



# 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

## OFFICERS AND STAFF

President - Angela Stewart  
Vice President - Tracy Lemus Santos  
Rec. Sec. - Julie Nelson  
Business Manager- Valerie Heban

Official Newsletter Publication of ECOEA

September, 2013



ECOEA President,  
Angela Stewart

## DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!

DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!"-I heard this quote at this year's OEA Summer Leader Academy and I loved it! The academy was held August 5, 2013 through August 7, 2013 at the Hilton Downtown in Columbus, Ohio. The theme was "Hallmarks of Excellence: Unity, Power, and Influence", and although it focused on the leadership, collective bargaining, communications, organizing, political action and professional advocacy skills necessary to be a leader in the current education environment, it also provided reassurance to members that they have the power to make a difference. It was awesome to see over half the participants were first time attendees! So a new school year begins and my advice to every member is this: "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" Don't like the new teacher evaluation system and its many uncharted requirements? "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" Coordinate with other staff members for pre-assessments and post-assessments. Have your superintendent apply for a waiver day for SLO writing. Represent your team on your local OTES Committee. Join the negotiations committee. Keep current on legislation and press releases from ODE.

Don't like the privatization of educational services or cuts being to public education budgets across the state? "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" Contact your legislators. Make phone calls. Send emails. Lobby face-to-face. Sign up to be an ACE. Contribute to the Fund for Children in Public Education or even have an FCPE drive at your local. Support pro-public education candidates with your time, money, talents, and vote. Attend trainings and become a pro-public education candidate yourself!

Don't like connotation of the word union? "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" Educate yourself and others to the work of our local, district, state, or national unions perform. Be active. Participate in local, district, state, or national activities, workshops, elections, and Representative Assemblies. Give a little time and talent on a local, district, state, or national committee. And bring a new or less involved member along!

Don't like living in these hostile times and being attacked daily? "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" Tell your story. Educate and inform your colleagues, friends, family, and neighbors. Join and form coalitions that represent our issues. Do not disappear into your classroom or office or bus or cafeteria and be quiet. Speak up! Speak out!

I feel like I can give you this advice of "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!" because I had to do this very thing in late March. Last spring, ECOEA was faced with an awful situation of discovering the misappropriation of funds and forgery by our Administrative Assistant. At first discovery, it was devastating and overwhelming, but action had to be taken. ECOEA, OEA, and NEA have a zero tolerance policy on falsification of records or misappropriation of Association funds. The employee was immediately discharged and criminal charges were filed. A special committee was formed to assist with the investigation and make necessary changes needed in the office structure. Although the wheels of justice did not move as quickly as we would have liked, the court case is finally coming to a close and our monies will be replaced. We have instituted some new best practices suggested by our forensic auditor, and we revamped our office staff to a single position now titled Business Manager. The Executive Board voted at their August 1, 2013, meeting to employ Valerie Heban as the new Business Manager. Throughout the transition, there has been no disruption for our ECOEA members as we have been able to maintain our scholarships, meetings, workshops, and services. Welcome Val, as our new Business Manager!

So as the new school year begins, I wish you the best. Whether you are starting your first year or your last year, make it your best year. And in the famous words of Dr. Seuss, "If things start happening, don't worry, don't stew, just go right along and you'll be happening too." Quite simply, "DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE!"

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### ECOEA Office

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Check us out on the web



[www.ecoea.ohea.us](http://www.ecoea.ohea.us)

*Per By-Law 3.9 Access to Financial Reports-the Monthly Executive financial reports are available to any member upon*

### **Deadline Looming to Purchase STRS Service Credit at Current Rates**

One of the changes made to STRS in pension reform legislation passed last year was to increase the cost of purchased service credit. Effective January 1, 2014, members will pay the full projected liability created by the purchase of service credit. The cost to purchase credit will increase significantly if the purchase allows a member to meet retirement eligibility earlier or to retire without an actuarially reduced benefit. The following types of purchasable service credit will be affected:

Out-of-state teaching, private teaching and government service

Military service, National Guard/reserve military service

Other Ohio public service

Leave of absence due to pregnancy or resignation due to pregnancy

Waived Ohio public service

School board service

To purchase these types of service under the current cost calculation, a certification form must be filed with STRS by **December 31, 2013**. If the service is certified as eligible for purchase, members will have until June 30, 2014, to purchase the credit. For additional information, visit [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or call the STRS Member Services Center at 1-888-227-7877.

