



# 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

Recording Secretary - Julie Nelson

Business Manager-Valerie Heban

Official Newsletter Publication of ECOEA

April 2015

E  
C  
O  
E  
A



## Give Up, Give In, or Give It All You've Got!

Angela Stewart  
ECOEA President

As I write my last newsletter article, I can't help but think of Winnie the Pooh's famous quote about saying goodbye. He said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." This past Saturday was my last RA as ECOEA President due to term limits, and it really was difficult to say goodbye. I am honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as your president for the past 8 years. ECOEA has played an integral role in my life for over 20 years now, but especially in the past 8. It is an experience I will hold close to my heart. I consider it to both a privilege and an honor to have been involved with our organization and its members. Together we have seen some amazing things happen. Our success is a testament to everyone here, and those who came before us. We have worked together, argued together, laughed together, and sometimes even cried together. We shared our problems and our hopes together and established ECOEA as a strong presence. ECOEA has been such a wonderful organization, and I am a better person and better leader for it. I want to pay tribute to my colleagues for their support, advice, friendship, and stellar examples of what it is to serve faithfully and with humility. I count myself most fortunate and very lucky. I have come to see you as my colleagues, friends, and really my family.

If I have learned anything about my union and professional life through this experience through the years, it is this: **ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE BALLOT BOX.** It doesn't matter which road you take, just as long as you get there! And you must get there no matter what! Far too many voters stay home for a variety of reasons. But by not voting, they do, in effect, give more votes to those legislators that are not supporters of public education. Instead of casting their vote to cancel out that crazy uncle's vote, that crazy uncle got voted into office! If we truly want to be the driving force in public education, then we must stand up and do something. We need to spread the word about the value of public education. We can no longer sit silent and watch from the sidelines as ill-informed leaders and legislators draw more and more followers to their disastrous ideas and policies for public education. Albert Einstein said, "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." If we want to stop these policies and laws from having catastrophic results, we cannot just watch without doing anything. We need to silence these ill-informed so-called education reformers. We cannot let their stories be the driving force for new policies and procedures. We need to be the story tellers. We live it every day. We know the truth. We need to spark a movement to drive a positive change for public education. And now is the time! We need to organize, mobilize, and vocalize...LOUDLY! That is the power of movements, they only need a spark. What starts as just a few people, can end up bringing about relevant change, possibly changing the world. And well, who wouldn't want to be a part of that?! If we don't speak up for our profession, who will? Martin Luther King said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." Will you speak up? Will you start a movement? Will you be the brave first follower for someone else? When it comes down to it you really only have three choices in life: Give up, give in, or give it all you've got!

Though "thank you" doesn't seem like a strong enough sentiment, I say it with all my heart. Thank you for all the memories I will take with me. Thank you for the opportunities that were offered to me. And thank you for all the friendships that were forged over the years we spent together. As I conclude this last article, I'll leave you with another quote from that wise old bear, Winnie the Pooh: "There is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

### ECOEA Office

129 Easton St. N

Suite 103

Canton, Ohio 44721

(330) 499-8587

[ecoea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecoea@sbcglobal.net)



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

# ECOEA Summer Leadership Workshop – July 30, 2015

**Thursday, July 30, 2015**

**Courtyard Canton  
4375 Metro Circle N.W.**



**Near Belden Village**

**Registration opens May 1  
Members may attend either an  
afternoon session, evening session  
or both! A complimentary dinner  
will be provided between sessions  
for all attendees.  
Register on the ECOEA website at:  
[www.ecoea.ohea.org](http://www.ecoea.ohea.org)**

**ECOEA brings you our Summer Leadership Workshop  
Courtyard Marriott at Belden Village in Canton  
Thursday, July 30, 2015**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

**2:00–4:00**

**Dinner**

**EVENING SESSIONS**

**5:30–7:30**

**TREASURERS' TRAINING**

**Session 1 OEA Treasurers' Workshop for Novices -Afternoon**

**Session 2 OEA Treasurers' Workshop for Advanced -Evening**

OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers will hold two sessions for the required OEA Treasurer training, each geared to the level of experience of the local treasurers. Each local treasurer is required by OEA to attend a training session or send a representative in his/her place. Treasurers may attend one or both sessions.

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE LOCALS**

**Session 3 OEA Affiliate Grant Writing -Afternoon**

**Session 4 Local Leaders Networking -Evening**

In the afternoon session, OEA Assistant Executive Director Kevin Flanagan will provide training and assistance to members interested in writing for one of the OEA Affiliate Grants. Kevin will explain the deadlines and purposes of the different grants and provide assistance in the grant-writing process.

The evening session will be led by ECOEA President Tracy Lemus Santos and Vice President Julie Nelson. In this networking and brainstorming session, leaders will discuss and share ideas about how to be an effective local, encourage member involvement, and leadership ideas. OEA Carol Price will present how to conduct elections. If your local has not been holding levels for representation at all levels of the organization, this is an excellent opportunity to find out how to get your members involved outside of the local level, and to learn about the laws governing elections.

