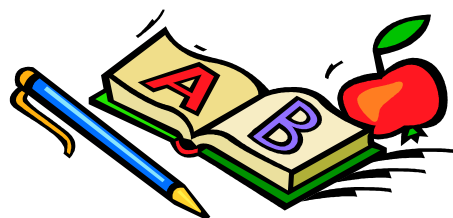


CHALKDUST



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 Column – Patty Levingston

Hello everyone, I hope your school year is going well. As a write this so many things are happening that makes my head spin. First, I am, like so many of you are, preparing my students for the OGT or OAA so they can be prepare the best they can be and do well on the test. I'm trying to reassure the students that if they work hard and take the test seriously, they should do well on it because we have prepared for it. Reassurance is a big part of preparing them for the test and everything we do. Trying to give, or develop within, the students the confidence they need to do a good job is a big part of making the students succeed. Wow what a task.

Second, I am trying to reassure my students they will be safe at school after the events at Chardin High School at the end of February. I try to remind them that is why we practice lock down drills so we all know what to do if, heaven forbid, something like that would happen. I have listened to a lot of people talk and wander why it happened. Even though it didn't happen in North Central, we, the education community, are a unique family, so when something bad happens to one district it has a rippling effect through the rest of us. But we are strong and will help each other through this and any other disaster that comes our way. Please keep the Chardin community in your thoughts.

The third thing that has my head spinning is the 2012 election. Trying to stay informed on all the candidates and issues on the ballot is enough to make someone go crazy, a short trip for me, I know. Now that the primaries are over we can take a real hard look at who the right people are to help the working, middle class survive. Please stay informed so you can make the right choice in November.

I hope the last several weeks of your school year are enjoyable and remember summer is just around the corner. Thanks for all you do in the name of education.

Patty Levingston,
NCOEA President



Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference (MARLC) was held on January 27-29, 2012; in Arlington Va. NCOEA had 4 members attend the conference: Patti Dice, Mt. Vernon EA, Tina Adams and Judy Novak, Mansfield Schools EA, and Patty Levingston, Madison Local EA.

The theme of this year's conference was "NEA Leaders Standing Strong." The attendees had a variety of topics to choose from dealing with how to influence politics and school funding, how to organize and grow membership, how to communicate with a variety of audiences to get the right message across to them and a discussion on unions and educational solutions. Along with attending one of the tracks, members also had a chance to hear motivational speeches from the NEA officers: President Dennis Van Roekel, Vice President Lily Eskelsen, and Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle.

The MARLC Ideal Contest was held again this year along a chance to donate to the NEA Fund for Children in Public Education. Each state attending the conference has a chance to enter a contestant and preform their talent in front of the judges, plus the audience has input as well and the contestant that receives the most votes via NEA FCPE fund donations wins. This year's winner was from Ohio.

The conference provided a chance to network with members from other states and hear a variety of interesting topics. NCOEA was invited to have dinner with OEA President Pat Frost-Brooks, NEA Director from Ohio Andre' Taylor, NEA Executive Committee Member Paula Monroe from California and the Maryland State President. The dinner provided a setting to have more interesting conversations and a make new contact or two. The conference was a good experience.



From left to right: Pat Frost-Brooks, Judy Novak, Tina Adams, Patty Levingston, Patti Dice, Paula Monroe, and Andre' Taylor

OEA-R/NEA-R Membership Drive



Join in a *Flash!*

OEA-R is encouraging you to continue your Association membership and benefits during your retirement years. We are offering an easy way to become a Pre-Retired member now and beat the price increase. Once you retire, all you have to do is call OEA Membership and request they change your status from active to retired. You are eligible to purchase a Pre-Retired membership anytime in your career---you do not need to be nearing retirement. Please join now by following these simple steps at your District RA:



First, locate your District OEA-R Representative or their designee and he/she will **FLASH** you a pen and a membership form so you can fill it out immediately.



Next, **FLASH** that person a check payable to The Ohio Education Association for \$300 along with the completed form---(\$100 for OEA-R and \$200 for NEA-R----you must have a unified membership upon retirement) or **FLASH** your credit card to join online.



Then, walk away a Pre-Retired OEA-R/NEA-R Life member with a usable **FLASH DRIVE** and pen--- our gifts to you for your paid in full Life membership!



After that, share the news **FLASH** that you have beaten the price increase from NEA-R which will go up by \$50 on September 1, 2012 as well as additional price increases approximately every four years after that! Encourage others to follow your example and receive their own FLASH DRIVE.



Finally, **FLASH** the money you save by joining now----on a treat for yourself!

OEA-R/NEA-R Membership Drive



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

CONGRATULATIONS to NCOEA's own **Rob Feters** from Mt Vernon EA. He has been selected to receive the NEA Peace and International Award. Rob will receive this award July 1 during the NEA Human & Civil Rights Award Banquet. Congratulations Rob on a job well done!



Anyone interested in attending the OEA Summer Leadership Academy August 6 – 8 in Columbus should send their application Becky Cashell by May 1st



Link for more information:

<http://www.northcentraloea.org/awards/NCOEA%20Leadership%20Grant%202011.pdf>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.northcentraloea.org>