEA Representative Assembly in Portland. Again, I thank you and look forward to working for you again this summer.</p>
Jeff	Corbin	COLUMBUS E. A.	OEA - RETIRED	<p>I would be honored to continue serving the retired members of OEA as an elected delegate. Thank you for your support.</p>
Vertene B.	DeWitt	WESTLAKE T. A.	OEA - RETIRED	<p>Before my retirement from the Westlake City Schools, I served as our local's Vice-president and a term on the NEOEA's Board of Directors. Other involvements were I served on the DLAMC Executive Committee, the NEOEA and OEA Resolutions Committees. I was elected as a delegate to the NEA RA several years as a minority member where I served as an usher. After I retired I relocated to Little River, SC where I became involved in the Horry County Democratic Party, serving as the Secretary, a Vice-Chairperson and I continue to serve as the President of the North Strand Democrats Club. Also in 2022, I worked to support the pro-public education candidate for S.C. State Superintendent and just recently I worked in the campaign for a local school board candidate. I am still working to promote the ideal of "Great public schools for all children regardless of their zip code."</p>
Kathleen	Purdy	PLAIN LOC T. A. -	OEA - RETIRED	<p>Dear Retired Members,</p> <p>I am Kathleen Purdy, from East Central Ohio Education Association, and a member of the National Education Association Resolutions Committee, NEA PAC Committee, and liaison to the NEA Legislative Committee. I am running to be an Ohio Retired Delegate to the NEA Representative Association to continue my service. I appreciate your confidence in electing me with your vote. I also serve on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council and its Program and Services Committee.</p> <p>In the beginning of entering the school setting, I was employed as a Title I (Federal Program) Reading Teacher's Aide. The wages were less than 1/3 of what the certified teachers earned; however, we were yet expected to provide 1/2 of the monies for the students' holiday parties. The year was 1978. Today's issue of NEA Today has an important article titled, "Paraeducators Need a Raise!" Hopefully, if elected as an NEA-Retired Delegate, I would be called upon to help lead this endeavor.</p> <p>As I continued my service as a paraprofessional, this allowed me to build on the solid foundation which I had developed in supporting students and assisting educators. This role gave me the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on students' academic growth and emotional well-being while collaborating closely with a resolute team of professionals. My passion for helping others and fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment drove me to continue in this fulfilling career path, where I could contribute to both student success and the overall development of the educational community as I began to study for my Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education at the Kent State University Salem Campus.</p> <p>At the June 2024 Retired Annual Meeting (RAM), we elected 6 Delegates to the NEA Resolutions Committee. I was re-elected with an impressive 103% of the votes. Very humbling. By continuing my position on the Resolutions Committee offers me the chance to further contribute to shaping effective solutions that benefit the organization and its members.</p>
Kathleen	Purdy (Continued 1)	PLAIN LOC T. A. -	OEA - RETIRED	<p>My experience on the committee has equipped me with a deep understanding of the process and the importance of addressing issues in a timely, thoughtful manner. By staying involved, I can continue to bring my knowledge, critical thinking skills, and commitment to improving processes to the table, ensuring that our resolutions are well-informed and aligned with our goals. I am eager to support the ongoing work of the committee and help drive positive outcomes for everyone involved.</p> <p>In my time on the Resolutions Committee, I have successfully contributed to the passage of a diversity initiative, with the Ohio Team. I have played an integral role such as researching and leading small group discussions, ensuring that our decisions are well thought-out and aligned with the organization's values. Additionally, I have collaborated effectively with team members to overcome challenges and bring about positive change. These experiences have strengthened my ability to navigate complex issues and contribute to the success of our collective mission.</p> <p>I pledge to effectively use my political and educational leadership voice in pushing back against the possibility of abolishing the Department of Education. Please vote for Kathleen Purdy to represent Ohio's Retirees as a National Education Association Delegate, once again!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will highlight the importance of access and equity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Education ensures that every student, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. Abolishing this department could disproportionately harm vulnerable and underserved communities, widening the educational inequality gap.</li> </ul> </li> <li>I will emphasize the role in supporting teachers and schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Education provides essential support to teachers and schools, offering funding, resources, and professional development. Without this support, most schools, particularly those in low-income areas, would face even more significant challenges in delivering quality education.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Kathleen	Purdy (Continued 2)	PLAIN LOC T. A. -	OEA - RETIRED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow me to be clear about the Department's role in upholding national standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Education helps set national standards, ensuring that all students across the country receive a consistent and comprehensive education. Without federal oversight, we risk creating a fragmented education system where the quality of education can vary depending on geography and local resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>I will focus on the economic and societal impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education is a key driver of economic and social mobility. By investing in education, the Department of Education strengthens our workforce, fuels innovation, and contributes to the country's prosperity. Abolishing this department would set back our efforts toward a brighter future for both individuals and the nation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>I believe in the Department's role in federal accountability and student protections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Education also plays a critical role in protecting students' rights, including preventing discrimination and ensuring that students with disabilities are supported in its entirety. It holds institutions accountable for their role in fostering safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>A vote for Kathleen Purdy, for NEA-Retired is a vote for a call to action. Now more than ever, we must stand together, regardless of political party and background in advocating for the continued existence of the Department of Education, so that we can protect equal access to education and continue advancing the opportunities for future generations. Thank you for re-electing me to the NEA Representative Assembly! ~ Kathleen</p> <p>"I ran for the first time with my Fitbit on. It detected me running, and asked if my life were in danger, or if tacos were on sale for \$13again?"</p>