



East Central Ohio Education

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

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My Message Triangle

By ECOEA President, Angela Stewart

It's the holiday season! Time for spreading joy and cheer. No matter what holiday you celebrate, are you the person who does all the preparations? Do you feel like you spread yourself too thin? Would you like to have some help from your family and friends? Perhaps a message triangle is just what you need to use to get some assistance in your holiday preparations. A message triangle is a tool that you can use in your personal or professional life to make an ask. It has three parts: anger, hope, and action. To illustrate this tool, I will make you angry, then I promise I'll give you some hope. I am optimistic that it may nudge or even launch you into action. That's the message triangle-ANGER, HOPE, and ACTION.

So let's begin with the first part of the triangle-ANGER. I know you are all stressed out. I am not here to judge, because I am right there with you! If you are like me, do certain words just get your blood boiling these days? OTES. Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Outsourcing. Privatization. Reduction in Salary and Benefits. Right to Work. Governor John Kasich. Just writing some of those words and phrases make me stressed out and angry. I would dwell on it, but I'm also preparing for yet another meeting and report! The Roman poet Horace once said, "Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant." If Horace ever met John Kasich, he might reconsider. But in all seriousness, I do believe that to be true. Sometimes it's the worst of circumstances that bring out the best in people. I know we are all under stress and are facing adversity every day. I want you to know that despite all the adversity out there, there is HOPE, which is the second part of the message triangle.

After an 8 week strike last spring, Strongsville Education Association settled and received the fair and equitable contract they deserved. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. The Ohio Supreme Court decision on informational picketing ruled in favor of Mahoning Education Association of Developmental Disabilities. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. The November 2013 General Election had 14 active, retired, or OEA family members running for local offices, and 11 won their elections. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. Several mayors who supported SB 5 were also defeated in November, including Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Robart and Toledo Mayor Mike Bell. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. In the past few years, there has been unfair, unjust legislation against public education and unions. But just recently, Republican Senator Randy Gardner introduced SB 229 that would help make Ohio's new system for evaluating teachers more effective, fair and efficient. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. But most significantly, the OEA FCPE State Council unanimously endorsed a life long public servant and outspoken supporter of public education, Ed Fitzgerald, for Governor. He understands the difference a good school, a good teaching and support staff, and a good education can make for the next generation and he is ready to lead Ohio's education system into the future. Just a few weeks ago Ed announced his running mate, State Senator Eric Kearney of Cincinnati. Eric is known for being one of the most effective members of the Ohio legislature, able to reach across party lines to get things done. He is also a fierce advocate for Ohio's middle-class families and children. THAT GIVES ME HOPE. THEY GIVE ME HOPE.

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Check us out on the web



www.ecoea.ohed.us

ECOEA Fall Roundtable Held on October 21st

Over 50 members attended this event where a Legal Update presentation was given by Attorney, Kathleen McKinley. Attorney McKinley focused on social media and internet safety for employees. "Facebook is not your friend," was her message as she shared cautionary tales about the impact it is having on education employees caught in legal situations because of pictures and posts. "Door pies" winners were Tara Kies and Sonya Ash (North Canton EA), Ed Sims (Rittman EA), and Jill Wagner (Claymont EA). It was a delicious and informative way to spend a Monday night for all!

ECOEA FUTURE EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

Retirement Workshop-Saturday, February 8, 2014 Courtyard Marriott at Belden Village

Register now on the ECOEA website for the Retirement Workshop. Registration begins at 8:45 AM. Beginning with a complimentary breakfast buffet for our members, we will start with a general session and then break-out into two separate information workshops. The STRS session will be lead by STRS representative John Buch. Members attending the SERS session will hear from SERS representative Cameron Vaughn. While these sessions do not replace an individual counseling session, they are very informative for members at any point in their career. Members need to send in their \$10 deposit that will be refunded when they sign in at the workshop. Member guests may attend for a \$15 charge. Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants so don't delay! Sign up today on the website at: www.ecoea.ohea.us

Legislative Dinner-Friday, March 7, 2014 Courtyard Marriott at Belden Village

Our annual Legislative Dinner with our area legislators will again be held at the Courtyard Marriott at Belden Village. All area legislators from our six county district will be invited to join us in an open forum where members can ask questions about issues that affect public education. A complimentary dinner is provided for members; guests may attend for a \$15 charge. Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants. After the dinner and forum, guests and legislators are invited to stay for networking and socializing. There will be door prizes and snacks during the networking, with a cash bar available in the hotel lobby.



