North Eastern Ohio Education Association

6001 Landerhaven Drive, Suite D
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-4190
216.518.0200
desk@neoea.org www.neoea.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northeastern Ohio Education Association Honors Vermilion Teachers' Association with Prestigious Five-Star Award

SHEFFIELD, OH (November 7, 2026) – The **North Eastern Ohio Education Association** (NEOEA) has recognized **Vermilion Teachers' Association** as one of its distinguished Five-Star Locals for 2025-26, honoring members and leaders for their exceptional commitment to professional growth, advocacy, and collaboration within the education community. The award was presented during NEOEA's Fall Representative Assembly, held Saturday, November 7, at Brookside High School in Sheffield.

Each year, NEOEA's **Five-Star Local Award** celebrates local associations that go beyond their daily work to strengthen connections with the broader organization and advance the mission of public education. Only about **23%** of NEOEA's **182 local affiliates** earn this elite distinction.

To achieve Five-Star status, local affiliates participate in a variety of activities offered by NEOEA and the Ohio Education Association (OEA), including:

- **Professional and leadership development** opportunities for members;
- **Utilizing association resources** to strengthen the local affiliate;
- **Building relationships** with neighboring associations;
- **Engaging members in advocacy and legislative action**; and
- **Participating in Representative Assemblies**, the governing bodies of NEOEA, OEA, and the National Education Association (NEA).

"Five-Star Locals represent the very best of what our association stands for," said **Andrew Smith**, NEOEA President and School Social Worker for the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools. "Their commitment to professional excellence and union engagement makes a real difference for students, educators, and communities across northeastern Ohio."

NEOEA represents **27,000 education professionals** across **182 local associations** in eleven counties of northeastern Ohio. Members include teachers, faculty, and education support professionals working in public schools, colleges and universities, career and technical centers, and county boards of developmental disabilities.

Founded over **157 years ago**, NEOEA is governed between Representative Assembly meetings by a **34-member Board of Directors**, advancing the organization's mission to promote quality public education and support the professionals who make it possible.

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For further information, contact NEOEA Executive Director Mary Alice Conkey at 216.518.0200 or conkey@neoea.org.