

District Service Councils

January 2015 District Report from ECOEA-R Representative Kathleen Purdy: ecoearetired@yahoo.com

Happy New Year and Welcome Back to Work, School or Retirement!

Last month, the ECOEA-R Holiday Happenin's social event was held in Wayne County at the Pine Tree Barn. This unique restaurant with one -of -kind furniture, gifts and clothing apparel attracts people from all over Ohio; according to a recent Cleveland television broadcast that showcased why it is so well-known. Christmas card holders were the table favors.

The OEA Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus invited our NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia as the keynote speaker during their annual dinner December 5, 2014 under the theme: What Does Testing Have to Do With It? President Garcia, also a minority (Hispanic-American), expressed the NEA's press release statement on some social justice issues surrounding the killings of African American males while interacting with Caucasian law enforcement, specifically Eric Garner, who repeated, "he couldn't breathe" while in a banned chokehold and Tamir Rice, a child shot twice in the abdomen after less than two seconds upon arrival of police. There were over 200 attendees present. Lily graciously posed for photographs with the OEA-R Advisory Council members. See below:



Using some OEA-R Grant monies, the ECOEA Program Committee will be hosting the Annual STRS/SERS Retirement Workshop, Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. Highlights will include financial planning for retirement and important mid-career decisions in place prior to retiring. Because OEA-R has been successful in obtaining NEA grants to continue both Intergenerational Mentoring and Lifetime OEA-R/NEA-R Membership programs, each Ohio district was awarded \$450 to support another Membership Recruitment Drive. Lifetime OEA-R/NEA-R memberships are available at this workshop for \$350 (\$250 for national and \$100 for state). Your retired members look forward to seeing you there.

The deadline is quickly approaching for registering for the NEA-R Organizing and Leadership Conference in late March. ECOEA offers a \$500 scholarship to a retiree that would like to attend. For more info:

Visit our website at: www.ohea.org and click on the district site then follow it to the retiree pages.