

## Health Care Campaign Information – STRS Survey

This fall, STRS Ohio and the Health Care Advocates for STRS (HCA) are launching a Member Education Engagement Campaign. The campaign has two goals:

\* Educate STRS Ohio active members about the economic realities of health care costs; and

\* Gauge support for a possible legislative initiative that increases member and employer contributions to provide an ongoing and dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program for current and future retirees.

Right now, STRS Ohio is collecting the maximum it can from teachers and employers under current law (10% from members/14% from employers). To collect more, the State Teachers Retirement Board would need to go to the Ohio Legislature - but before the board does this, it wants to be sure there is significant support

from members.

Recently, all STRS Ohio active members received a brochure mailed to their home, sharing this information and encouraging their participation. This November, representatives from HCA and STRS Ohio will host the following meetings around the state:

Wednesday, Nov. 2, Quality Inn & Suites Cleveland Airport

Thursday, Nov. 3, Holiday Inn, Dayton North

Tuesday, Nov. 8, Five Seasons Country Club, Cincinnati

Tuesday, Nov. 8, Holiday Inn - French Quarter, Toledo

Wednesday, Nov. 9, Four Points Sheraton, Canton

Thursday, Nov. 10, Four Points Sheraton, Akron West

Tuesday, Nov. 15, Holiday Inn, Lima

Tuesday, Nov. 15, Holiday Inn - Youngstown-South

Thursday, Nov. 17, Holiday Inn - Beachwood, Cleveland

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Due to limited seating, advance registration is required. Members can register using the STRS Ohio Web site or by calling toll-free 1-888-227-7877.

All STRS Ohio members are encouraged to voice their opinions by completing a survey at one of the Health Care Discussion meetings, responding to the online survey on the STRS Ohio Web site, or filling out the postage-paid survey card contained in the brochure.

It is especially important that members with 10 or less years of experience attend these meetings and voice their opinions, so that they will become aware of costs involved with health care.

More information is available on the STRS Ohio Web Site, [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

## MEMBERSHIP PAYS IN MANY WAYS

By Roberta Neff, Kenton City Schools

By taking the OEA Access card with us on vacation, my husband Ron and I really saved a lot of money! We spent a week at Virginia Beach. When we ate out, many of our meals were buy one get one free with the coupons from the OEA Access website which can be accessed through

[www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org). Did you know there is a beautiful plantation right in the center of the city? We didn't. By using Access, we discovered a buy one get one free coupon and decided to go. This plantation is absolutely beautiful and we learned so much about Virginia Beach's history! What a wonderful secret to discover thanks to Access! We also saved money in Norfolk when we went on some tours around the naval area.

Before we came home, we decided to take a side trip to Colonial Williamsburg – a place I have always wanted to go. We were shocked when we found out the price per ticket was a whopping \$48.00 each and that didn't

even include the evening activities!

This was just to walk around a little town! At those prices, I decided I didn't want to go at all. My husband mentioned to the person at the information booth that I was a teacher and that I had waited many years to see Colonial Williamsburg and it was too bad that we had come all that way to not go. Well, she immediately asked if I had some proof that I was a teacher. We pulled out the OEA Access card and she said, "You can get in for half price and you get an extra 15% off any purchase that you would use in your classroom."

Nowhere had we seen this information published. Since we were saving so much money, thanks to OEA, we decided to spend a little more on two-day passes. Now we had to find a hotel. The cheapest we could find was \$155.00 with no amenities. Out came the computer and we found a money saver. The hotel we stayed at had a nice outside pool, king non-smoking room with a refrigerator and a

microwave and continental breakfast included, all at \$61.00!

This was only one trip. We have taken one more and are planning a third, and we figure that we will have recouped almost all the dues on these three trips. Just imagine what **your** membership can do for you!

### NCOEA Fall RA

The fall NCOEA Representative Assembly will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2005, at the Brown Derby Roadhouse in Ontario. Registration begins at 8:00 am.

Check with your local president to make sure that your district will be represented.

This meeting will help prepare the delegates for the OEA Representative Assembly in December. Many of the OEA officers will be present to answer questions, and there are several issues that the delegates will have to vote on in December. The information presented at the NCOEA RA will be helpful to the OEA delegates.