

ECOEA COUNCIL CONNECTION
NOVEMBER 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 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 office ecoea@sbcglobal.net

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

ECOEA Unit Scholarships (\$500/each unit)-Deadline November 1, 2013. Winner will be drawn at ECOEA Fall RA

SHARE YOUR STORIES!-Share your “Good Stories” about your students, your members, or your local. Share your experiences with the “Common Core”. Share members’ names that are “Education Advocates” or members willing to run for an office with OEA. Send info to OEA President Becky Higgins higginsb@ohea.org

ECOEA RA-Saturday, November 23, 2013 @ CPEA Office in Canton

BE SURE TO SEND ALTERNATE IF DELEGATE CANNOT ATTEND

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

OEA RA- Saturday, December 7, 2013 @ Vets Memorial in Columbus

DLAMC Dinner-Friday, December 6, 2013 **Afterwards is DLC HOSPITALITY & NETWORKING

OEA Education Support Professional Award-deadline July

2013-2014 Annual OEA Awards- Marilyn Cross Scholarship (\$2,000), JFK Scholarship (\$4,000), Jean Kershaw Scholarship (\$2,000), Human and Civil Rights Awards (\$500), Peace and International Relations Award, OEA Media Award for Public Service, OEA Friend of Education Award**all other awards due Jan 10, 2014; May 9-10, 2014 presentation of awards @ OEA Spring RA

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

OEA Women’s Caucus-Saturday meetings @ OEA Headquarters; March 22, 2014; May 31, 2014

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

Retirees-PreRetired memberships; 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 & 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-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! Purchasing Service Credit must be authorized by December 2013!

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 created 2 bills, one for private unions (Roegner) and one for public unions (Maag). Hearings (and rallies) for these 2 bills were cancelled. 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! EVERYTHING (and I mean EVERYTHING!) that we dislike about our profession is the result of a legislative decision. OTEA, value-added, 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 THE TIME TO EDUCATE OUR MEMBERS! Share your story and the facts with friends, family, and neighbors!

EARLY VOTING MAIL IN BALLOTS-check postage rate and your Board of Election's address!

FCPE SENATE and HOUSE DISTRICT RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS-Due to the redistricting of the Senate and House Districts, there are several re-organizational meetings scheduled for the ECOEA area. If local presidents do not want to serve, please have them send another member in their place. This member will be on the screening committee when those candidates are screened. Each local should be represented!