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Northwestern Ohio Education Association NEWSLETTER

Over 9,100 Members

101 West Sandusky – Suite 302 • Findlay, Ohio 45840 • Tel: 800-366-9632 • Fax: 419-422-3417

2013 OEA Fall RA *Educators Rock!*

The 2013 Ohio Education Association Fall Representative Assembly was held December 7, 2013, at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Columbus. The theme of this year's RA was *Educators Rock!*

Conducting her first representative assembly, OEA President Becky Higgins encouraged delegates to feel the joy that moved them to join the profession, reflect on the satisfaction that comes when they inspire young minds, take a bow for their success in motivating their students, and give a high-five to their colleagues for their achievements. She stressed that 2014 will be a very important year - voters in Ohio will choose the next governor, a decision that will have major consequences. In November OEA held a special convention of the Fund for Children and Public Education so a gubernatorial endorsement could be made and OEA could begin the task of putting a friend of education in the Governor's office.

Delegates gave a warm reception to Ed FitzGerald, OEA's endorsed candidate for Ohio Governor. As a friend to education, FitzGerald believes "we need to honor and respect educators."

For OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks, this OEA RA was his last opportunity to address the delegates as he will be retiring December 31, 2013, after 47 years in education. Wicks has served as OEA's director since November 2008. He continues to serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee for We Are Ohio, the coalition that successfully overturned Senate Bill 5 in 2011 through a No vote on Issue 2. This year, under his continuing leadership, We Are Ohio is working to prevent passage of the so-called "Right to Work" amendment.

continued on page 2

NWOEA Board Appoints New Members



*Miki Hodge
Rossford ACT, NWOEA
Unit I Representative*

The NWOEA Board of Directors appointed two new members to fill vacancies. Miki Hodge (Rossford ACT) was appointed at the September Board meeting as the Unit I Representative to replace Dan Greenberg (Sylvania EA), currently serving as the NWOEA Vice President. At the October Board meeting, September Kuebler (Bowling Green EA) was appointed to serve as a Unit I Rep due to the resignation of Rozalind Herzig. Miki and September will serve as Representatives until April 10, 2014, when elections will be held for these positions at the NWOEA RA.

Miki Hodge is an English teacher at Rossford High School. She is very active in her local association serving as the secretary for two years and a building rep for six years. Miki has been a delegate to the OEA RA for six years and a delegate to the NEA RA for three years. She has been



*September Kuebler
Bowling Green EA,
NWOEA Unit I
Representative*

a member on the NWOEA Professional Development Committee for the past two years and currently serves as the secretary of this committee.

September Kuebler has spent seven years as a teacher in the Bowling Green City Schools where she is currently teaching first grade. She has been the secretary for the Bowling Green EA for five years, and last year she served on the negotiations team. September has been an OEA RA delegate for three years and was a state delegate for the NEA RA in 2013. She is a member of the OEA Professional Efficacy Core Function Committee and the Region 4 Representative on the OEA GLBT Caucus Executive Committee. She also serves on the NWOEA Awards and Convention Planning Committees. In 2012 September received the NWOEA Promising Leader Award. ■

NWOEA Representative Assembly

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Bowling Green High School

530 West Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

January 31, 2014
Deadline for Election
of NWOEA Delegates
& Alternates

February 10, 2014
Deadline for submission of
NWOEA Delegate Election
Results to NWOEA Center



Notes from NWOEA
President Jennifer Long

Now is the Time for Change *Will You Lead the Way?*

educators. How do these changes make you feel? Angry? Does this anger drive you to take action and affect change?

Most members understand that change is needed but do not envision themselves as being the ones who initiate the necessary change. The truth is, the change begins with each of us. Now is the time to take action, combine this anger and frustration with the hope that your efforts will lead to action that will affect the future of public education in our state. If you are angry about the decisions that are being made every day about your career, take action and lead the change you want to see happen.

In eleven short months we have the opportunity to affect change by electing a new Governor for the Buckeye State. With the organization, dedication and commitment like we had in our fight to repeal SB5 in 2011 we will be able to elect Ed FitzGerald as the new pro-public education Governor for the State of Ohio and move our profession forward. Now is the time for change, will you lead the way? ■

As 2013 comes to a close, I reflect back on the past three years and I become angry and frustrated at what has happened to public education in our state since Governor Kasich has taken office. We have had our right to collective bargaining threatened through the passage of SB5, we have seen more money going to charter schools and being stripped from public schools, we have seen the passage of legislation that adversely affects public schools and the students we serve, we have felt the effect of numerous unfunded mandates and most recently we have witnessed the implementation of the new Ohio Teachers Evaluation System with little or no input from professional

OEA Fall RA Highlights

Despite the bad weather due to a winter storm, 58 delegates representing 22 local associations in NWOEA and NWOEA-Retired were among the 771 registered delegates in attendance at the 2013 OEA Fall Representative Assembly. Contributions to the Fund for Children and Public Education totaled \$36,890.15.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly to adopt a new legislative policy stating that teachers and other school employees should not be asked to serve a dual role as educators and school safety personnel armed with weapons. This school safety policy adopted by the OEA also urges that appropriate assistance be provided for mental health services for students as part of a comprehensive program to prevent school violence. In an informal survey, some 70% of the delegates at the RA reported that they were not being consulted by their local school districts in the development of school safety plans.

