

# RETIREMENT

## 2011 Resolutions

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

**CHAIR -** Melissa Cropper, Georgetown #4903  
Theresa Hahn, Berea #1699  
Steve Holecko, Berea #1699  
Chris Smearman, Berea #1699  
Peggy Kerrigan, Brookfield #1728  
Tara Kovach, Brookfield #1728  
Bob Buerkle, Cincinnati #1520  
Gwen Parham, Cincinnati #1520  
Robert Sturdevant, Cincinnati #1520  
Derry L. Hooks, II, Cincinnati-Retired #1520-R  
Tamar Gray, Cleveland Heights #795  
Kurt Richards, Cleveland #279  
Raymond D. Kikta, Cleveland-Retired, #279-R  
Jerry Koenig, Cuyahoga Valley #2371  
Sallyann Defosse, Georgetown #4903  
Roxanne Bartley, Greenon #4370

Tammie McCale, Mineral Ridge #6438  
Bev Lucas, New Lexington #4186  
Toni Harper, New Lexington #4186  
Rod Miller, Ontario #1703  
Ben Pfeiffer, Oregon #1080  
Dave Shafer, Oregon #1080  
Jeff Straka, Oregon #1080  
Judi Jones, Owens Support #6325  
Laurene Markis, Owens Support #6325  
Gail Swartz, Owens Support #6325  
Jim Mozina, Port Clinton #3217  
Dale Price, Toledo #250  
C.J. Washington, Toledo #250  
Gail McKinnon, Van Wert #4088  
Dan MacDonald, Cleve-R #279-R (Observer)  
Mary Ann Cervantes, OFT Staff

### IN SUPPORT OF QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

1  
2  
3 WHEREAS the past 10 years have witnessed spiking national healthcare costs at an  
4 average 11% per year, and  
5

6 WHEREAS both current and future retirees are concerned about both the availability  
7 and affordability of healthcare in their futures, therefore  
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers encourages and supports  
10 SERS and STRS Ohio in seeking an on-going option of quality and affordable  
11 healthcare for current and future benefit recipients.  
12  
13  
14

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONSOLIDATION OF FIVE STATE PENSIONS

15  
16  
17 WHEREAS the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) was created by the  
18 Ohio General Assembly in 1919, in order provide financial security through a pension  
19 for Ohio's public educators, and  
20

21 WHEREAS the STRS Ohio has sustained itself for ninety-two years as it has continued  
22 to provide for additional needs of retired teachers, and

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64

**WHEREAS recent comments by elected officials on the state level have suggested a need to consolidate STRS with the four other state pensions, but**

**WHEREAS each of the other four State of Ohio pension organizations serve completely different career professionals with significantly different job descriptions, different compensations, and different contract issues, and**

**WHEREAS the concept of five pension organizations merged into one in a "one size fits all" system does not utilize common sense, but would lead to a reluctance to be fair when making decisions, and**

**WHEREAS a Board of Directors for a consolidated state pension organization would not only protect their own constituency but would also lack knowledge of personal concerns and problems of the other four pensions, and**

**WHEREAS in a consolidated pension, the governing body or Board of Directors would experience conflicts of issues when deciding for their pension of origin versus the good of five pensions, and**

**WHEREAS such a conflict of interest breeds gridlock, or certainly it challenges the ability to decide in the best interest of each pension, and**

**WHEREAS there is no evidence that pension consolidation would save money and run more efficiently, and**

**WHEREAS the Ohio state legislature that has taken over 17 years to defy four Ohio Supreme Court decisions, only to come up short for an equitable solution to funding public education in Ohio, and now wants to redesign the 5 state pensions, therefore**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers proclaims formal opposition to pension consolidation, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers lobby to support STRS Ohio and the other state pension organizations to remain independent in their current state, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFT partner with STRS Ohio to call upon the other four pensions: the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, the School Employees Retirement System, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension, and the Ohio Highway Patrol Pension, to unite together in political action to oppose pension consolidation in Ohio.**

64 **RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC,**  
65 **REGARDING RETIRED MEMBERS OF OHIO'S PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS**  
66

67 WHEREAS the United States Constitution has upheld an individual's right to privacy,  
68 originally addressed in the third, fourth, and fifth amendments, and  
69

70 WHEREAS recent requests for information by members of the press and by elected  
71 officials have called for a release of information regarding financial benefits of current  
72 retired members of the public pension systems, and  
73

74 WHEREAS public pensions have refused to disclose this information, under the "right to  
75 privacy" of private citizens, but  
76

77 WHEREAS the request for such information has positioned one's "right to know" against  
78 "one's right to privacy", and  
79

80 WHEREAS although public pension recipients were public employees when they were  
81 employed, but  
82

83 WHEREAS such individuals, now retired, are no longer considered public persons, and  
84

85 WHEREAS employee and employer contributions have been invested over a period of  
86 time to earn the benefits paid to retired members, and  
87

88 WHEREAS current practices of identity-theft continue to demonstrate the danger in  
89 which retired people are placed, and  
90

91 WHEREAS whenever any of this information is made public, no matter if disguised, it  
92 targets the retired pensioner for criminal acts, therefore  
93

94 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers opposes any disclosure of  
95 information about retired members, of Ohio's public pension systems and furthermore  
96

97 BE IT RESOLVED, that OFT calls upon Ohio's public pension systems to do everything  
98 in their power to keep such entities from receiving such information, and  
99

100 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that OFT calls upon the Ohio Attorney General Michael  
101 DeWine, to do his sworn duty and to protect the members of Ohio's public pension  
102 systems.  
103

103 **OPPOSE LINKING OF AGE AND YEARS OF SERVICE FOR RETIREMENT**  
104 **ELIGIBILITY**  
105

106  
107 WHEREAS the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio Board of Directors revised  
108 its plan to achieve pension stability, and

109  
110 WHEREAS current Ohio law requires a funding period of no more than 30 years for any  
111 public pension, and

112  
113 WHEREAS the STRS Ohio's revised pension proposal now complies with current  
114 legislative mandates, but

115  
116 WHEREAS the Ohio Federation of Teachers opposes the current link between service  
117 years and age in the revised pension proposal, therefore

118  
119 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers directs the OFT Executive  
120 Committee to monitor and propose adjustments as needed in order to facilitate the  
121 separation of service years and age, and

122  
123 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFT officially requests that STRS be given the  
124 authority to restore lost benefits if and when its financial situation can adequately  
125 support their return.