



East Central Ohio Education Association

The Link Between Your Local
and the Ohio Education Association
Serving members in Stark, Wayne,
Holmes, Carroll, Tuscarawas,
and Columbiana Counties

Official Newsletter Publication of ECOEA
November, 2012

OFFICERS AND STAFF

President - Angela Stewart
Vice President - Valerie Heban
Rec. Sec. - Tammy Bixler-Zalesinsky
Executive Director - Bruce Rostetter
Administrative Assistant - Eva Gutwein
Editor/webmaster - Bruce Rostetter

E
C
O
E
A

AN ORDER OF SUCCESS... Or TRYING "KUNG PAO" !

By ECOEA President, Angela Stewart



A HUGE "Thank You" goes out to everyone who got involved in Campaign 2012! From displaying yard signs and bumper stickers, attending rallies and meet-the-candidate events, distributing literature at fairs and festivals, marching in parades, writing letters, making phone calls, canvassing neighborhoods, hosting house parties, working directly with candidates, contributing money and other resources, to informing friends, family, and neighbors; OEA and ECOEA members were involved!



The campaign is over, and I don't know about you, but I'm tired! I really want to rest, but the fight is not over. We may have re-elected President Obama and Senator Sherrod Brown, as well as many other local candidates, but we are not done. There are many issues facing public education as well as the middle class that will not be solved by being idle until the next election. I know we sometimes feel overwhelmed and powerless, and we do nothing because we don't know what we can do. But when you get involved and begin working with others towards a common goal, you feel the sense of ownership. You feel hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing that you are working to make things better. And most importantly, you are not alone in your quest. If we learned anything from this past campaign, it is this: GRASSROOTS EFFORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, THEREFORE WE MUST LEARN TO ENGAGE AND INVOLVE OUR MEMBERS! We cannot run a successful, influential campaign of any sort without the help of our membership. As leaders, we need to engage those less involved and inspire them to want to be a part of the activity, or we ourselves will burn out. Whether it is a local levy, a district committee, a state-wide race, or a presidential election, we must get more members involved. But we can't wait until the last few weeks to make a canvassing or phone banking request and expect members to willingly join in if they haven't been involved throughout the whole process. We need to start early in our quest for volunteers. It will be a long journey, one that cannot be hurried. It reminds me of my



journey into my love of Chinese food. I remember the first time I tried Chinese food. I didn't actually try it. I went to a Chinese restaurant with my friend and her parents, but I ordered from the American fare. I did taste a few bites of my friend's meal and decided I'd order something next time. I started out my exploration in this new cuisine cautiously and slowly. At first, I tried Pepper Steak, Sweet and Sour Pork, and Chicken and Broccoli. Later I moved on to Hunan, Szechuan, and *Kung Pao*. After many visits and many buffets, I learned what I liked, but still tried some new things. Now I even experiment in my own kitchen with various recipes. My journey into my love of Chinese

ECOEA Office

129 Easton St. NE, Suite 103
North Canton, Ohio 44721
330-499-8587
1-877-499-8587

ecoea@sbcglobal.net

Check us out on the web



www.ecoea.ohea.us

food could be a lesson in involvement. First, we need to introduce our members to the issues. Do not expect someone to be ready for *Kung Pao* if they've never tried fried rice. One introduction is not enough to interest our members who need to be presented with many chances for involvement. We need to educate, notify, and discover what drives our members so they feel comfortable enough to try new things. We need to give our members many options and choices, like a buffet, so they can try and eventually select the activities they like. Who knows, maybe they will feel empowered enough to try some things on their own!

Let's face it, these are hostile times. No longer can we simply disappear into our classrooms, close the door, and let someone else take care of the politics of public education. In these times of SB5-like attacks and Right-to-Work proposals, doing nothing brings devastating results to our members and the learners we serve. Author Gary Collins said, "We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision." So take a chance and invite some less involved members to your next meeting or event. It might be the opening you need to introduce people new to the union and to politics. Keep inviting, keep notifying of upcoming events, keep informing of critical issues and candidates, keep providing many opportunities to become involved, and keep hoping! Because you never know, they may eventually order the *Kung Pao*!



SUCCESS !

The Picture Gallery 

ECOEA Fall Roundtable Held on October 15th



Just under 50 members attended this event where a Legal Update presentation was given by OEA Attorney, Kathleen McKinley... Much of the discussion centered around the new teacher evaluation process. Attorney McKinley also focused on giving attendees updated info on current legal issues and court cases that may impact everyone's employment status and education career. Door prize winners were Joanna Shankland from Rittman and Kelly Green from Perry...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



CALLING ALL DELEGATES... !

The following vacancies on the ECOEA Executive Committee and one OEA Committee are available to be filled at the Rep Assembly: Executive Committee: Columbiana #1 Rep, Columbiana #2 Rep, ESP #1 Rep. OEA Committees: ECOEA Rep on OEA Organizing Strategy CFC... Nominations for any vacancies will also be accepted from the floor of the Rep Assembly.

ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly
Saturday – November 17, 2012
 Delegate registration begins at 7:45 AM and Assembly comes to order at 8:30 AM
 Canton Professional Educators' Association office located at 1327 Market Ave. N., Canton, Ohio



The ECOEA Unit 11 seat on the OEA Board of Directors is currently vacant. An appointment to this position will be on the agenda for the November ECOEA Executive Committee meeting, and an election for this seat will occur at the Spring ECOEA Rep Assembly in April. Anyone interested may obtain a filing form for this position on the ECOEA website.

ECOEA FUTURE EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES

ECOEA Retirement Workshop



WHEN? Saturday, February 9, 2013
WHERE? Courtyard Marriott, Canton
TIME: 8:30 AM – Noon

Details and a reservation form will be on the website soon and more information will appear in the January ECOEA Newsletter... **Save the Date!**

ECOEA

SPRING LEGISLATIVE DINNER

This event will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013 at the Courtyard Marriott in Canton. All state legislators and Congressmen who represent parts of the ECOEA six county district will be invited to participate. Look for details and reservation info on the website and in the January ECOEA Newsletter... **Save the Date!**



Annual OEA Collective Bargaining Conference February 1-2, 2013

GETTING OUR “BARGAIN” BACK...



ECOEA provides a scholarship opportunity for our Local Associations who send one or more members to this Collective Bargaining Conference... Information and an online application can be found on the ECOEA website www.ecoea.ohea.us



Conference will be held at the new Columbus Hilton Downtown



Happy Thanksgiving