Certificates for the Five Star Award for Local involvement at the District level were presented at the ECOEA Rep Assembly. Winning the \$500 award from a lottery drawing of qualifiers was Lake Local Education Association. President Allison Grimm accepted the check from President Angela Stewart. Congratulations to all our Five Star Locals for meeting the criteria.

Accepting the Five Star Awards were Dan Campanaro (North Canton EA), Eric Smith (Fairless EA), Dr. Geneva Parker (Canton PEA), Allison Grimm (Lake Local EA), Carol Meyers (Massillon EA), Anne Bowles (Wooster EA), Mary Ann Mastnick (SCEPTA), Janel Travis (Newcomerstown TA), Cindy Endres (Jackson CPA), and Kelli Green (Perry CTA). Also receiving the Award were New Philadelphia EA and Triway EA.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES:

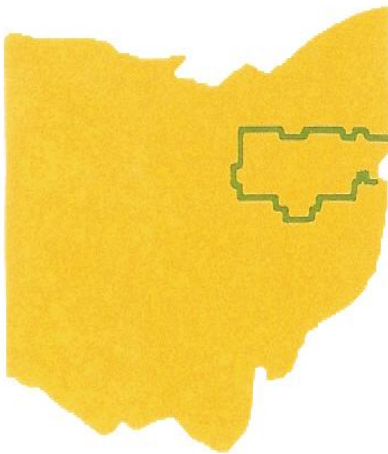
The following vacancies exist on the ECOEA Executive Committee: Columbiana #1 Rep, Columbiana #2 Rep, ESP #1 Rep. Please contact President Angela Stewart at the ECOEA office (330 499-8587) or by email at ecoea@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in one of these leadership positions.



**ECOEA
FRIEND OF EDUCATION
2013**

KATHLEEN MCKINLEY

The East Central Friend of Education Award for 2013 was presented to Kathleen McKinley at the Rep Assembly on Saturday, November 23. Attorney McKinley, a former teacher and past local president, has made numerous presentations to members about their legal rights as an education employee. This past summer she presented at the ECOEA Summer Leadership Workshop about OTEs and always does an excellent Legal Update for our October Fall Roundtable. She addressed the Assembly and explained that she went into law after leading her local through a strike because she knows the pressures members face at such times. She wanted to be sure member rights were protected and that no one experience what she did. As an OEA contracted attorney, she represents members throughout Northeast Ohio. President Stewart presented her with a plaque and the thanks of ECOEA for her service.



THE FOLLOWING LOCALS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE ECOEA FALL REP ASSEMBLY. DELEGATES WERE PRESENT FROM:

- Unit I** Fairless Education Association
Jackson Classified Personnel Association
Jackson Memorial Education Association
Lake Local Education Association
Perry Classroom Teachers' Association
- Unit II** Rittman Education Association
Wooster Education Association
- Unit III** Canton Professional Educators' Association
Massillon Education Association
Newcomerstown Teachers' Association
North Canton Education Association
Stark County Educators and Professional Trainers
- OEA-R**

OEA 2014 Collective Bargaining Conference



Uniting in a Call to Action



February 7-8, 2014

<http://www.ohea.org/collective-bargaining-conference>

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

ECOEA Fall Representative Assembly Recap:

Delegates to the Fall Rep Assembly gathered at the Canton Professional Educators' Association office on Saturday, November 23 to conduct the business of the District and prepare for the OEA Fall Representative Assembly which will be held in Columbus on Saturday, December 7, 2014. Delegates unanimously voted to endorse candidate Emilly Osterling for NEA Director #1 who is running unopposed. Tracy Lemus Santos (Fairless EA) was elected to the office of ECOEA Vice-President, term expiring 2015. Elected to the ECOEA Executive Committee were Dr. Geneva Parker (CPEA) for Stark #4 Rep ('15), Karen Linch (Wooster EA) for Wayne #2 ('14) and ECOEA Rep to the OEA Professional Efficacy Core Function Committee is Ramona Moore (Lake Local EA). Congratulations to these individuals for taking on the leadership roles of the district.

