



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 – Tracy Lemus Santos
Vice President – Julie Nelson
Rec. Sec. – Mandy Bankert
Business Manager- Valerie Heban

Official Newsletter Publication of ECOEA
Fall 2015



ECOEA President
Tracy Lemus Santos

ECOEA

The ABC's of Building Involvement

Well it is that time when we have gotten into the school year with full force and, possibly counting down the days to Break. Between fall sports, homecoming dances, plays, in-service days, etc., it is easy to become overwhelmed. We still have to keep trudging along with a smile on our faces because we have minds to fill, bellies to nourish, bodies to transport, facilities to keep safe and make shine, but, most of all, we have children who depend on us. That, in itself, makes our profession the most important. After all, our profession is what makes all others possible! As we are moving forward, we need to be vigilant of legislation that is affecting our profession. We have to continue to contact our legislators to speak our minds and let our thoughts be heard. We have the responsibility to hold them accountable if they fail to do their jobs and represent their constituents. In our great country we have the liberty, the freedom, the responsibility to vote. If our legislators do their jobs, we can reelect them. If they do not, we have the opportunity to vote them out of office and replace them with someone who will.

In order to assist in getting pro-public education candidates elected, there are many things we can do. We can work on campaigns, talk to others, we can attend phone banks, but the easiest way is to donate to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. Since our dues dollars cannot be spent on campaigns, we donate to FCPE and they use these funds to distribute to candidates who support our profession. I hope each local has held an FCPE drive this fall or are planning one for the spring. Any member can donate at any time though by visiting the OEA website and clicking on the "Donate to FCPE" link on the left column. If you have any questions or need more information please visit the FCPE page on the ECOEA website at <http://ecoea.ohea.us/what-is-fcpe/>.

As I stated in my last article, I want to be able to provide local leaders with some tips to improve their locals. So, here is the first installment of the "A, B, C's to Build Involvement."

A is for Asking. If you want people to participate in any way, you must ask. It never hurts to just ask; the worst that can happen is they say no.

B is for Black Hole. People are afraid that if they volunteer, they'll be sucked into a black hole of time commitment from which they can't escape. Let them know up front that your local is not a black hole. Then, make sure you honor their time constraints.

C is for Communication. Use a variety of communication tools to make sure your message gets through such as e-mail, 10 minute meetings, newsletters, websites, social media, etc.

D is for Diversity. Reach out to all members in your local, not just the ones who are easy to reach. No one can do everything but everyone can do something!

E is for Examine. Look closely at your activities to decide what's working and what isn't. Do away with things that are not working and try something new. Don't be afraid to make changes!

F is for Fun—don't forget about it! Some special people will dedicate their time and energy to a group because it is the right thing to do. Many, many more will participate if it's fun.

G is for Gradual. Introduce members to participation gradually. Invite them to work on a committee, write their legislator a letter, etc. and, with time, they might take on more responsibilities.

H is for Hour, the length to which you should limit meetings. More people will attend meetings if they know that it will not infringe on their time. In addition, when meetings last too long, people lose focus.

I hope you have found something that will help improve your organization. As always, please contact me if you need anything or have any questions. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,
Tracy Lemus Santos

ECOEA Office

129 Easton St. NE

Suite 103

Canton, Ohio 44721

330-499-8587

ecoea@sbcglobal.net



www.ecoea.ohea.us

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

Take advantage
of your dues dollars

www.ecoea.ohca.us

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

- * **ECOEA Unit Scholarships for Members**
- deadline Nov 1st
- * **ECOEA Inservice Meeting funds**
- * **NEA SUMMIT Conference Scholarship**
- deadline Jan 1st
- * **NEA ESP Conference Scholarship** -
deadline Jan 15th
- * **Quinn Member and Student
Scholarships** - deadline March 1st
- * **NEA-Retired Conference Scholarship** -
deadline Feb 15th
- * **OEA Collective Bargaining
Conf.Scholarship for ECOEA Locals** -
deadline January 15
- * **OEA Summer Leadership Conference
Scholarships**-deadline April 15
- * **Local Levy Support**-contact the ECOEA
office

ECOEA--

the link between OEA and your local

Registration opens Dec 1 on the website for
the ECOEA Retirement & Financial Planning
Workshop Jan. 30 at the Courtyard Canton!
STRS, SERS, and Early Career Financial
Planning plus Protecting your Family Legal
Presentation by OEA Attorney Kathleen
McKinley! Breakfast, Door Prizes!

ECOEA Calendar

November 2015

Sat 11/1: Deadline for ECOEA Unit Scholarship applications
Tues 11/3: Election Day-Get Out and Vote!
Sat. 11/7: ECOEA Fall Representative Assembly CPEA office 8:30 AM
Wed 11/11: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00
ECOEA Program Committee Meeting

December 2015

Tues 12/1: Registration opens ECOEA Retirement Workshop
Fri 12/4: DLAMC Banquet, Columbus
Sat 12/5: OEA Fall Representative Assembly, Columbus

January 2016

Wed 1/13: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00
ECOEA Finance Committee meeting
Thurs 1/15: ECOEA Scholarship to NEA ESP Conference Application due
Thurs 1/15: ECOEA deadline for ECOEA Scholarships for OEA Collective
Bargaining Conference
Fri 1/22: Deadline to RSVP for ECOEA Retirement Workshop
Sat 1/30: ECOEA Retirement Workshop, Courtyard Canton

February 2016

Mon 2/1: NEA-R Conference Scholarship Application due
Wed 2/10: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting - office-5:00PM
Fri 2/26: Deadline to RSVP for ECOEA Legislative Dinner

