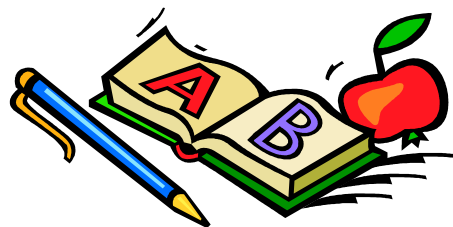


CHALKDUST



2011-2012 NCOEA Leadership Team

Patty Levingston	President
Jen Lepard	Vice-President
Sue Jarvis	Recording Sec.
Brad Strong	OEA Director
Becky Cashell	Executive Sec. - Treas.

NCOEA 2011-2012 Calendar

January 23-25 NEA Mid-Atlantic Conf.
Arlington, Virginia

February 2-4 OEA Collective Bargaining Conf.,
Hyatt Regency, Columbus

February 2 *NCOEA Executive Comm.
(If needed)

March 2 "Read Across America"

March 1 *NCOEA Executive Comm.

March 17 NCOEA Spring Workshop,
Mansfield Sr. H.S. 4:30 pm

April 12 *NCOEA Executive Comm.

April 23 NCOEA Spring RA,
Mansfield Sr. H.S., 5:00 pm, Registration required

May 3 *NCOEA Executive Comm.

May 11-12 OEA Spring RA,
Veterans Memorial, 9:00am

June 19 NCOEA Retreat, TBA

**June 30 - July 5 NEA Representative
Assembly, Washington DC**

August 6-8 OEA Leadership Academy
Hyatt Regency, Columbus

***All NCOEA Executive Committee Meetings**
begin at 6:00 pm, at St. Timothy's Lutheran
Church, at Route 42 North and Route 30 East in
Mansfield. All **NCOEA** members are welcome to
attend. Pizza, salad and snacks are served at 5:15
p.m.

President's Report from NCOEA Spring RA

It has been a quite few months of rest over the winter compared to last winter. Now that we are rested we need to get fired up again for a summer of petitioning and campaigning to get a constitutional amendment, the Voters First Initiative on the November ballot for a citizen's committee of 12 (4 Republicans, 4 Democrats, 4 Independents) to redraw the legislative districts in Ohio. We need to do this so the districts are drawn somewhat equal in terms of Republicans and Democrats, and not lopsided like they have been in the past. This will give a better chance for either party to win and hopefully avoid mess of the past few years. The Citizen's committee will draw the lines, not just the legislators, who most likely will draw the lines in their parties' favors instead of giving both parties a chance.

There are a lot of legislative issues out there to be aware of. So please stay informed about the ones that have a special impact on the Education Profession.

Another topic you will hear about is organizing Charter schools. Whether we like it or not Charter schools are here to stay so we need to take the lead and help organize them to ensure the educators in those schools are treated fairly. In some districts, such as Mansfield City Schools, there are OEA members already working in charter or community schools. We need to help the educators in the charter schools to make sure they have good working conditions and evaluation procedures, plus help them get a decent wage to live on. Some of you may know a person working in a charter school and have heard a story or two, so you know what I mean.

So as you take in all the information about the different legislative issues in the State of Ohio and in OEA, please remember to stay informed on what is coming next, and be ready with your walking shoes and clipboards for another summer of collecting signatures and spreading the word on how we can make a difference.

Patty Levingston,
NCOEA President



OEA Spring Representative Assembly



The Spring Rep. Assembly was held at Veterans Memorial in Columbus Ohio May 11 - 12 . We had many delegates in attendance from various NCOEA schools. Senator Sherrod Brown was the opening speaker.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. Elected:
 - Tim Myers, Secretary-Treasurer (with a term ending 8/31/15)
 - Andre Taylor, NEA Director #5 (with a term ending 8/31/15)
 - Jerry Oberhaus, NEA Director #6 (with a term ending 8/31/15)
 - Robin Jeffries, Board of Director At-Large (with a term ending 8/31/15)
2. Approved the proposed 2012-2013 Resolutions Report.
3. Approved the proposed 2012-2014 two-year budget.
4. Approved the appointment of William Shriver to the OEA Appeals Board for a seven year term ending August 31, 2019.
5. Approved the following New Business Items:
 - All employees have the right to be organized; therefore, the OEA shall organize and represent education professionals in non-traditional institutions and settings, such as in community schools, both publically and privately operated, in accordance with OEA policies and Constitution & By-Laws.
 - To assess a one-time dues amount of \$22 per active member and \$11 per ESP member in accordance with OEA bylaw 2.4.d. The amount shall be collected in equal installments pursuant to the local's normal dues collection. The OEA budget shall be amended by the addition of the proceeds of this assessment to a new line item exclusively for the support of actions to support the Voters First initiative to amend the Ohio Constitution on redistricting and reapportionment. The amount collected shall be used for the gathering of petition signatures, the actual campaign for passage and any related legal costs. An accounting of these expenditures shall be provided to the OEA RA in December, 2012.
 - The OEA will study and research more cost effective and environmentally favorable ways to communicating through the Ohio Schools Magazine.
 - This New Business Item shall allow the candidate and/or the Committee to Elect Jim McClure the authority to use the following language in announcing his campaign: "The Ohio Education Association is proud to announce Jim McClure for NEA Executive Committee."



