

# CORE OF OEA news

MAY 2024

*Coalition of Retired Employees of  
the Ohio Education Association*

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## A LOOK AHEAD...

**July 10, 2024**—CORE Board

**September**—Date TBD—  
Annual CORE meeting

**October 16, 2024**—CORE Board

Special thanks to Guest CORE  
Newsletter Editor Margo Fraser

## Working to secure retiree representation on Pension Trust Committee

Recognizing the importance of continuity and representation, CORE leaders believe it is essential to seek retiree representation on the OEA Pension Trust Committee.

Having a retiree appointed is especially important in the area of the Defined Benefit (DB) retirement plan because fewer current employees — who will eventually become retirees — qualify for the DB plans, given OEA has moved to a Defined Contribution (DC) plan for newer employees

Accordingly, and as previously reported, CORE leaders began ongoing efforts to deepen ties with the PSU appointed members serving on the PSU Pension Trust Committee for DB matters. The ongoing dialogue, sharing of information, and developing stronger alliances are all seen as positive and important to the long-term benefit of DB retirees.

CORE suggested the appointment of a retiree to fill an alternate position due to a pending retirement. CORE President Tim Bibler recently received an update from Julie Newhall, who leads PSU's DB committee, indicating that "all current PSU members serving on the DB Committee agree that pursuing the addition of a retired member as an alternate to fill the open position would be beneficial." She further indicated working towards such a change requires additional feedback from the wider membership.

This recognition from the current PSU DB Committee members is seen as a positive step. CORE leaders will continue to advocate for the appointment of a retiree, working with PSU and through other appropriate channels to make the appointment of a retiree a reality.



## *A new wallet card is on the way*

Once again, CORE and SEARV will be providing members with a convenient wallet card with key information to assist you.

The wallet card lists contact information for SEARV and CORE, as well as benefit contact information for all insurances.

First issued last year, the wallet card was extremely well received by members. The new card has been finalized with updated information and is in production for distribution.

As always, members who have any questions about coverage or payment, or need assistance, can contact our Third Party Administrators (TPA) at **CW Breitsman: 1-866-520-9174**.

## *Advocacy requires all of us*

CORE membership is off to a strong start, with 211 individuals having renewed and paid dues for 2024. Considering we ended the 2023 year with 230 members, that's a positive response. If you are among those who have yet to renew membership by paying your \$20 dues for 2024, please do so now. It's quick, easy, and important.

Be sure to remember that *dues are \$20 per individual*, so take that into account if you have multiple members in your family. For instance, if you are an OEA retiree and your spouse is covered as your dependent, please send CORE \$40 (\$20 for your membership and \$20 for your spouse's membership).

You can use any of the following options to make your payment:

- ☒ Make your check out to **CORE of OEA**, and mail it to Treasurer Marianne Gehring as listed below.
- ☒ If you choose to pay electronically, be sure your financial institution has the correct information provided below.
- ☒ If you prefer to pay by Zelle or Venmo, use Marianne's email or her cell phone number as provided below.

Marianne Gehring  
CORE Treasurer  
2503 Squirewood Court  
Dublin, Ohio 43016

EMAIL: [mgehring@me.com](mailto:mgehring@me.com)  
CELL: 614-787-6993

If you have questions about membership, please contact CORE Membership Chairperson Margo Fraser at [mfrasercore@aol.com](mailto:mfrasercore@aol.com) or 614-975-3354.



CORE membership is essential to protecting our retirement benefits. Your support of CORE helps us monitor both our benefit payments and our insurance benefits. Protect your retirement! Join CORE!

## *Hold the WEEK to save the DAY*

Holding a week may sound like an odd request, but CORE asks that you try to keep the week of September 16-20 open while we work to secure a location for the 2024 Annual Meeting and Lunch with a firm date, preferably during the identified week.

The annual meeting will be held in Columbus, and if possible, we will return to the Columbus State Community College Mitchell Hall Event Center, during the week of September 16-20, all per action taken by the CORE Board on April 23.

CORE Past President Mike Shanesy and Welfare Chairperson Priscilla Roberge are working to secure the same location for the third week of September, and will coordinate the event.

Also in preparation for the annual meeting, John Wardell has agreed to serve as Chairperson of CORE's Nominating Committee.

Complete details regarding date, location, time, meal options, business, remote participation, parking, and more will be shared as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please hold the date and plan on attending CORE's 2024 Annual Meeting in Columbus, where business will be conducted, elections held, updates and reports will be provided—and an opportunity to reconnect and enjoy lunch together.

