

# SWOEA

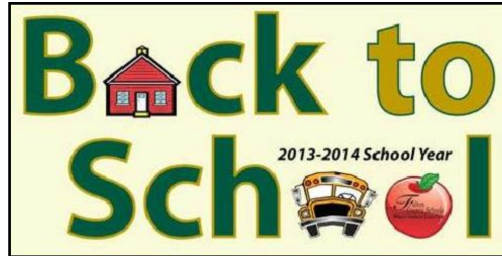
## This School Year Empowers Educators

*Stay informed and take control of how to define quality and create change*

At the NEA Summer Representative Assembly, President Dennis Van Roekel told delegates “We must empower our members to create change. Some...don’t like the Associations focus on quality in the classroom and in schools. But if we don’t empower educators to take control of how to define quality, then who will? Congress? Governors? State politicians? ...No. It must be us!” This school year stay informed, listen to his message, and take the appropriate action.

Governor Kasich’s HB 59, is failing students and schools while sustaining the wealthy. His budget redistributes income from the middle-class and poor to the rich. It cuts taxes, reducing taxes on individual and business incomes while raising sales tax and eliminating aid with local property tax bills. It also fails to restore aid to local schools and places greater burden on property taxes to pay for education. The budget boasts about state aid for schools however, most of the money will be diverted to private school vouchers and for-profit charters rather than traditional public schools.

In addition, the so-called “Right to Work” efforts continue to be promoted by those seeking to maximize profits for



the wealthy at the expense of the working and middle class. Right to Work is wrong don’t trust it!

In addition Kasich’s HB153, implemented a new required evaluation process. Therefore the OTES was and continues to be defined and developed. It affects Ohio teachers working under a teaching license who spend at least fifty percent of their time directly instructing students. It requires that half of the teacher’s evaluation be based on student growth. Schools have the ability to develop local education agency (student growth) measures, which includes student learning objectives.

Don’t let governors and politicians define quality education. If we do, it will be at the cost of our students, schools, and working middle class families. Stay informed, take control, and create change!

### President’s Message

I would like to take a moment to welcome all SWOEA members back to the 2013-2014 school year. I hope that you have a rewarding year. Be sure to check out the new SWOEA website at [www.swoea.com](http://www.swoea.com). We have really improved our efforts to communicate to our members. Thanks to Danielle Scrase, Sycamore EA, for all her hard work with our website, Newline, and Facebook page.

Also welcome Barb Carlton, Goshen EA, as our new SWOEA Treasurer. I know she will make a great addition to our team. Many thanks to the outgoing treasurer Mike Fortman, Lakota EA, for all his efforts.

Please remember to stay informed and support the candidates that support public education!

-Richard Packert



### STRS UPDATE

September 6th the eUPDATE was sent out through email. In case you missed it, it stated they launched an updated/responsive website. The website will now “detect” how members are connecting and display content appropriately on smart phones, tablets or computers. It has been restructured to guide



members to information related to the two phases of teaching: *During your Career* and *Receiving Benefits*. Additional enhancements include: interactive maps, brochures, and financial reports; a multimedia section and a modern clean look.

For the specifics go to the [STRS website](http://www.strs.com).

TEACHERS MUST RALLY TOGETHER TO SHOW SOLIDARITY



There seems to be an overall attack on public school teachers. As a result many associations have faced, are currently facing, or will soon be facing difficult contract negotiations. It is critical that all teachers rally together during these times to show solidarity for the profession. Staying informed and taking action, will ultimately improve our schools.

The Fairborn teachers and staff began this school year without a contract. A rally, on August 14 at Community Park, gathered support from Springboro and showed solidarity. Not too long ago, Scott Maney and his colleagues in Springboro also rallied community support to face an uncooperative board. They were finally able to reach and ratify a two percent base pay increase (winning their first raises since 2007) and higher healthcare premiums.

More recently Fairborn teachers all wore red to a special tailgate at the season's first football game, maintaining their strength and unity. Unfortunately

they continue to work without a signed contract and are operating under the old contract which the school board said it nullified. In addition union leaders say the board voted to implement a new healthcare plan without their agreement. "It's stressful because you know, in the back of your head you're worrying about contracts, but we have to be there for the kids and we put kids first so, it's a double edged sword," said President of Fairborn Education Association Mandy Creekmur.



Indian Hill Education Association is also facing a challenging contract negotiations with its board. Because of the positions that the board has taken they asked teachers to show solidarity, wear red, and assemble on September 10 at the Board of Education. Teachers from Sycamore, Middletown, Loveland, and Beavercreek, as well as, other districts attended. The message was to show solidarity for the teaching profession!

THE RURAL EDUCATION NATIONAL FORUM



[The Rural Education National Forum](#) is a unique opportunity for education, community, and business leaders to advance conversations around rural education and prosperity through collaborative action.

This Forum is designed to highlight powerful instructional and leadership practices in rural districts, focus strategic conversations around rural opportunities and challenges with nation and local

experts, and build a network for collaboration. Keynote speakers: Patrick Carr, Associate Professor and Co-author of *Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain*, Jeff Charbonneau, 2013 National Teacher of the Year; Emily Pilloton, Founder and Director of Project H Design; and Dr. James Mahoney, Executive Director Batelle for Kids.