ECOEA Awards were presented to the Top Ten FCPE Locals. Public Relations Grants were awarded to seven locals for projects submitted and approved by the Executive Board. The drawings for Unit Scholarships were held. There were no applicants in Unit I. Unit II winner was Natalie Ahlers from East Holmes EA. Unit III winner was Todd Dannemiller from North Canton EA.

Valerie Heban was awarded the Leader of Distinction, and Attorney Kathleen McKinley received the Friend of Education award.



East Central delegates will gather with delegates from around the state at the OEA Fall Representative Assembly in Columbus on December 7, 2014.

OEA SCHOLARSHIPS and awards DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for OEA scholarships is just around the corner. Members are encouraged to apply for the scholarships and awards. Applications are available online at this link:

<http://www.ohea.org/teachers-and-faculty-awards-and-recognition>

There are several individual scholarships for members such as the Marilyn Cross, Jean Kershaw, and JFK Scholarships. There are awards and recognitions available for locals and individuals for communications, exemplary programs, media, human and civil rights. See the OEA website for further details.

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My Message Triangle by Angela Stewart

Illustrator Mary Engelbreit says, "If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it." I don't know about you, but I don't like the direction our current governor has taken us and continues to take us. The damage Governor Kasich has done, not just to public education, but to Ohio's middle-class is absolutely unacceptable. Think about all the policies and legislation that have been passed under his control and he needs to run for re-election. Now imagine all the policies and legislation that could be passed when he doesn't need to run for re-election. Does that make you angry? But after hearing about Ed Fitzgerald and Eric Kearney do you feel some hope too? Anger without hope can become cynicism and apathy, but anger with hope becomes action. We need to turn our anger and our hope into action and make some changes. We must defeat Governor Kasich in 2014 and elect Ed Fitzgerald, Eric Kearney, and other pro-public education officials and legislators into office. We can no longer be apathetic or complacent, thinking someone else will help with the campaigns that will impact our profession. **WE MUST CHANGE THINGS. WE MUST GET INVOLVED. WE MUST TAKE ACTION**, which is the third part of the message triangle. So here's the ACTION-and my ask.

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Enjoying their Back-to-School treat are members of Newcomerstown TA. In-service funds were provided by ECOEA for this meeting.



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We may not be able to change the game, but we can change the players-and the coach! Will you join me in ensuring our future, our careers, our union prospers despite the adversity being sent our way? What are you willing to do? Will you screen candidates to ensure quality people are representing us? Will you make phone calls or knock on doors for those candidates that support public education and unions? Will you make a contribution to FCPE or even to a candidate's campaign? If you think politics doesn't affect you, look around! Legislators are constantly drafting legislation that impacts us; often creating intended or unintended, negative consequences. We must be vigilant. Now is the time to rebuild our Fund for Children and Public Education monies. Our monies need to be spent on supporting those issues and candidates that support public education and our unions; candidates like Ed Fitzgerald. It is vital to the survival of public education that we be able to raise money for our cause, to make a change in the line up. Let's face it, in politics, money talks! So let us be heard! Don't let your voice or the voices of your colleagues only be heard around the lunch table lamenting all the terrible things that are happening to public education. Take action and make them be heard in Columbus and around the state. OEA cannot use dues dollars for political campaigns, so it is our responsibility to contribute to the Fund for Children and Public Education. If you haven't had an FCPE Drive in your local, or if you have never made a contribution yourself, I implore you to do so. There will be a statewide FCPE Drive this spring as well and local presidents will be receiving more information and tools when it draws closer. Bottom line is you need to make that connection to your members about how important FCPE is and how it affects them and their future. Talk to your members about supporting their profession, regardless of what party they belong to. And if you want them to jump into action, try using the message triangle with them: ANGER-HOPE-ACTION!

The following words of wisdom are from two very different people, but they share the same core message. The first is from nationally known commentator Michael Josephson. He said, "The surest way to escape anxiety and defeat despair is action. Do, don't dwell." The second is from American folk singer Joan Baez. She said, "Action is the antidote to despair." Let's cure what ails us and take action! So stay healthy this holiday season and enjoy some time with family and friends. Let's take some action during the new year and bring some new players to the game!