### In Memoriam



### CORE remembers retired OEA colleagues and CORE members

Barry Bartelt—November 4, 2023

Margaret Harrod Wardell—February 18, 2024

C. Ray Sutherland—March 31, 2024

## CORE Leadership

**President:** Tim Bibler / [tmbibler22@gmail.com](mailto:tmbibler22@gmail.com) / 614-361-6385

**Vice President:** Rich Frankhouser / [rpfrank@aol.com](mailto:rpfrank@aol.com) / 407-848-4256

**Treasurer:** Marianne Gehring / [mgehring@me.com](mailto:mgehring@me.com) / 614-787-6993

**Secretary:** Sharon Sutherland / [suesuther@aol.com](mailto:suesuther@aol.com) / 941-661-1616

### Board of Directors

Kathy Church / [kathychurch@cs.com](mailto:kathychurch@cs.com) / 614-519-0731 (ending 12-31-25)

Karen Gee / [karengewhiz@gmail.com](mailto:karengewhiz@gmail.com) / 330-329-5571 (ending 12-31-24)

Ed Helvey / [ehelvey@aol.com](mailto:ehelvey@aol.com) / 614-395-1580 (ending 12-31-25)

Bob Hockenberger / [b.hocko43@gmail.com](mailto:b.hocko43@gmail.com) / 614-499-1073 (ending 12-31-24)

**BOD Past President:** Mike Shanesy / [shanesymike@gmail.com](mailto:shanesymike@gmail.com) / 614-949-5350

**Welfare/Facebook Chair:** Priscilla Roberge / [prisroberge@gmail.com](mailto:prisroberge@gmail.com) / 614-774-2190

**Membership Chair:** Margo Fraser / [mfrasercore@aol.com](mailto:mfrasercore@aol.com) / 614-975-3354

**Newsletter Chair:** Sharon Sutherland / [suesuther@aol.com](mailto:suesuther@aol.com) / 941-661-1616

## Where to find it....

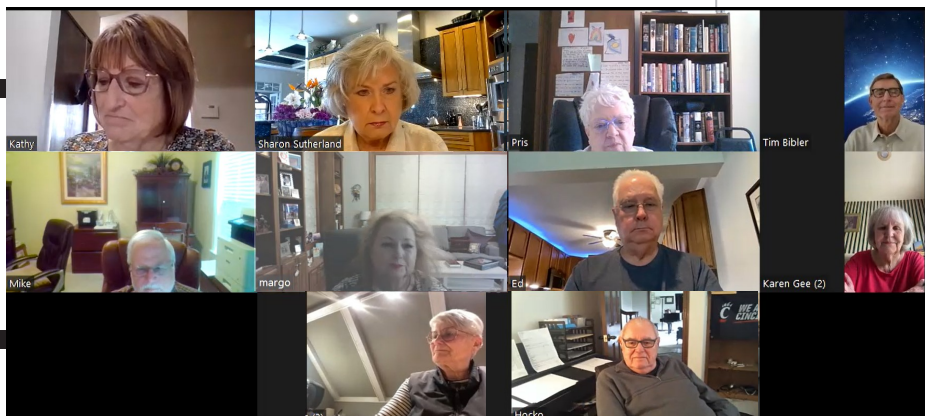
SEARV website:

<http://searveba.com>

CORE website:

<http://searveba.com/core.html>

Executive Board ZOOM meeting April 23





## Where are they now?

—*Catching up with  
Denny and Priscilla  
Roberge*

Celebrating 50 years of marriage this very month (May), Denny and Priscilla Roberge share a rich history of caring for and helping others, a commitment that remains strong and active today.

The two met sharing their professional lives working for OEA. Pris started in 1970, while Denny was hired in 1972.

Through the years, Priscilla served as an Administrative Secretary in several field offices, before working at OEA Headquarters when relocating to Columbus in 1984. "I became an Administrative Assistant at some point," she says, recalling she worked in Organizing and Bargaining, Communications and Government Relations.



Denny first worked as a Field Rep, later titled UniServ Consultant, a position he held until 1984 when he became an OEA Lobbyist.

They echo the pride and joy of having

worked for OEA that is abundant among most retirees. The work was meaningful and full of consequence.

"I always felt lucky to work at OEA because we accomplished so much," said Priscilla, "I worked with really great people. The managers were really nice, my co-workers were really nice, and we worked hard together with lots of good results."