There were 1,044 registered delegates at the assembly. Delegates contributed \$45,216.00 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

FCPE giveaway winners:
 Cruise – Sharen Lindberg (Canton P.E.A.) \$300 – Lori Berger (Medina City T.A.)
 \$300 – Brenda Petit (South Range E.A.) \$200 – Mark Brugger (Westerville E.A.)
 \$100 – Jeffrey Moyer (Tallmadge T.A.) \$100 – Sue Jarvis (Galion E.A.)

Vice President's Column – Jen Lepard

Well we've made it through another school year, Congratulations to all of you!

Education in Ohio has seen a lot of changes over this past school year. Senate Bill 5/Issue 2, will be something none of us should ever forget. But as we move into the summer months we need to look ahead at what is coming our way and keep an eye on the following legislative items. The following information is based on OEA's input.

Pension Reform Legislation - Each of the state's public retirement systems has submitted proposed benefit changes in order to preserve the long-term solvency of the funds. All changes to pension benefits require a change in state law to take effect. In early 2010, legislation was introduced (HB 69 and SB 3), but there have been no hearings since last year. OEA understands the need for pension reform legislation to ensure the long-term solvency of the retirement systems. These plans represent our members' economic security in retirement and must be preserved. However, the proposed changes must be equitable and have adequate phase-in periods.

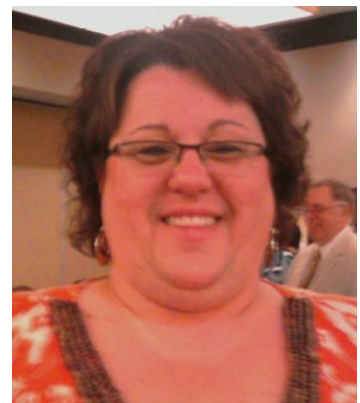
School Voucher Programs – House Bill 136 was passed out of the House Education Committee in September 2011; however, due to OEA's aggressive lobbying against the bill, it has not been brought to the House floor for a vote. This does not guarantee that it will not move during the 129th General Assembly. The governor and legislative leadership continue to support diverting public tax dollars to voucher programs, and the budget (House Bill 153) increased the number of vouchers available from 14,000 to 60,000. We will need to remain diligent in our efforts to fend off such devastating policy proposals throughout 2012 and beyond.

Cleveland Plan- Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson has submitted to the Ohio General Assembly a list of legislative proposals that would make changes to the way many state education and labor laws apply to the Cleveland City School District. Some of these proposals are similar to provisions in Senate Bill 5/Issue 2 that were overwhelmingly rejected by Ohio voters. OEA will work with all stakeholders to ensure that any legislation introduced on the basis of the "Cleveland Plan" will be focused on supporting students and teachers, not attacking employee rights.

One other item we need to watch for is the Teacher Evaluations. As you work within your districts, make sure you have all the appropriate information needed to make your evaluations work for you and your teachers.

I wish all of you a relaxing and wonderful summer!

***Jen Lepard,
NCOEA
Vice-President***



Blue Ribbon Local Association Award

In order to keep the costs of the newsletter as low as possible, there will only be 1 newsletter mailed each year. That will be the one for January-February.

If you have any information for the newsletter please email it to me. The deadlines for submission are:

March 1: March - April
May 1: May, June, July

My email address is
mbarr@neo.rr.com

Thank you for your help.
Shelly Barr
Chalkdust Editor

**Have a
relaxing
summer!!**

We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://www.northcentraloea.org>



Left to right: Patti Dice, Lynda Small, Karen Seward, Laura Rochte, and Rob Fetters.

The Mount Vernon E.A. is the 2012 recipient of the Blue Ribbon Local Association Award. This award is presented to local associations that have displayed innovative problem-solving techniques and/or unique public relations and communication skills. Winning locals have proven to be true advocates for public education and its employees. Recipients receive a monetary award in the amount of \$500.

NEA Applegate-Dorros Peace & International Understanding Award



Rob Fetters (Mount Vernon E.A.) received special recognition as the recipient of the NEA Applegate-Dorros Peace and International Understanding Award. Each year NEA presents this award to an NEA member, NEA local affiliate, and/or NEA state affiliated whose activities in education contribute to international understanding and motivate youth to work for world peace.

Congratulations Rob!