Take advantage  
of your dues dollars

[www.ecoea.ohea.us](http://www.ecoea.ohea.us)

Check out the ECOEA Website  
for info and "online" application  
forms for all of the  
following ECOEA  
member opportunities

### **October, 2013**

Wed 10/9: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM  
Wed 10/16: ECOEA Finance Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM  
Fri 10/18: OEA District Leaders – 7:00 PM – OEA Bldg.  
Sat 10/19: OEA BOD – 9:30 AM – OEA Bldg  
Mon 10/21: ECOEA Fall Roundtable - Hartville Kitchen - 5:00PM  
Wed. 10/23: ECOEA Program Committee Meeting-office-5:00

### **November, 2013**

Tues 11/5: ELECTION DAY... VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! ---  
Wed 11/13: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM  
Sat 11/ 23: ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly - CPEA Office - 8:30 AM

### **December, 2013**

Sat 12/7: OEA Fall Rep Assembly – Vets Memorial

### **January, 2014**

Wed 1/8: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting... if needed  
Mon 1/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Wed 1/22: ECOEA Finance Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM

### **February, 2014**

Sat 2/8: ECOEA Retirement Workshop-Courtyard Marriott Belden  
Wed 2/12: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting  
Fri 2/14: OEA District Leaders – 7:00 PM – OEA Bldg.  
Sat 2/15: OEA BOD – 9:30 AM – OEA Bldg  
Mon 2/17: Presidents Day  
Wed 2/19: ECOEA Executive Committee Make up meeting... if needed

### **March, 2014**

Fri 3/7: ECOEA Spring Legislative Dinner – Courtyard Marriott Belden  
Wed 3/12: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM  
Wed 3/12: IPPA Screenings - Tentative Date after Exec. Meeting  
Fri 3/14: OEA District Leaders – 7:00 PM – OEA Bldg.  
Sat 3/15: OEA BOD – 9:30 AM – OEA Bldg  
Wed 3/19: ECOEA Program Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM

### **April, 2014**

Sat 4/5: ECOEA Spring Rep Assembly - CPEA-8:30AM  
Wed 4/9: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM

### **May, 2014**

Tues 5/6: Election Day... Vote...Vote...Vote  
Wed 5/14: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM (if needed)  
Thu 5/8: OEA BOD – 9:30 AM – OEA Bldg  
Fri 5/9: OEA Spring Rep Assembly – Vets Memorial  
Sat 5/10: OEA Spring Rep Assembly – Vets Memorial  
Mon 5/26: Memorial Day

### **June, 2014**

Fri 5/7: OEA District Leaders – Crowne Plaza Columbus North  
Sat 5/8: NEA Delegate Briefing - OEA BOD – Crowne Plaza Columbus North

### **July, 2014**

July 1-6: NEA Rep Assembly – Denver

- \* **ECOEA Unit Scholarships for Members** - deadline Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
- \* **ECOEA Public Relations Grants for Locals** - deadline Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
- \* **ECOEA Inservice Meeting funds**
- \* **Mid-Atlantic Minority Leadership Conference Scholarship** - deadline Jan 1<sup>st</sup>
- \* **NEA ESP Conference Scholarship** - deadline Jan 15<sup>th</sup>
- \* **Quinn Member and Student Scholarship** - deadline March 1<sup>st</sup>
- \* **NEA-Retired Conference Scholarship** - deadline Feb 15<sup>th</sup>
- \* **OEA Collective Bargaining Conf.Scholarship for ECOEA Locals**
- \* **OEA Summer Leadership Conference Scholarships**



NEA  
Rep Assembly  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2013



NEA delegates from ECOEA were from Newcomerstown, Canton City, North Canton, Wooster, Massillon, Fairless, Lake Local, and OEA-R. Delegates participated in many capacities to help the RA run smoothly. ECOEA delegates manned the FCPE table, served on the Communications Committee, Elections Committee, and State Contacts. Reps were up early every morning for the Ohio Caucus, then spent all day in the Rep Assembly at the Convention Center. ECOEA was represented at the HCR banquet, GLBT banquet, Ohio Night, Political Activist Reception, and ECOEA night at Agatha's Mystery Dinner Theater.

### ECOEA Delegate Introduces New Business Item



Susan Ridgeway, Wooster EA, introduced a New Business Item in support of keeping a certified librarian in every public school. She got support from delegates from across the US. Her NBI passed without opposition. Way to go, Susie!

### ECOEA Local Leadership Training Workshop- August 1, 2013

East Central held their annual Summer Leadership Workshop at the Canton Courtyard Marriott where attendees could choose from a variety of sessions to strengthen their leadership skills.

The required OEA Treasurers' Workshop was led by OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers. Tim also stayed and presented a second session for those Treasurers who were interested in learning how to use Quicken. Also in attendance at the Treasurers' Workshop from OEA were Mary Suchy, Jim Capehart, and Joe Cohagen. LRC LaVonne Lobert-Edmo trained a new group of Building Reps during the afternoon. After the dinner break, sessions resumed with the Local Leaders Roundtable facilitated by LRC Alison Hoffa, Rittman President Ed Sims, and Newcomerstown President Janel Travis. Local OEA attorney Kathleen McKinley led a very informative Legal Update about OTES. The Workshop was well-attended with over 75 Local Leaders and guests devoting their time to learn more about topics that will strengthen their Association.



