

Advisory Council Report for May 2016 by East Central OEA-R Kathleen Purdy

Last year on September 17, 2015, I attended a Town Hall Meeting in Youngstown called, “Take Back Our Schools” to stop HB 70 (Youngstown Plan) . It was held at the McGuffey Elementary School and sponsored by Youngstown Education Association and the Community Leadership Coalition on Education. This 6:30p.m-8:30p.m.meeting brought together the community, parents, teachers,elected local and state officials, retirees and students. OEA-R members, **Bonnie Harris**, **Warren Hershberger**, **Carol Kinsey** and **Kathleen Purdy** were also in attendance.

On March 21, 2016, I was invited to attend the 1:00 p.m. Community Leadership Coalition on Education meeting in Youngstown inside the New Bethel Baptist Church, as their guest. I was surprised because other than OEA being in opposition to HB 70, I assumed the residents had discontinued their plans. That wasn’t the case. In fact, on March 30, almost 100 people, including the OSBA (Ohio School Board Association) officials and the OSBA lobbyist and the National President of the SBA (who participated via Skype) for this 45 minute Education Summit on the campus of YSU ‘s Choffin Center expressed deep opposition to this state law that could dismantle the voice of the voters, employee contracts and close school buildings, etc. Several television stations were also present. The Community Leadership Coalition is in the process of scheduling a trip to Columbus to make their concerns heard.

- Saturday, March 12, 2016, I attended the NEOEA Megaconference. Three sessions I attended were, “State School Board Panel” (I am a candidate for this Board in November); “What Taxpayers Need to Know About Charter Schools” (of which I attended my local school board’s meeting and shared this information and the website: KnowYourCharters.Com)and “Growing with Gardening” (which is my favorite pastime hobby).
- Sunday, April 3, 2016, I was the invited guest of an ECOEA-R member to the Friends and Family Credit Union’s Annual Meeting and Brunch held at the AA Executive Catering Center in Canton/Massillon.
- Wednesday, April 6, 2016, I attended the East Central OEA Executive Committee Meeting in North Canton.
- Saturday, April 9, 2016, I was the only OEA-R delegate in attendance at the ECOEA Spring Representative Assembly. Citing health challenges, the ECOEA President announced her immediate resignation from all Association duties. We all wished her the best and prayers.
- Wednesday, April 20, 2016 was the Tricounty Service Council meeting in Boardman Ohio. I shared a printed report highlighting the HB 70 updates followed by oral comments. YEA President **Larry Ellis** was also present here and at the CLC meeting on 4/18/16 inside New Bethel Baptist Church.
- The OEA Minority Leadership Training Program was held April 22-23, 2016 at the OEA Headquarters with 28 participants. Two sessions were offered: Emerging and

Experienced Leaders. My session on Organizing, Messaging and Behaviors was most relevant because when we had hypothetical local issues to practice, I introduced HB 70 and its affects similar to legislative language in Detroit...decay, decimation, destruction.

- Wednesday, April 27, 2016 was the NEOEA-R Spring Conference in Garfield Heights. I chose the sessions: Legislative presented by **OEA VP Scott DiMauro** and STRS Updates conducted by **STRS Consultant Tamla Cole**. Former Ohio First Lady **Frances Strickland** asked the retirees for input on educational concerns/health care/ quality teaching to share with **U.S. Senate Candidate Ted Strickland**. Member Benefits provided a closing ice cream social. Mrs. Strickland was introduced by former **OEA President and Vice President Pat Frost-Brooks**. Also in attendance was **OEA-R Chair John Hoyes**.
- Thursday, April 28, 2016 was a program sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church at the Mill Creek Community Center titled "Dialogue on Race" of which I was unable to attend. Its focus was on **Race, Creating a Healthy Community and Saving Babies**. They will reschedule another program in the future.
- Monday, May 2, 2016, I attended the Community Leadership Coalition on Education meeting, sharing the group's Chart Paper Activity from my OEA MLTP Session on HB 70. Several of the MLTP Participants work in Youngstown and NEOEA and are now connected toward the Action Plan. Hopefully, this is mirrored around Ohio!
- ECOEA-R Annual "Not Back to School Luncheon" is Wednesday, August 17th. Mulligan's Pub and Grill, 4118 Belden Village St. NW, Canton, OH. 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Self-Pay. Rsvp: ecoearetired@yahoo.com Great food, atmosphere and free parking!

Submitted by

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