

WEATHERVANE

May 2017

Important Dates

- Students' Last Day
May 25
- Teacher Work Day
May 26
- Memorial Day
May 29
- Professional
Development Day
Aug. 14
- Teacher Work Days
Aug. 15 & 16
- Students' First Day
Aug. 17
- Labor Day
Sept. 4

President's Corner

We have completed another year of educating the young minds of Westerville. We are also losing some great teachers through retirement. We wish them well. And we will welcome in the new faces we meet in August. Take some time this summer to renew, rejuvenate and relax. We all need the personal time to get ourselves recharged. Enjoy your summer and see you in August.
Rhonda

Pension and Healthcare Panel Discussion at the OEA RA on Fri. May 12

Panel Members:

STRS - Gary Russell SERS - Helen Ninos NEA - Dan Doonan OEA - Robert Davis

Pension Changes:

COLA indefinitely suspended due to the unfunded liability now back up to 57 years, which is legally unacceptable. It is projected that someone who is college age and entering the profession will on average live 4 years longer than someone retiring this year. The recent change to the mortality standards was a major factor in the increased liability. (Generational Mortality Standards now being used.) The decrease in the number of teachers coming into the profession was another major factor. The suspension of the COLA will have the greatest impact in reducing the number of unfunded years, especially since to change the percentage teachers pay into the system, or the number of years teachers are required to work before retiring, or an increase in employer contribution, would take changes to the law. COLA reinstatement will be looked at again in 5 years.

Healthcare:

There are currently 18 years of solvency for the health care program. As unfunded pension liability gets reduced, monies can be diverted to health care funding. STRS did away with the 1% contribution to HC and applied it toward meeting the 30 year solvency mandate back in 2014.

SERS is facing a number of the same issues STRS is facing. They only have 7 years of solvency for their health care program.

STRS has not been able to meet their stated investment rate projections and this has also helped push out the unfunded liability beyond the required 30 year mark. The really low interest rates for the past 8 years has been extremely detrimental to pension funds nationwide, which means return expectations are lower. About 60% is invested in stocks and bonds. They have also lowered their "assessment assumption" projections for what they anticipate earning on investments in the next years. For example, STRS has dropped from 8 to 7.45 expected return rate because of lower market expectations, and that equates to about \$8 billion. This has hurt complying with the 30 year rule as well.

WEA Officers:

President

Rhonda Gilpin

Vice President

Tom Cook

Treasurer

David Johnston

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Kelly Modlich

Fac Rep At Large

Amanda Koenig

Jordi Vilanova

Diana Tisdale

Tami Martine

Mark Brugger

Molly Wassmuth



Because We Care...

Births

Genoa– Stacy Dettwiler– Baby Girl
Pointview– Lexi Alza-Baby Boy
Blendon– Stephanie Swindaman-Baby Boy
Fouse– Michelle Spillman-Baby Boy
North– David Johnston– Baby Boy
-Bethany Barlow– Baby Boy
- John Sands—Baby Girl

Condolences

Genoa– Cathy Finnegan– Brother
Huber Ridge-Lisa Grunewald– Father-in-Law

REMINDER:

If you have a qualifying event over the summer, like a new baby, get married or divorced be sure and let Linda Bertelen know within 31 days so the changes can be made to your district insurance.

Also, if you move buildings over the summer, when you return email Rhonda Gilpin and Amy Hinz with your name, the name of your previous building and the name of your new building.

4th Friday

May 26 Back to Nature
June 23 Safety Fest
July 28 World Bazaar
August 25 Dog Days of Summer
September 22 Fall Fest

Congratulations

The following teachers have been selected to receive the WEA CIPD grant for this spring.

***Kayla Ballmer
Kari Rouse
Elizabeth Byers-Spurlock
Tonya Mariscal
Adam Flugge
Gerriann Patterson
Jennifer Hubble
Mary Myers
Stephanie Wheeler
Amy Godwin
Amy Clifton
Teresa Wagner
Diana Herak
Elizabeth Beaver
Abby DeChant***

If you are taking courses or workshops over the summer you can apply for a WEA CIPD grant in the fall.