In addition to the proposed 2013-2014 Legislative Policies for Achieving

Excellence in Education (including the addendum), delegates also adopted the 2013-2014 proposed Systemic Policy Agenda of the OEA. Emily Osterling from Lakota Local Schools (Butler County) was elected to fill the NEA Director #1 position with term ending August 31, 2014. Delegates also approved the following two new business items:

- The delegates to the December 2013 OEA RA authorize the OEA Board of Directors and Executive Director to engage Ohio's education stakeholders and advocates for children and families, to join the OEA in seeking to redefine the renewal and improvement of public education, and to do so through research-informed practices that address the appropriate use of assessments, de-emphasize massive standardized testing and respect the aspirations, talents and needs of educators and students.
- The OEA should consider a dues reduction when an affiliated association goes on strike. ■

2013 OEA Fall RA

continued from page 1

NEA President Dennis VanRoekel, attended the RA to participate in the tribute to outgoing Larry Wicks. VanRoekel praised Wicks for his tireless work for the members of OEA.

Delegates welcomed Sheryl Mathis, who joined OEA as of December 1 to learn the ropes before taking over as OEA's new Executive Director on January 1, 2014. Mathis previously served six years as executive director of the Arizona Education Association and eleven years as associate executive director for the Kansas NEA with responsibility for field operations. She brings over seventeen years of state affiliate management experience to the executive director position. She informed delegates that she "comes from Arizona, a Right to Work state, and Ohio does not want to go there." ■

**To Find out How to Become an
NEA RA Delegate Visit the
NWOEA Website**



Funding Increased for OEA Spring RA Engage Grant

NWOEA has increased the funding from \$150 to \$250 for the Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage Grant. This grant helps locals to become involved in the Association at the state level by providing funding to a local that has not sent delegates to an OEA RA in the previous two school years.

One delegate from an eligible local can receive reimbursement of up to \$250 for overnight lodging and mileage to the 2014 OEA Spring RA. Funding will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is exhausted. Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement.

Any delegate interested in applying for this grant should submit a letter of interest including delegate contact information and local association president's signature. Letters should be sent by March 7, 2014, to the NWOEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, Ohio 45840. ■

The Role of the NWOEA RA Delegate

The Association is governed by Representative Assemblies (more commonly called RAs) at all levels – national, state, and district. Delegates to these meetings elect officers, adopt budgets, approve governing documents, and set the policies that determine the direction of the Association. Locals that do not send delegates to the Representative Assemblies are forfeiting the rights they have as a member of a democratic organization.

OEA delegates attend the OEA RA in the fall and in the spring. They are also automatically seated as delegates at the NWOEA Representative Assembly. In addition to a local's OEA delegates, each local is entitled to elect delegates who attend only the NWOEA RA on April 10, 2014. Attendance as an NWOEA delegate to the NWOEA RA is an excellent way to introduce and involve new leaders in the democratic process. Some locals have their OEA alternates become NWOEA delegates. This way the OEA alternates who are also NWOEA delegates are seated at the NWOEA RA and are prepared to go to Columbus in the event that their OEA delegate cannot fulfill their obligations.

Locals must report their NWOEA delegates to the NWOEA Center. Certifying state delegates to OEA does not certify NWOEA delegates. The deadline for the election of NWOEA delegates and alternates is Friday, January 31, 2014. The deadline for submitting names of NWOEA delegates and alternates to the NWOEA Office is Monday, February 10, 2014.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LARGER REPRESENTATION AT THE NWOEA RA AND ELECT NWOEA DELEGATES.

For more information about electing NWOEA delegates, please call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632. ■



At the head of the table, OEA President Becky Higgins listens to members of Springfield EA.

On Tuesday, October 8, newly elected OEA President Becky Higgins began her "Listening Tour 2013" by visiting four locals in NWOEA. She began her day meeting with members of the Shawnee Education Association in Lima over breakfast and listening to their comments and concerns on a variety of educational issues.