From October 31- November 1 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus Ohio. Early Bird Registration Deadline is August 15.



CALENDAR EVENT DETAILS

Calendar

- September 10th, 2013**  
Committee Chairs Meeting
- September 11th, 2013**  
Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- September 12th, 2013**  
Peace and Civil Rights Committee
- September 12th-22nd, 2013**  
The Kaplan New Works Series
- September 13th, 2013**  
SWOEA Retired Members Committee
- September 16th, 2013**  
Scholarship Committee  
Professional Development Committee
- September 18th, 2013**  
Deadline for SWOEA Membership Scholarship  
Committee on Organizational Development  
Legislative Committee
- September 20th, 2013**  
District Leaders Council
- September 21st, 2013**  
OEA Board of Directors
- September 23rd, 2013**  
Officers Meeting
- September 24th, 2013**  
Professional Development Workshop

**September 18th, 2013**

**DEADLINE FOR SWOEA MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

The SWOEA Scholarship was established by the Executive Committee and presented to the RA in 2003. It is a \$1000 award to a current member pursuing a career advancement course of study.

Applicants must have been a member for the last 3 consecutive years and maintain membership for the duration of the award. A member can only receive this once and Current Executive Committee members are ineligible. Application deadline is September 18, 4:00pm. Download the application on the [SWOEA website](#) and mail, email or fax to [Veria](#) at the SWOEA office.

**September 24, 2013**

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE (SLO) WORKSHOP**

An SLO is a measurable, long-term academic growth target that a teacher sets at the beginning of the year for all students or for subgroups of students. SLO's demonstrate a teacher's impact on student learning. Hence they may be used for a teacher's evaluation if there are no Value-Added nor vendor approved assessments for him/her.

Tim Adams of Fairfield City Schools will present this important workshop. He has had extensive training and experience with SLO's, as part of the team that set up Fairfield's local education agency, aka LEA, measures.

Light dinner and registration beginning at 5:00pm; training from 5:30-7:00pm at the SWOEA Office 270 Northland Blvd. Please RSVP by Friday September 20 to [Veria](#) by email. This is preferred for all event registrations!

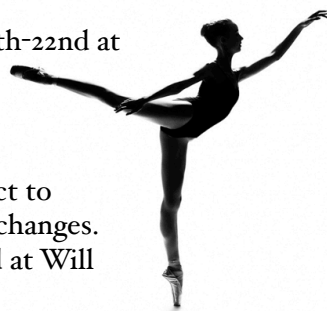
Calendar

- October 2nd, 2013**  
Presidents Plus One
- October 7th, 2013**  
Budget Committee
- October 8th, 2013**  
Awards Committee
- October 9th, 2013**  
Resolutions Committee
- October 10th, 2013**  
Convention Planning Committee
- October 16th, 2013**  
Scholarship Committee
- October 18th, 2013**  
District Leaders Council
- October 19th, 2013**  
OEA Board of Directors
- October 21st, 2013**  
Officers Meeting
- October 22nd, 2013**  
Executive Committee
- October 24th, 2013**  
Peace and Civil Rights Committee
- October 27th, 2013**  
Scholarship Interviews
- October 28th, 2013**  
Executive Committee

CINCINNATI BALLET DISCOUNT FOR THE KAPLAN NEW WORKS SERIES

Cincinnati Ballet will be performing The Kaplan New Works Series from September 12th-22nd at The Cincinnati Ballet Center, 1555 Central Parkway, 45214.

SWOEA members you will receive \$5 off Tickets start at \$50. Order Early- Prices subject to change based on availability. No refunds or exchanges. Orders received by September 6th, will be held at Will Call.



For Tickets:

PROMO CODE G1314SWOEA

Online: [cballet.org](http://cballet.org)

Click on: BUY TICKETS

Go to: Promotions

Enter code: G1314SWOEA

Phone: 513.621.5282 or 513.562.1114

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACTS

**National Education Association (NEA)**

[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)  
202.833.4000

**NEA Member Benefits**

[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)  
1.800.637.4637

**Ohio Department of Education (ODE)**

[www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)  
General Information 877.644.6338  
Licensure Information 614.466.3593

**Ohio Education Association (OEA)**

[www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)  
1.800.282.1500

**State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS)**

[www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)  
1.888.227.7877

**School Employees Retirement System of Ohio**

[www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org)  
866.280.7377

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**

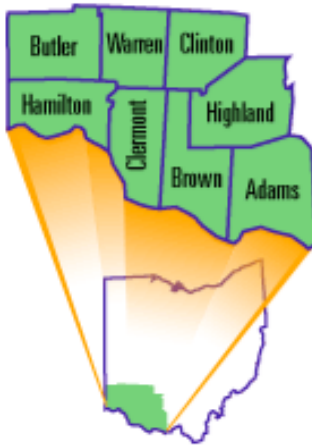
[www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org)  
1.800.222.7377

**Ohio Board of Regents**

[www.ohiohighered.org/board](http://www.ohiohighered.org/board)  
614.466.6000

**Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities**

<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us>  
1.800.617-6733



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513.771.6674 Fax

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