Denny and Pris have wide-ranging recollections of the important work they were proud to be a part of while at OEA, noting the organization grew in numbers, strength, and prestige. They speak of OEA's countless innovations and leading ways and strong community of purpose. "OEA had just 23,000 members when I started, but grew to well over 120,000 members by the time I retired," said Denny.



He mentions OEA's leading work with technology as just one of many ways the Association was able to lead the way. "Early on, I had a Compaq computer...it weighed 47 pounds...but I worked with the computer services guys to develop a program that could analyze a school board's offer. This became a standard for all locals and it was an incredible advantage."

Similarly, they note, OEA was always on the cutting edge in being able to accurately and efficiently analyze state budget proposals and related matters and considerations.

When asked how their half a century (and counting) marriage started at OEA, they immediately look at one another and giggle. "It all began with a question," explains Denny. Before he can tell the story, Pris quickly chimes in, "I was wearing a dress that day that had buttons all the way down the back."

Denny continues, "I asked her who helped her button up all those buttons before coming to work," quickly acknowledging the action would land him in workplace jeopardy today. Pris told him she did it herself. Later that evening, the two went to dinner together.

Pris further shares that because Bill Stoltz had Denny come to Headquarters that fateful day, Stoltz always liked to say he brought the two together and was responsible for their marriage.

Like many others, Denny came to the Association from his position as a science teacher; he had also worked as a milk delivery driver and was a member of the Teamsters. He served on negotiations teams and his efforts, particularly his work to gain quality health care programs, gained him recognition from the Teamsters, AFL-CIO, and OEA.

He was, and remains, especially proud of bargaining one of the first of many so called "Cadillac insurance plans" in the state. The initial one was for Kenston Local in Geauga County.

When he was threatened for his resolute advocacy by school officials, he would remind them that he made significantly more money driving, but he always stressed, "I am a teacher because I love teaching," as he continued undeterred in his determined efforts.

Both in negotiations and as a lobbyist, Denny was keenly concerned about health care and insurance matters. He'd lost a son to

**"Where are they now?"**  
A CORE News-letter feature to catch up with our colleagues—find out where they are and what they're up to now!

Photos: TOP—Denny and Pris exercising their right to vote; Pris surprised at work with roses from Denny on 50th birthday; LEFT—Attending the Bill Clinton inauguration in 1992: Diane Tie-man, Ben Gerber, Denny and daughter Denise, Ed Helvey, Pris, Bob Hockenberger, Peggy Chavez; BOTTOM Retirement Party—seated Maxine Flynn, Judy Kosciuszko, Denny; Back—Bob Mullins, Sharon Sutherland, Sue Mullins, Ray Sutherland, Pris, Tom Kosciuszko, Maxine's mom; Margaret Harrod-Wardell, Julie Newhall John Wardell, Vern Flynn

cystic fibrosis, and notes that while it may be hard for people to realize this reality from long ago, "I watched family after family have to sign over their kids to the state because they couldn't afford health care and that was so wrong."

The pain he observed people suffering bothered him so deeply that he says it all led him to his passion for politics, noting he always felt fortunate that this passion could be his profession.

They both remain active. Today, Priscilla is a member of the CORE leadership team, serving as Welfare/FaceBook Chairperson, and is a member of the SEARV Board.

She also had another career. After her OEA retirement in 2005, Pris found herself a little bored. One day, while they were driving down Broad Street, Pris told Denny she wanted to stop at the Franklin County Board of Elections Office that they were about to pass. When they pulled in, she said she had just seen a sign that said they were hiring, and she wanted to go in to see what she could find out.

Denny obliged, and waited in the car. When she returned, and got in the car, he asked, "well, what did they say," to which she replied, "I start on Monday."

Seven years later, after working part-time and through several election cycles, Pris had earned another pension and retired again.

Denny's post-retirement years have included extensive work in political action and consulting, training others and providing expertise and assistance to candidates and campaigns. "I still run the business today," he says, referring to PAR Associates. Now devoted to his political consulting work, PAR originally began decades ago as Priscilla's contract secretarial services firm.

With his continuing passion and business, Denny remains an avid observer of all things political, actively studying generational shifts and norms, and working to adjust to meet changing needs. He finds this topic particularly fascinating as well as imperative for candidates and organizations. He also helps candidates recognize the importance of strategic analysis in a changing world and in building strong networks.