**ECOEA FALL ROUNDTABLE - Hartville Kitchen**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**FALL LEGAL UPDATE**



**Monday**  
**October 21, 2013**

**Presenter will be**  
**OEA Attorney,**  
**Kathleen McKinley**

**Registration will begin at 5:00**  
**PM Hartville Kitchen**

- \* Sign-In begins at 5:00 PM with complimentary dinner for ECOEA members at 5:30, followed by Legal Update presentation...
- \* A \$10 refundable deposit check is required to hold each reservation, and it will be returned to you at the event...
- \* **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE AT THE ECOEA WEBSITE BY OCTOBER 14<sup>H</sup>**

**[www.ecoea.ohea.us](http://www.ecoea.ohea.us)**

**SOME FUTURE EVENTS / DATES**

ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly  
**Saturday, November 23, 2013**  
Canton Professional Educators'  
Association Office

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ECOEA Spring Rep Assembly  
**Saturday, April 5, 2014**  
Canton Professional Educators'  
Association Office

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OEA Fall Rep Assembly  
**Saturday, December 5, 2013**  
Vets Memorial  
Columbus

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OEA Spring Rep Assembly  
**Fri-Sat, May 9/10, 2014**  
Vets Memorial  
Columbus

**\* Save the Dates \***

**ECOEA**  
**Retirement**  
**Workshop**

***Saturday, February 8, 2014***

**ECOEA Spring**  
**Legislative Dinner**  
**and Program**

***Friday, March 7, 2014***

Details and reservation information  
will be posted on the Website

**[ecoea.ohea.org](http://ecoea.ohea.org)**



## ECOEA PR GRANT IN ACTION

North Canton EA used their Public Relations Grant from ECOEA to host a tent at the Main Street Festival in North Canton just a few days before the start of school. Sporting their new NCEA T-shirts, the members greeted festival-goers and distributed back-to-school pencils to the students who visited with their teachers.



*ECOEA PR Grants  
Apply on-line by Nov. 1*



Lucky door prize winners receive their Applebee's gift cards from President Angela Stewart at the ECOEA Summer Leadership Workshop. Door prizes were won by Bob Mutigli, treasurer from Perry CTA, John Krabill, Co-President Southeast Local EA, and Jenn Adams, secretary for Fairless Local EA.

## June 11 Lobby Day



Attending OEA's June 11 Lobby Day were representatives from Wooster EA, Perry CTA, OEA-R, Newcomerstown TA, and North Canton EA. These representatives were heavily scheduled, meeting with Senators Oelslager, Shavoni, Gentile, and LaRose, and Representatives Barborak, Schuring, and Slesnick. With the budget bill still pending, they were able to share personal stories with the legislators about items in the budget bill that would affect students and teachers.

## ECOEA Leadership Team 2013



Your ECOEA Leadership team, left to right, Business Manager Valerie Heban, ECOEA President Angela Stewart, Recording Secretary Julie Nelson, and Vice-President Tracy Lemus Santos have begun another year of service to the 63 local associations in the ECOEA area. By Executive Board action on August 1, the office is now staffed by Business Manager Valerie Heban, who resigned as Vice-President. The Exec Board appointed Tracy Lemus Santos to fill the office of Vice-President. An election will be held at the Fall ECOEA Representative Assembly for the position. The VP term runs through 2015. Anyone interested in running for the position of Vice-President should send a letter of interest to the ECOEA office or email no later than October 13, 2013 in order to appear on the ballot.

There are several vacancies on the Executive Board that are vacant and can be filled by appointment. Available positions are: County Representatives Columbiana #1 (expires '15)

Columbiana #2 (expires '14)

Stark #4 (expires '15)

Wayne #2 (expires '14)

ESP #1 (expires '15)

ECOEA is also looking for a member to serve on the OEA Professional Efficacy Core Function Committee. Please send a letter of interest to President Angela at the ECOEA office or email at [ecoea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecoea@sbcglobal.net)

There will be an election at the OEA Fall Representative Assembly for NEA Director #1. The candidates are Steve Colahan of Upper Arlington EA and Emily Osterling of Lakota EA. We look forward to hearing from these candidates or their representatives at our ECOEA RA on November 23, 2013.

### OEA Summer Academy 2013-Hallmarks of Excellence

ECOEA members attended the OEA Summer Academy in Columbus this past August and gained valuable bargaining, organizing, political activism, and leadership skills. ECOEA is able to provide 3 scholarships with a matching 3 scholarships from OEA. Receiving scholarships this year were Jeanne Cerniglia and Lisa Gwinn, Southeast Local EA, Kelli Green and Jodi Sponseller, Perry CTA, Pete Husted, Dover EA, and Cindy Endres, Jackson CPA.

