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Northwestern Ohio Education Association

NEWSLETTER

Over 9,200 Members

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2014 OEA Fall RA *One Mission, One Goal, One Team*

The 2014 Ohio Education Association Fall Representative Assembly (RA) was held December 6, 2014, at The Greater Columbus Convention Center. The theme of this year's RA was *One Mission, One Goal, One Team*.

Addressing the delegates was NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia. She believes in the sacred duty of all educators to be professionals and to care for the whole student and that professionalism carries the responsibility to take action, individually and collectively, to fight to make the promise of public education a reality. She stated that educators need to be fighters for social justice. As a vocal critic of the standardized testing movement, Lily raised alarms on the outside role that testing is playing in public education; taking over the time students spend in the classroom, being used as a weapon against their teachers, and distracting from the real problem of inequality.

OEA President Becky Higgins encouraged delegates to go out and engage members to be involved in OEA. She cautioned delegates that we may soon be weathering such storms as right to work and lack of payroll deductions. Everyone is going to have to take responsibility, learn the lessons from other affiliates like Wisconsin, and show members the value of belonging to OEA. It's about our collective power advocating for students and educators.

OEA Executive Director Sheryl Mathis asked the delegates as to what they valued most about membership in their local, OEA and NEA. She asked the delegates to take a few minutes to talk with one another to share why

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NWOEA Board Appoints New Members



Wendy Menier
(Danbury Association of Non-Teaching Employees) NWOEA At-Large Education Support Professionals Representative



Deb Stetler *(Lincolnview Local EA) NWOEA Unit II Representative*

The NWOEA Board of Directors appointed two new members to fill vacancies. Wendy Menier (Danbury Association of Non-Teaching Employees) was appointed at the June Board meeting as the At-Large Education Support Professionals Representative to replace Chris Menier, who was elected at the April NWOEA RA to serve as the Unit III Representative on the OEA Board of Directors. At the September Board meeting Deb Stetler (Lincolnview Local EA) was appointed as the Unit II Representative to replace Sue Cramer, who retired from teaching this past July and is now currently serving on the Board of Directors as the Retired Teachers Representative. Wendy and Deb will serve on the Board of Directors until the next NWOEA RA scheduled for April 16, 2015, when elections will be held for these positions.

Wendy has been employed by Danbury Local Schools as a bus driver for seven years. She is actively involved in the association at many levels. Wendy served many years as the Bus Driver Representative

for the Danbury Association of Non-Teaching Employees (DANE) and she is currently the Vice-President. Wendy is the DANE representative for the S.H.O.E.S. UniServ Council and serves as the council secretary. She is also the Treasurer of the Ohio Association of Education Support Professionals and a member of the OEA Resolutions Core Function Committee.

Deb has served as the District Library/Media Specialist for Lincolnview Local Schools for her entire teaching career of thirty years. During this time she has been involved in her local association in various capacities ranging from sitting on the negotiations team to currently holding the position of President of the Lincolnview Local Education Association. She has been a delegate to NWOEA and OEA RAs and has attended numerous workshops held by NWOEA and OEA. According to Deb, her involvement at the local level has created a heartfelt love for the teaching profession and an eagerness to take it to the next level - serving as a Unit Rep at the district level. ■

NWOEA Representative Assembly

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Bowling Green High School

530 West Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

January 30, 2015
Deadline for Election
of NWOEA Delegates
& Alternates

February 10, 2015
Deadline for submission of
NWOEA Delegate Election
Results to NWOEA Center

EDUCATION: *The Best Gift of All*



*Notes from
NWOEA
President
Jennifer Long*

As I reflect on this past year it is all too easy to focus on the negative attacks on public education that we have faced in the state of Ohio and across the nation. As educators we are tired, tired of the legislators who are making “education” decisions without any input from professional educators, tired of the continuous changes to our evaluation system, tired of the lack of respect for our profession, tired of our collective bargaining rights being threatened,

and tired of local school boards who do not value the work of educators or the negotiations process. As we look forward to the new year we need to remember to focus on the reason we became educators and ESPs and not allow the public complaints and attacks to demoralize us.

