

## **ECOEA COUNCIL CONNECTION**

MARCH 2013

Please share the following information with your service council on behalf of ECOEA.

ECOEA WEBSITE-all forms, applications, newsletters, calendar, workshops, links, legislative contact information, etc are online; **\*new workshop policy requires a \$10 check deposit\***; send Bruce photos of union activities [www.ecoea.ohea.us](http://www.ecoea.ohea.us)  
East Central Ohio Education Association Facebook page & Twitter  
ECOEA Shirts-order forms available **\*\*ECOEA Committee Members ½ price**

Special ECOEA Levy Assistance-\$100, call office-1/year

ECOEA Five Star Award-meet 5/6 criteria (see website); Certificates @ Fall 2013  
ECOEA RA; Lottery Type drawing

ECOEA RA-Saturday, April 20, 2013 @ CPEA Office in Canton  
**\*\*Color Guard or Music Entertainment stipend available for performing @ OEA RAs\*\***  
OEA RA- Friday & Saturday, May 10-11, 2013 @ Vets Memorial in Columbus  
OEA District Leaders Council Networking and Hospitality-Thursdays, May 9, 2013 @  
Double Tree Worthington  
OEA 2012-2013 Awards Dinner-Friday, May 10, 2013

OEA Education Support Professional Award-deadline July

OEA Women's Caucus-Saturday meetings @ OEA Headquarters; May 18, 2013 \*Need ECOEA rep (must be OEA WC member); Campaign to Win WLTP June 21-23; Crowne Plaza Dublin; Contact Arlene Doubledee [doubledee@ohea.org](mailto:doubledee@ohea.org) (330)650-9200 or Joni Watson [joniRW@aol.com](mailto:joniRW@aol.com)

OEA GLBTC-Saturday meetings @ OEA Headquarters;(must be OEA GLBTC member)

OEA SUMMER ACADEMY Hallmarks of Excellence:Unity, Power, and Influence-  
August 5-7, 2013 at The Hilton Downtown; Scholarships available on ECOEA website-  
covers \$100 registration fee and 2 nights at the Hilton-deadline April 26; Online  
registration available May 1<sup>st</sup> on OEA website

Retirees-PreRetired memberships now-ECOEA RA & OEA RA become eligible for \$25  
gas card AND \$100 drawing at OEA RA ; ECOEA-R newsletter; ECOEA-R website;  
outings and campaign activities

Current Vacancies for ECOEA- Columbiana County Reps #1 & #2, ESP #1, Various  
ECOEA Standing Committees, OEA Core Function Committees

NEA Member Benefits & OEA Access card- [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) & [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)  
**\*\*\*This is now a permanent card\*\*\***

Teacher Tool Kit [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)

## **POLITICAL ACTION**

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT....**

**\*MANY BILLS ARE DROPPING THAT AFFECT PUBLIC EDUCATION. STAY INFORMED & EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT THESE CRITICAL ISSUES\***

**60 House seats= Republicans have a 3/5 majority and are able to put legislation on the ballot without collecting any signatures**

**66 House seats=Republicans would have a 2/3 supermajority and could add an emergency clause to any legislation, making it effective immediately. They could also make any legislation referendum and veto proof. If this had been the case when Senate Bill 5 passed, it would be law today!**

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO...**

ACES-Be sure to check it out & update if necessary

FCPE-drives; individual face-to-face contacts; online link. Lobby efforts are crucial!

OEA Facebook-short video clips that can be shared & posted to your own site

OEA Twitter-instant updates & notifications of impending legislative decisions

OEA Text Message Alerts-text "OEA" to 69866 or fill out form on OEA website

EDUCATION VOTES-[www.educationvotes.org](http://www.educationvotes.org) Updates from NEA, Take "KIDS NOT CUTS" Pledge

### **LEGISLATION/ISSUES...**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES-[www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org)---Political Action Tab---"OEA Legislative Watch" AND [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)---Legislative Action Center Tab

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS-5 individual bills passed-Be sure members close to retirement go to a planning meeting with their system to avoid losing any money on their retirement!

RIGHT TO WORK LEGISLATION "Freedom in the Workplace" Petitions are being circulated and can be held for years. Currently, Gov. Kasich has said that RTW is "not on his radar", but pressure from the Tea Party or a second term could easily change this.

There is currently a "So Called Right to Work" Taskforce working on a tool kit and other materials and messaging is being field-tested. There is also some information available on the OEA website. The "UNFAIR, UNSAFE, HURTS US ALL" slogan from the SB5 campaign is very applicable here!