

ECOEA COUNCIL CONNECTION MARCH 2015

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; * **workshop policy requires a \$10 check deposit*** NON-MEMBER guests' cost is \$15.00; send Val photos of union activities 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, e-mail name of the Levy treasurer, address, levy fund name to the ECOEA office ecoea@sbcglobal.net

ECOEA Five Star Award-meet 5/6 criteria (see website); Certificates @ Fall 2015 ECOEA RA; Lottery Type drawing for \$500 unrestricted use by the winning local

ECOEA SPRING RA-Saturday, April 11, 2015 @ CPEA Office in Canton.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW ELECTION GUIDELINES, EVEN IF BY ACCLAMATION

Color Guard or Music Entertainment stipend available for performing @ OEA RAs

OEA RA- 9:00 am Friday-Saturday, May 8-9, 2015 @ Convention Center in Columbus

AWARDS Dinner-Friday, May 8, 2015 @ Double Tree Worthington Ballroom

DLC HOSPITALITY & NETWORKING-Thursday, May 7, 2015 @ Double Tree Worthington. Come and register for the RA at the hotel and stay for the hospitality. No charge! Fun!

OEA GLBTC-Meetings during the lunch break during the OEA RA

GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Grants available

OEA Women's Caucus-Saturday meetings @ OEA Headquarters; March 14, 2015; May 30, 2014; NEA Women's Leadership Training (**Campaigning to Win**)-June 12-14; Dublin Crowne Plaza; Arlene Doubledee 800-654-4034 or doubledee@ohea.org; deadline May 15; limited to 35 participants

SPRING ELECTIONS-If your local conducts an election in the spring, please submit your updated information to your LRC as soon as possible. ECOEA uses this information for the district directory. When scholarships or opportunities arise, we need to be able to contact local leaders quickly. If you would like someone to be appointed as the contact person for "email blasts", please submit that name to the ECOEA office as soon as possible and we will update our email lists.

FCPE Spring Drive-contact LRC if your local conducts a fall drive; more information and toolkit available soon

NEA RA July 1-6 in Orlando. July 1 is Ohio Night. July 4 is ECOEA Night.

OEA Education Support Professional Award-deadline July 2015

ECOEA Summer Leadership is Thursday, July 30. Treasurers' Workshops-Novice & Experienced Retirees-PreRetired memberships-ECOEA-R newsletter; ECOEA-R website; outings and campaign activities

NEA Member Benefits & OEA Access card- www.neamb.com & www.ohea.org

This is now a permanent card

Teacher Tool Kit 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

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 Updates from NEA, Take "KIDS NOT CUTS" Pledge

LEGISLATION/ISSUES...

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES-www.ohea.org---Political Action Tab---"OEA Legislative Watch" AND www.nea.org---Legislative Action Center Tab

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS- JUNE 2015 *Be sure members close to retirement go to a planning meeting with their system to avoid losing any money on their retirement! Calamity days can be "bought" if end of school year extends into June

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! Wisconsin just passed RTW Legislation.

EVERYTHING (and I mean EVERYTHING!) that we dislike about our profession is the result of a legislative decision. OTEs, value-added, PARCC and other testing, STRS/SERS changes, privatization of services, calamity days, and many, many other issues are a direct result of our elected representatives. Although some decisions are beyond our control and our right to negotiate, many issues can still be influenced by us. If Right-to-Work is instituted in Ohio, we will no longer have a voice at all. Imagine what our jobs would be like then! NOW IS THE TIME TO EDUCATE OUR MEMBERS! Share your story and the facts with friends, family, and neighbors!