Continue to be the inspiration and hope for your students. You are a gift to others. You have the talent and ability to reach students and make them successful. You are the inspiration behind future doctors, lawyers, members of the military, and most importantly future educators. We need to show those who aspire to be educators that our profession is worth fighting for. Our members and the students we serve are worth fighting for. We are charged with the

responsibility of educating and preparing the youth of today to be productive, contributing citizens of our great nation. You are part of the profession that makes all other professions possible. Look in the mirror each morning and remind yourself of why you do what you do every day and say to yourself, “I am worth it! I am worth fighting for, my profession is worth fighting for and my students are worth fighting for.”

Never give up the good fight no matter how tired you become. Never doubt how valuable you are. As you start a new year, be thankful for the blessings you have, the students you have inspired, and the personal and professional battles you have won. And remember, you are able to give the best gift of all to our children - the gift of education. ■

Highlights of OEA Fall Representative Assembly

Of the 824 registered delegates in attendance at the 2014 OEA Fall Representative Assembly, 43 were from NWOEA, representing 17 local associations and the NWOEA-Retired. Contributions to the Fund for Children and Public Education totaled \$26,831, and Liz Casey (Sylvania EA) was one of the FCPE giveaway winners.

Delegates elected Jeff Rhodes from North Royalton EA to fill the NEA Director #5 position. They adopted the proposed 2014-2015 Legislative Policies for Achieving Excellence in Education (including the addendum) and the 2014-2015 proposed Systemic Policy Agenda of the OEA. Delegates approved the following three new business items:

New Business Item #1: The Ohio Education Association endorses the NEA High Standards-Fair Testing Campaign and pledges to partner with NEA to generate grassroots support for the bipartisan

Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act (HR 4172) and in support of legislative efforts at the state level to address the overuse and misuse of high-stakes standardized testing. OEA further encourages its local affiliates to organize efforts to have their local boards of education adopt the “Time2Teach/Time2Learn” resolution and shall provide appropriate resources in support of those efforts.

New Business Item #2: The OEA acknowledges issues with program implementation and the administration of the Resident Educator (RE) Program performance assessment. OEA leaders and staff shall address the resolution of these issues with the ODE and key state officials; and, further, assist local affiliates on strategies to ensure that RE programs provide high-quality service to beginning teachers, support for their mentors and appropriate oversight of the performance assessment process.

New Business Item #3: OEA will formally invite local Boards of Education, local Superintendents, Administrators, and supportive parent groups to an OEA Lobby Day in the spring of 2015. This Lobby Day would focus on topics of joint concern such as testing, school funding, and charter school accountability

As Chair of the OEA RA Task Force, Jerry Oberhaus (Liberty Center) presented the committee’s report. After careful study the task force is recommending a set of amendments to the OEA Constitution and Bylaws that, pending approval of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Board of Directors, delegates will be asked to vote on at the Spring 2015 RA. These amendments will remove the requirement that the RA meet twice per year and require instead that the RA meet “at least annually.” The language will allow for, but not require, the elimination of the Fall RA. ■



(From left) Chris and Wendy Menier (Danbury) and Rhea Young and Jennifer Gent (TAWLS) attended the OEA Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus Annual Dinner Friday night before the OEA Fall RA.

NWOEA Delegates to the OEA Fall RA networked with one another while enjoying the district lunch at Bernard’s Restaurant.



NWOWEA Holds OEA Delegate Briefing

On November 13, NWOEA hosted an OEA Delegate Briefing at Glenwood Middle School in Findlay. Among the twenty-two in attendance were the NWOEA delegates to the OEA Fall RA, OEA officers, and association leaders from other districts.

Delegates heard candidate speeches from Jeff Rhodes running for election as NEA Director #5 at the OEA Fall RA and from Tim Myers running for re-election as OEA Secretary-Treasurer at the 2015 Spring RA. Delegates voted unanimously to endorse both Jeff and Tim.