**Session 5 OEA Constitution and Bylaws Compliance Work Session**

**Session 6 Building Rep Training**

In our afternoon session, members will bring their local C& B and work to on bring their C& B into compliance with OEA under the guidance of OEA Labor Relations Consultants.

In the evening, new Building Reps and interested members will learn about member rights and protections, how to be an effective leader, and the role of a Building Rep in the association.

**EASY TWO-STEP REGISTRATION PROCESS:**

- 1. COMPLETE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION AT [ECOEA.OHEA.US](http://ECOEA.OHEA.US)**
- 2. MAIL YOUR \$10 DEPOSIT WHEN YOU REGISTER. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL WHEN THE DEPOSIT IS RECEIVED. YOUR CHECK WILL BE RETURNED AT THE EVENT.**

**REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON MAY 1 ON THE ECOEA WEBSITE**

**ECOEA Spring Representative Assembly  
April 11, 2015**

**ECOEA local associations who had delegates attend the Spring ECOEA Rep Assembly:**

- \* Canton Professional Educators' Association
- \* Jackson Classified Personnel Association
- \* Jackson Memorial Education Association
- \* East Holmes EA (ECOEA Exec Board)
- \* Malvern EA (ECOEA Exec Board)
- \* Lake Local Education Association
- \* Newcomerstown Teachers' Association
- \* North Canton Education Association
- \* Rittman Education Association
- \* Wooster Education Association
- \* OEA-Retired Educators from ECOEA

**FACT:** There are 62 locals in ECOEA. Twenty-three locals elected delegates. Delegates attended from 8 locals. Two locals were represented by ECOEA Executive Board members.

Thank you to the Canton Professional Educators' Association for the use of their facility to hold our Representative Assembly. ECOEA thanks President Paul Palomba, Treasurer Bobbie Grimm, and all the officers of CPEA for their gracious hospitality!

Is your local electing and sending delegates to the ECOEA and OEA Representative Assemblies?

This is your voice at the District and State level where important decisions are debated and voted upon. If you do not see your local listed, your local is letting others make decisions for you. Get involved!

**\* Quinn Scholarship Winners \***



Each year, ECOEA awards two Quinn scholarships by lottery drawing from all applicants. Pictured on the left is student Rachel Kirker, daughter of Jane Hickman, Newcomerstown Classified. Rachel received an award of \$1,500 to continue her studies in Deaf Education at Kent State University. On the right, member Angela Kunkler, North Canton EA, receives her award of \$500 from ECOEA Business Manager Valerie Heban. Congratulations!

# **CONGRATULATIONS !**

## **Election results from the ECOEA Rep Assembly on April 11:**

**ECOEA President:** Tracy Lemus Santos, Fairless EA

**ECOEA Vice President:** Julie Nelson, North Canton EA

**ECOEA Recording Secretary:** Mandy Bankert, North Canton EA

Two year terms 2015-2017

### **Board of Directors:**

OEA Board of Directors Unit II-Anne Bowles, Wooster EA

### **ECOEA Executive Committee:**

Columbiana County Rep #1: vacant

Stark County #4 Representative: Alice Johnston, Massillon EA

Wayne County Rep #1: vacant

ESP Rep #1: vacant

ESP Rep #2: Cindy Endres, Jackson Classified PA

Minority Member: Michelle Martin Jones, Canton Professional EA

Three year terms 2015-2018

### **Election results for OEA Committee positions:**

OEA Member Rights and Protections CFC: Dr. Geneva Parker, CPEA

OEA Local Development and Training CFC: Michelle Martin Jones, CPEA

OEA Legislative Committee: Janel Travis, Newcomerstown TA

OEA Resolutions Committee: vacant

Three year terms of office, 2015-2018

### **Delegates endorsed the following candidates for OEA positions. The election will be held at the OEA Representative Assembly May 8-9, 2015:**

Tim Myers, OEA Secretary-Treasurer

Jeff Rhodes, NEA Director #5

Robin Jeffries, NEA Director #6

Linna Jordan, OEA Board of Directors At-Large (NEA Alternate)

# ***ECOEA***

**The link between your Local and OEA**

# *Professionally Speaking:* *Discover Your Voice, Deliver Your Message*



The OEA Summer Academy will be held **August 3-5, 2015** at Hilton Downtown Columbus. The Academy provides training and current information to help local association leaders, both experienced and new, on a variety of topics. There is always something new to learn!

Details will be available on the 2015 OEA Summer Academy website in May at:

[leadership.ohea.org](http://leadership.ohea.org)

The cost of registration and hotel will be directly billed to OEA for members who have received a scholarship. A credit card will be required when registering with the hotel for incidentals only.

ECOEA provides scholarships to attend the OEA Summer Academy. Scholarships cover two nights at the Hilton Downtown and conference registration. Mileage and any meals outside of the conference are not covered, although your local may choose to cover your costs. Please ask them! The deadline for consideration of an ECOEA/OEA grant is Friday, **April 17**.