The second stop of the tour was a visit to Whittier Primary School in the

OEA President Visits NWOEA

by Jennifer Long, NWOEA President

Findlay City Schools where she was able to share her love of reading with students in members' classrooms in grades K-2. Over lunch President Higgins met with many members of the Springfield Education Association in Holland and heard their frustrations over the new teacher evaluation system and Common Core.

The final stop of the tour was in the Washington Local Schools at McGregor and Wernert Elementary Schools. After a tour of both buildings by the principals, Becky shared some of her favorite books and songs with students in the classrooms of members' of the Teachers Association of Washington Local Schools. The day concluded with President Higgins attending the NWOEA Fall Workshop and speaking with members there as well. ■

NWOEA Offers \$1,000 Graduate Scholarship

Applications for the \$1,000 NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship are available to NWOEA members pursuing graduate study in the education field, **excluding administration**. This scholarship provides Northwestern Ohio Education Association the opportunity to assist members, who are involved in their local and district associations and are pursuing their education goals in the field of teaching.

To obtain a copy of the application form, call the NWOEA Center at 1-800-366-9632 or visit the NWOEA website at www.nwoea.org. The deadline to submit the completed application to the Center is Monday, February 3, 2014. Finalists will be interviewed on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, Ohio. ■

2014 NWOEA Important Dates

JANUARY 21

Deadline for submitting NWOEA Awards Nominations

JANUARY 31

Deadline for election of NWOEA RA Delegates and Alternates

FEBRUARY 3

Deadline for submitting NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship Applications

FEBRUARY 7

Deadline for filing letters of intent for NWOEA Officers and Board of Directors

FEBRUARY 10

Deadline for submitting NWOEA Delegate & Alternate Election Results to NWOEA Center

MARCH 4

Awards Banquet Findlay Country Club 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 7

Deadline for submitting Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage Grant Application

MARCH 26

NWOEA Delegate Default Election Results due at NWOEA Center by 5:00 p.m.

APRIL 10

NWOEA Representative Assembly Bowling Green High School at 5:00 p.m. Light dinner served

AUGUST

Treasurers Workshop

Take a Seat on the Board of Directors

Get to know other leaders in the district, learn what is going on in other locals, and find out about opportunities at the state level. The positions listed below are up for election at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on April 10, 2014.

If you are interested in running for any of these NWOEA offices, send a letter of intent stating the position(s) for which you are declaring yourself a candidate to the NWOEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

The deadline for filing letters of intent is February 7, 2014.

If you are interested in the OEA Board of Directors position(s), contact your local president or Carol Price at OEA Headquarters (1-800-282-1500 or pricec@ohea.org) and request a Declaration of Candidacy Form. The OEA form must be received in Columbus no later than January 25, 2014, and a copy of the form should be sent to the NWOEA Center. ■

- * **NWOEA President**
two-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2016
- * **NWOEA Vice-President**
term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2014
- * **NWOEA Vice-President**
two-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2016
- ** **NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I**
term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2014
- ** **NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I**
three-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
- * *A candidate may run for either or both of these two NWOEA Vice-President positions.*

- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I**
term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2015
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit II**
three-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
- NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit III**
three-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
- NWOEA At-Large Minority Representative**
three-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
- OEA Board of Directors, Unit I**
three-year term from 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
- ** *A candidate may run for either or both of these two NWOEA Unit I positions.*

FCPE Contributions Acknowledged

The following NWOEA members were recognized for their continued donations to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) at the OEA Fall RA.

Executive Club Award
(\$500 in 5 years)
Timothy Bowers
Liberty Center CTA

Presidents Club Award
(\$1,000 in 8 years)
Susan Cramer
Northeastern Local TA

The following four NWOEA locals in the Northwestern District were recognized for contributions made by their members as a whole in 2012-2013. Awards are determined on a per capita basis.

- Liberty Center CTA**
\$27.18 per member
- Pandora-Gilboa EA**
\$15.54 per member
- Bath EA**
\$14.06 per member
- Seneca East EA**
\$13.29 per member

Congratulations to All!



Congratulations!

Wendy Menier, Danbury Association of Non-Teaching Employees, was appointed as Treasurer of the Ohio Association of Education Support Personnels (OAESP) at its meeting held during lunch at the OEA Fall RA.

Local President's Meeting

REGION 3

March 10, 2014

Findlay Inn and Conference Center
200 East Main Cross
Findlay, Ohio 45840

REGION 4

March 12, 2014

La Piazza
2 North Market Street
Troy, Ohio 45373


All local presidents are encouraged to attend the Local President's Meeting sponsored by their region. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. There is no registration nor dinner cost, and the information and materials are priceless! Mileage will be paid if the local president or his/her designee did not attend a Local President's Meeting this past fall.