OEA Vice-President Scott DiMauro and OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers gave a legislative and a financial update, respectively. Tim presided over the Delegate Briefing explaining registration and credentials, voting, and other RA procedures. He highlighted the major sections of the Delegate RA Handbook distributed to all in attendance. He also offered valuable information regarding the new venue for this year's Fall RA and encouraged delegates to contribute to the Fund for Children and Public Education. ■

Engage Grant Funding for OEA Spring RA

The NWOEA Local Delegate Assistance to OEA Spring RA Engage 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 2015 OEA Spring RA. Funding will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is exhausted with preference given to delegates who attended the OEA Fall RA and whose

local has the highest percentage of member participation in the Fund for Children and Public Education as of December 31, 2014. Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement of up to \$250.

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 6, 2015, to the NWOEA Center, 101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, Ohio 45840. ■

OEA President's Listening Tour

by Jennifer Long, NWOEA President

On October 8, OEA President Becky Higgins visited three locals in NWOEA as part of her 2014 Listening Tour. She began her day at a breakfast hosted by the Bowling Green Education Association at their Performing Arts Center. Before reporting to their respective buildings, members stopped by to talk with Becky regarding a variety of concerns on educational issues. Following the morning breakfast, Becky and NWOEA President Jennifer Long visited several classrooms at Crim Elementary in Bowling Green where Becky shared a favorite Halloween story with the children.

The second stop on the tour was a visit to Perrysburg Middle School to meet with members of the Perrysburg Education Association (PEA). Over lunch President Higgins meet with many PEA members and listened to their frustrations, comments, and concerns over local contract issues, negotiations, teacher evaluation, and the use of social media to promote their local.

The final stop of the tour was the Liberty Center Local Schools where members met with President Higgins after school. In the evening Becky attended the Northwest/Phoenix UniServ Council meeting in Defiance with OEA Board of Directors member Jerry Oberhaus. ■



OEA President Becky Higgins reads to the 1st grade students at Crim Elementary School in Bowling Green, during her Listening Tour.

2014 OEA Fall RA

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they became members of OEA and what difference their affiliation with OEA makes in their life. She then encouraged the members to go back to their locals, back to their schools, and have these conversations with their colleagues to learn what our members want and need from OEA. ■

Visit the NWOEA Website
www.nwoea.org



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2015 NWOEA Dates

January 20

Deadline for submitting NWOEA Awards Nominations

January 30

Deadline for election of NWOEA RA Delegates & Alternates

February 2

Deadline for submitting NWOEA Graduate Memorial Scholarship Applications

February 10

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

February 13

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

March 3

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

March 6

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

April 1

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

April 16

NWOEA Representative Assembly
Bowling Green HS 5 p.m.
Light dinner served

July/August

Treasurer's Workshop

Leaders Wanted for NWOEA Positions

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 following positions are up for election at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on April 16, 2015:

NWOEA Recording Secretary

two-year term 9/1/2015 - 8/31/2017

NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I

term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2016

NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit I

three-year term 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2018

*** NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit II**

term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2015

*** NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit II**

three-year term 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2018

NWOEA Board of Directors, Unit III

three-year term 9/1/2015 - 8/31/2018

NWOEA At-Large Minority Representative

term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2017

NWOEA At-Large Education Support Professionals Rep

term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2016

OEA Board of Directors Unit I

term effective immediately and ending 8/31/2017

OEA Board of Directors, Unit III

three-year term 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2018

** A candidate may run for either or both of these two NWOEA Unit II positions.*

If you are interested in running for any of the NWOEA offices, send a letter of intent stating the position(s) for which you are declaring yourself a candidate to the NWOEA Center at 101 W. Sandusky St., Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840 or to nwoea_wisebaker@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for filing letters of intent is February 13, 2015.

If you are interested in the OEA Board of Directors positions, contact your local president or Carol Price at OEA Headquarters (1-800-282-1500 ext. 3169 or pricec@ohea.org) to request a Declaration of Candidacy Form. The OEA form must be received in Columbus no later than January 31, 2015. You must also send a copy of the form to the NWOEA Center. ■

FCPE Contributions Acknowledged

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

Presidents Club Award

(\$1,000 in 8 years)

Darrell Bryan - Elida EA
Miki Hodge - Rossford ACT

Hall of Fame Award

(6,000 Total)

Melinda King - Lima EA
Donald Traxler - OEA Retired

The following local associations in the Northwestern District were recognized for contributions made by their members in 2013-2014. Awards are based on per capita contributions:

Locals with 5-75 members

Pandora Gilboa EA - \$13.34 per member
Seneca East EA - \$12.45 per member
Bath EA - \$10.00 per member
McComb TEA - \$8.77 per member

Locals with 76-200 members

Liberty Center CTA - \$20.46 per member

Congratulations to All!