It seems advocacy and caring for one another and others, be it the people

they know and love, or simply for the common good are all central to their lives, even now, long into their retirement years.

"Right now we're remembering how to spend time together," quips Pris, noting that in recent years they cared for her mother, who lived with them until her passing a little over a year ago.

Denny explains his mother-in-law's health was such that it was always necessary for one of them to be with her, lovingly caring for her through her final years.

Now they are out-and-about together, feeling a bit more carefree, yet still generously giving to family members and caring about generations.

These days, they happily answer to MaMa and PaPa, terms of endearment from their 10 year-old grandchildren, twins Trell and Derozja.

We've become "Uber grandparents," laughs Denny, explaining they drive the twins to and from a wide variety of activities. He beams. They both do whenever they talk about the grandkids, or other family members.

Perhaps that's why, when asked, what they want their colleagues to read about them, they respond in tandem: "just enjoy yourselves, enjoy it all."

A moment later Denny turns contemplative, saying he and Pris enjoy watching the show NCIS. A favorite episode had the character Ducky, the coroner, who talks to dead people, say, "a person dies twice; first when the body gives up, and again when people stop telling stories about them."

He continues, with a thought that stays with him always: "to me that indicates the passage of time, of not knowing what's to come, and why it's so important to live life, and to make the best choices you can with what happens in that life."

That, they conclude is the best part of what they enjoyed most about working at OEA: the longevity of friendships with so many others that were made years ago yet continue today.

Their important message: let's all keep enjoying ourselves, remembering, sharing, associating, and telling stories as colleagues, retirees, and most of all, as friends.



You can keep up with Pris & Denny on FaceBook or drop them a note by email to

prisroberge@gmail.com

Photos: TOP—PaPa Denny takes the grandkids to feed the ducks; Middle—Family wedding—grandson Trell, daughter Denise, granddaughter Derozja, Pris; Back—grandson James, granddaughter Nicki with her husband Matt, and Haley, partner of James; Bottom—visiting Debbie Wroe in Florida



# CORE of OEA

## Financial Statement -- Actual vs Budget

	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u> as of 4/19/24	<u>2023 Actual</u> as of 4/30/23
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Dues Collected in 2024: (Footnote B)			
Membership Year 2024		\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,980.00
Prepaid for 2025 through 2029		840.00	560.00
Sub-Total	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 4,040.00	\$ 2,540.00
Investment Change	-	695.12	1,316.41
Other		140.00	-
Total	4,900.00	4,875.12	3,856.41
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Meeting Expenses	3,000.00	-	-
Office Supplies	500.00	-	-
Newletter Expenses	300.00	98.92	86.00
Zoom	250.00	-	-
Memorial Gifts	500.00	50.00	170.00
Contingencies	350.00	-	-
Total	4,900.00	148.92	256.00
Excess Receipts Over (Disbursements)	-	4,726.20	3,600.41
Cash Balance HNB - Beginning of Year		4,038.31	4,285.70
Stifel Investment Account-Beginning of Year		32,775.39	28,951.50
Cash + Investment Balance - Beginning of Year		\$ 41,539.90	\$ 36,837.61
<u>Composition of Cash Balance:</u>			
Checking Account		\$ 8,069.39	\$ 6,569.70
Stifel Investment Account (Footnote A)		33,470.51	30,267.91
Total		\$ 41,539.90	\$ 36,837.61

 ACCOUNTS	<b>All Accounts</b> 1 Account <b>\$33,470.51</b> ▲ \$0.03 +0.00%	@ 4.19.24	 GROUPS
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## ACCOUNTS AT A GLANCE

## Stifel ①

1 Account

\$33,470.51

▲ \$0.03 +0.00%

## Stifel Bank ①

0 Accounts

\$0.00

▲ \$0.00 0.00%

## Linked ①

⊕ Add Accounts

\$0.00

▲ \$0.00 0.00%

## User Supplied ①

⊕ Add Accounts

\$0.00

▲ \$0.00 0.00%

## BALANCE SHEET

<b>Assets</b>	\$33,470.51
Cash and Equivalents	\$434.81
Equity	\$26,013.76
Fixed Income	\$7,021.94
Alternative Investments	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
User Supplied Assets	\$0.00
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$0.00
Loans	\$0.00
Credit Cards	\$0.00
Mortgages	\$0.00
User Supplied Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Net Total</b>	\$33,470.51

## MARKETS TODAY