Presidents whose local is serviced by an LRC out of the Holland, Tiffin, or Vermillion Offices are invited to attend the Region 3 Local President's Meeting on March 10, 2014. For more information, contact Arlene Doubledee at 1-800-654-4034 or 330-650-9200 or via email at doubledee@ohea.org.


Presidents whose local is serviced by an LRC out of the Defiance Office are invited to attend the Region 4 Local President's Meeting on March 12, 2014. For more information, contact Linda Hofacker no later than February 28, 2014, at 1-800-766-1165 or 937-335-4544 or via email at hofacker@ohea.org.


2013 NWOEA FALL WORKSHOP

Sixty-eight members representing twenty-six locals plus NWOEA-R attended the NWOEA Fall Workshop at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center on October 8. During the dinner OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro gave a legislative report as to current legislation that would impact public education. Following the meal, members attended one of the following break-out sessions:

 **Organizing Members for Current & Future Challenges in Public Education**
Dan Greenberg, NWOEA Vice-President from
Sylvania EA

 **Professional Conduct in the 21st Century**
Christine Reardon, Attorney with Kalniz,
Iorio, and Feldstein

 **OTES - Overview of Procedure & Bargaining Considerations**
Ellen Adornetto, OEA Education Reform Consultant
Don Holub, OEA Collective Bargaining Consultant

 **STRS Update - What's Next?**
Tim Myers, Member and Past-Chair of STRS



Standing at far left: Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Agent, offers information and promotional items during the Fall Workshop dinner.



Many members attended the OTES session to learn more about the new Ohio's Teacher Evaluation System.



As the NWOEA Professional Development Chair, Dan Greenberg (NWOEA Vice-President from Sylvania EA) served as the MC for the Fall Workshop Dinner and also as a presenter for the break-out session on organizing members.



From left: Congratulations to Gary Kapostasy (Findlay EA) winner of the Share of the Wealth Drawing, Ilse Goertz (TACLS) winner of the gift certificate door prize, and Roberta Tevis (Kenton EA) winner of the Fund Raising Basket Drawing.

NWOEA RA Schedule Includes Delegate Orientation

First-time delegates attending the NWOEA Representative Assembly at Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green on April 10, 2014, are encouraged to attend a brief orientation session prior to the RA. Local presidents are asked to mark first-time attendees on the NWOEA delegate verification form so that the new delegates will receive notification of the orientation session. This session is also open to veteran delegates who wish to attend.

Doors open at 5:00 PM and sandwiches and snacks will be available at this time. The tentative start time for the orientation is 5:15 PM. The first RA session begins at 5:45 PM and registration closes at 6:00 PM. Deadline for submission of New Business Items and Resolutions is 6:30 PM. The OEA Delegate Briefing will be held concurrently with the NWOEA RA.

Delegates will elect NWOEA Officers and members of the Board of Directors,

adopt the 2014-2015 budget, endorse candidates for statewide positions, and approve resolutions, new business items, and proposals to amend the Constitution and Bylaws. Addressing the delegates will be OEA Officers, NEA Directors, and any statewide or district candidates running in contested races. Delegates will have the opportunity to donate to the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) and to participate in many drawings. ■

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NWOWEA Past President Jerry Schlick presents the gift cards from the NWOWEA Fund Raising Drawing held at the OEA Fall RA to the Christmas Shopping Spree winner Jennifer Long (McComb TEA). Thanks go to Sue Cramer (Northeastern) for obtaining the gift cards from various sponsors.

30th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Come celebrate with NWOWEA at the 30th Annual Awards Recognition Program as we honor individuals nominated by their local for their contribution to their association either on the local or district level. NWOWEA will also recognize members who have received National Board Certification in the year 2013 and present certificates to locals that have increased membership by at least 5% or have 100% membership.



- DATE:** Tuesday, March 4, 2014
- PLACE:** Findlay Country Club, 1500 Country Club Drive
- TIME:** Cash Bar 6:00 - 6:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 -7:30 PM • Presentations 7:30 PM
- MENU:** Chicken Alfredo (please call the NWOWEA Center if you prefer vegetarian pasta)
- COST:** \$12.00 NWOWEA members/\$24.00 non-members

Attendance at the Awards Banquet will count as one of the two attendance requirements for a 2013-2014 PR Grant.

Please complete the reservation form below and return with check to NWOWEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840 by Monday, February 24, 2014.

I would like to make _____ reservation(s) at a cost of \$12.00 per member/\$24.00 per non-member. I have enclosed a check payable to NWOWEA in the amount of \$_____.

*Name _____

Local Association _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Please attach a list of other names included in this registration*

The deadline for the submission of award nomination forms is January 21, 2014. For a nomination form, please call 1-800-366-9632 or go online to www.nwoea.org