Apply on the ECOEA website at:

<http://ecoea.ohea.us/formsapplications/>

OEA sponsors an Emerging Leaders program to develop and support our future leaders. Participants in the program may be nominated by an existing local, district or state leader or may also self-nominate. See the ECOEA website or your local president for Emerging Leaders applications. These must be received by OEA no later than **May 11** for scholarship consideration. Download the application at:

<http://ecoea.ohea.us/emerging-leaders-application/>

**Members may also apply directly to Parry Norris, OEA Region Two director, for a scholarship. Please follow the following guidelines for Region Two funding. Your local President can assist you with this.**

Members may apply for these regional scholarships by submitting a brief note indicating that they would like to be considered and including first and last name, home email address, home telephone number, name of the applicant's local association, whether the applicant is a first time attendee, possesses less than ten years' experience, or is from a local that has not received a scholarship in the last three years to: Parry Norris, OEA, 11351 East Pike Rd., Cambridge, OH 43725 or via email to hudsonb@ohea.org. We will advise the members and OEA if they are recipients of a Region Two scholarship. To be considered for this scholarship, applications must be submitted by the close of business on **Monday, May 11, 2015**.



**ECOEA LEGISLATIVE DINNER**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**



Guests from the state legislature and state Board of Education are pictured with ECOEA President Angela Stewart at the ECOEA Legislative Dinner on Friday, March 6. From left to right: Senator Frank LaRose, State Board member Stephanie Dodd, Senator Scott Oelslager, President Stewart, Senator Lou Gentile, State Board member Roslyn Painter-Goffi, State Board member Bob Hagan. Missing from the picture is State Rep. Stephen Slesnick.



Senator LaRose with OEA-R Vice Chair Carol Kinsey and OEA President Becky Higgins.



Senator Oelslager and State Board member Bob Hagan with members of the North Canton EA.



Members from the Plain Local TA with Senator Gentile. Right: Ed Sims, Rittman EA with State Board member Roslyn Painter-Goffi.



# FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT ANGELA



Angela Stewart has served as president of ECOEA for the past 8 years, being appointed in 2007, and subsequently being elected in 2009, 2011, and 2013, making her the longest-serving president in ECOEA history. She represents ECOEA Unit 3 on the OEA Board of Directors. She has inspired and encouraged new leaders with her energy and passion, and has worked tirelessly to strengthen our association. While we will miss her as president, she will continue her service in the position of Past-President on the ECOEA Executive Board. Thank you Angela!

Membership in the OEA Women's' Caucus is open to ALL OEA members at all levels----students, actives, and retirees for an annual membership fee of \$15 per year from September 1 through August 31. Please consider joining this Caucus.

There are three general membership meetings per year. These membership meetings include a business meeting followed by an informational program. For this school year the meeting dates were/are Saturday, December 6 during the lunch break at the OEA RA, Saturday, March 14, 2015, and May 30, 2015 with the latter two meetings held in the OEA Building at noon.

The Caucus also conducts fundraisers at the OEA RAs and uses the profits to support groups and/or actions that promote/support women's causes. At the March meeting, after hearing a presentation about Girls on the Run (grades 3-5) and Girls on Track (grades 6-8) which is in the Edison School in Dayton, a contribution of \$1000 was made to the Edison program.

Campaigning to Win is the topic for the Women's Leadership Training Program this summer. It will be held June 12-14 in Columbus. Save the Date flyers and Registration forms are available online with more information along with membership forms if you wish to join. The training program is open to all members, not just women and does not matter whether you plan to seek an office or just would like more information. One member commented she used what she had learned at the training in her effort to be elected as an NEA RA Delegate in her local. The skills learned are broad spectrum skills.

Elections will be held at the May meeting and at this time our own Angela Stewart, current Caucus Vice Chair, is the only declared candidate for Chair. ECOEA Pride here!!!!

The purpose of this organization (taken directly from the Caucus Constitution and Bylaws) shall be:

- a. to research and publicize the status of women in the education profession
- b. to support appropriate state and federal legislation to achieve equitable opportunity for women
- c. to recruit women for leadership roles within the United Education Profession
- d. to sponsor Caucus meetings at state conventions and other appropriate professional gatherings
- e. to work with non-OEA groups concerned with the status of women
- f. to use education to eliminate all sex-role stereotyping
- g. to achieve equality in reality

For more information or to join please contact Angela Stewart, Caucus Vice Chair; at [ecoeapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:ecoeapresident@yahoo.com) ; Carol Kinsey, ECOEA Caucus Representative at [Cskinsey@aol.com](mailto:Cskinsey@aol.com) ; or Caucus Treasurer Gail Andrews Turner at [gatohiowc@yahoo.com](mailto:gatohiowc@yahoo.com)



Delegates are preparing to attend the 94<sup>th</sup> NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida, July 1-6. President Lily Eskelsen Garcia will lead the nearly 10,000 delegates through the New Business Items, elections, resolutions, and other business of the organization.