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 web site at www.nwoea.org. The deadline to submit the completed application to the center is Monday, February 2, 2015. Finalists will be interviewed on Thursday, March 12, 2015, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWOEA Representative Assembly on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, Ohio. ■

Promote Your Profession - Be an 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 which will be held this year on April 16, 2015. Attendance as a 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 30, 2015. The deadline for submitting names of NWOEA delegates and alternates to the NWOEA Office is Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

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.

2014 NWOEA FALL WORKSHOP

Fifty-five members representing twenty-four locals plus NWOEA-R attended the NWOEA Fall Workshop at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center on October 7. During the dinner OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro gave a legislative report as to current legislation that would impact public education and a Campaign 2014 update stressing the importance of the November elections. Following the meal, members attended one of the following break-out sessions:



Success with OTES

Ellen Adornetto

OEA Education Reform Consultant



How to Build a Strong Local

Andres Becerra

OEA Organizing Director



STRS Update - What Everyone Needs to Know

Tim Myers

STRS Board Member



NWOEA Fall Workshop attendees stand united and display their sign in support of the Reynoldsburg EA teachers on strike.



Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Agent, offered information and promotional items during the Fall Workshop dinner. The following were winners of the Member Benefits Drawing: seated from left Ilse Goertz (NWOEA-R), Roberta Tevis (Kenton), Jami Daniel (Hopewell-Loudon), and standing from left Stephanie Myers (McComb), Staci Palmer (McComb), Don Jones (Carey), Guy Kendall-Freas, Laura Courtard (McComb).



From left: Congratulations to Rhonda Dannenfeler (Lincolnvie) winner of the Fund Raising Basket Drawing, Brenda Pepa (Danbury) winner of the Share of the Wealth Drawing, and Lisa Marshall-Scott (Fostoria) winner of the gift certificate door prize.



OEA President Becky Higgins talks with workshop attendees during dinner.



Beth Steiger (Spencerville) and Tom Przybylski (Perrysburg) contemplate how they can use the ideas presented to build a strong local.



From left: Rhea Young (TAWLS) and Kay Langhals (Spencerville) smile broadly during the "STRS Update" break-out session as they plan for their retirement.

NWOEA RA Schedule Includes Delegate Orientation

First-time delegates attending the NWOEA Representative Assembly at Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green on April 16, 2015, 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 orientation is scheduled for 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 any proposals to amend the Constitution and Bylaws, resolutions, and new business items. 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 and to participate in many drawings. ■

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Fund Raising Committee Member Sue Cramer presents the gift cards from the Christmas Shopping Spree Drawing held at the OEA Fall RA to the winner Sandy Smith-Fisher (NEOEA). Thanks go to Sue for obtaining the gift cards from various sponsors.

31st ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Come celebrate with NWOEA at the 31st 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. NWOEA will also recognize members who have received National Board Certification in the year 2014 and present certificates to locals that have increased membership by at least 5% or have 100% membership.



DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2015
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 NWOEA Center if you prefer vegetarian pasta)
COST: \$15.00 NWOEA members/\$24.00 non-members

Attendance at the Awards Banquet will count as one of the two attendance requirements for a 2014-2015 PR Grant.

*Please complete the reservation form below and return with check to NWOEA Center,
101 W. Sandusky Street, Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840 by Monday, February 23, 2015.*

I would like to make _____ reservation(s) at a cost of \$15.00 per member/\$24.00 per non-member. I have enclosed a check payable to NWOEA in the amount of \$_____.

*Name _____

Local Association _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Email: _____

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

The deadline for the submission of award nomination forms is January 20, 2015. For a nomination form, please call 1-800-366-9632 or go online to www.nwoea.org