



COALITION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
34 Claire Ct., Circleville, OH 43113 – Ph: 740-474-3004

October 14, 2004

Reg Weaver, President
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Weaver,

As President of the Coalition Of Retired Employees of the Ohio Education Association I am writing as a follow-up to my May 14, 2004 letter to you. Although I am not going to attempt to explain everything in a letter, I did say you would hear more about the issue of OEA illegally terminating health care benefits for staff retirees. OEA has continued with its action and has turned away every effort we have made to get resolution short of a public lawsuit. Those efforts included a Private Judicial Resolution that would have kept the issue out of the public eye while bringing a fair and timely resolution. The class action lawsuit will be filed shortly and the issue will soon become nationally known. Executive Director, Dennis Reardon and his hired legal advice from the anti-union law firm of Baker & Hostetler, LLP, apparently believe they can reinterpret contract language that is over 25 years old. Those agreements are for both the Associate Staff Union and the Professional Staff Union. CORE has three past OEA Executive Directors, past managers, NSO President, and nationally respected attorneys including David Cook of Cincinnati and Leonard Page, supporting its efforts because they know Mr. Reardon and Baker & Hostetler are wrong. Many of those people have told Mr. Reardon he will lose this case. He doesn't seem to care and continues to take OEA down a very bad path.

COREofOEA will now unfortunately have to start a national campaign to expose the management and governance of OEA/NEA for its illegal termination of retiree benefits. This while all levels of the organization including local, OEA, and NEA claim they are fighting for education employee retirement benefits. The hypocrisy is obvious. Add the use of the same law firm that is involved in union busting tactics for Boeing Corporation and it becomes even more obvious the intent is to improve OEA's bottom line at the expense of staff retirees and the unions.

If NEA is interested in knowing more than the story OEA management is trying to sell, please feel free to contact COREofOEA and we will be happy to discuss the issue with you. We would also look favorably on efforts to convince OEA it would be in everyone's best interest if they brought the issue to a swift and private conclusion. As I told Mr. Reardon, the last thing COREofOEA wants is to be forced to do things that would hurt the organization. I have enclosed a copy of our latest Newsletter and a copy of a letter COREofOEA sent to the OEA Executive Committee including NEA Executive Committee member Mike Billirakis.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

John L. Wardell,
President CORE of OEA

cc: David Cook
encl.