March 2016

Tue 3/1: ECOEA Quinn Scholarship applications due
Deadline for Letters of Intent for ECOEA elections
Fri 3/4: ECOEA Spring Legislative Dinner LaPizzaria 6:00 PM
Wed 3/9: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting-5:00
ECOEA Program Meeting
ECOEA IPPA Screening

April 2016

Wed 4/6: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 PM
Sat 4/9: ECOEA Spring Representative Assembly CPEA 8:30 AM
Wed 4/15: ECOEA Summer Leadership Scholarship applications due

May 2016

Wed 5/4: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 PM
Fri 5/12-5/13: OEA Spring Representative Assembly Columbus
Fri 5/12: OEA Awards Banquet

June 2016

Sat 6/4: NEA Delegate Briefing-First Caucus-Columbus 9:30 AM

July 2016

7/3-7/8: NEA Representative Assembly-Washington DC
Mon 7/18: ECOEA Summer Leadership Workshop (tentative)

**ECOEA is on facebook!
Like us!**



ECOEA Summer Leadership Recap-July 30, 2015

ECOEA Programming presented a comprehensive workshop for our local leaders. Local treasurers had the opportunity to train with OEA Secretary Treasurer Tim Myers. Keeping accurate records, understanding financial record-keeping, tax implications and filing, dues and membership are some of the very important topics that were covered.

Members in the OEA Affiliate Grant Writing session met with OEA Assistant Executive Director Kevin Flanagan to learn about the various OEA grants available to locals to encourage membership and FCPE participation. LRCs LaVonne Lobert-Edmo and Kim Borzyn led a work session with locals interested in bringing their Constitution and Bylaws into compliance.

After a delicious dinner buffet door prizes were awarded. NEA Member benefits and OEA-R representatives were on hand to explain their programs to our members.

After dinner, OEA LRC Gary Kovach, assisted by LRCs Alison Hoffa, Todd Jaeck, and Kristin Johannsson, conducted an excellent Building Rep training. Carol Price, OEA Staff, led Local Leaders through Elections training--the nuts and bolts of running an election, ballots, dates of various elections and reporting information, and federal laws governing elections. The Local Leaders continued in a networking session facilitated by ECOEA President Tracy Lemus Santos, VP Julie Nelson, and LRC LaVonne Lobert-Edmo. It was a full day of information for our Local Leaders as they prepared for a new year of association work.



Kevin Flanagan, OEA Asst. Exec. Director of Field Services, presented a session on OEA Affiliate Grant Writing. Members gathered in the newly remodeled Courtyard Canton this past July.

ECOEA FALL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY-NOVEMBER 7, 2015

The ECOEA Fall RA will be held at the Canton Professional Educators' Office on Saturday, November 7. Delegates, alternates, and guests will gather to conduct the business of the RA. We are delighted to present the ECOEA Leader of Distinction Award to two deserving ECOEA members for exceptional service to ECOEA. We will recognize the Top Ten Locals for the highest percentage of membership contributing to FCPE. This year we have 13 locals who qualified for the Five Star Award. These locals have met at least 5 of 6 criteria for active participation in ECOEA. Each local will receive a Five Star certificate and a drawing will be held to award a \$500 unrestricted grant to one of the locals.

We will also be awarding 4 ECOEA Public Relations Grants of \$500 to locals to use to promote their local and ECOEA within the community. In order to be eligible for a PR Grant, a local must **elect and send** delegates to the ECOEA RA in the previous year.

ECOEA Unit Scholarship drawings will be held. Each year, a \$500 scholarship is awarded to a member in each of the three ECOEA voting units. The scholarship is by lottery drawing at the RA and is to be used for the continuing education of our members.

We will also hear from the two candidates for the open NEA Director #2 seat—Tammy Koontz, SCOPE, and Sophia Rodriguez, Coldwater Teachers' Org. Candidate endorsement will be considered by the assembly.

ECOEA FALL ROUNDTABLE – Hartville Kitchen

On Monday, October 19, 62 members and guests gathered at Hartville Kitchen for the ECOEA Fall Roundtable. Presenter OEA Attorney Kathleen McKinley gave a legal update about current issues in education. She responded to member questions that were presubmitted, as well as questions asked during the presentation, and expanded on topics regarding the use of social media by our members. She provided a handout about the topics discussed as well as a sample letter allowing Parent-Teacher communication by email for use by teachers.

Members also heard from Carol Kinsey from OEA-R about the benefits of membership in retirement. Delicious door “pies” were won by Cathy Cottis, Claymont EA-retired, Julie Rine, Minerva Local EA, Ed Sims, Rittman EA, Mary Ann Mastnick, SCEPTA, and Janel Travis, Newcomerstown TA.

We look forward to our next presentation by Kathleen at our ECOEA Retirement/Financial Preparedness Workshop on Saturday, January 30, at the Courtyard Canton in the Belden Village area. Registration for this event will open on December 1. Check the website for details.



Jackson CPA members Bev Snyder and Sarah Butler.



Jackson CPA President Cindy Endres with Lake Local EA Vice President Ramona Moore.



Cathy Cottis, Claymont EA-retired Janel Travis, President, Newcomerstown TA, Julie Rine, Minerva EA

SOME FUTURE EVENTS / DATES

ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly
Saturday, November 7, 2015
 Canton Professional Educators'
 Association Office

ECOEA Spring Rep Assembly
Saturday, April 9, 2016
 Canton Professional Educators'
 Association Office

OEA Fall Rep Assembly
Saturday, December 5, 2015
 Ohio Expo, Voinovich Center
 (note venue change)

OEA Spring Rep Assembly
Fri-Sat, May 13-14, 2016
 Greater Columbus Convention Center

*** Save the Dates ***

ECOEA
Retirement
Workshop

Saturday, January 30, 2016
Courtyard Canton

Registration opens December 1

ECOEA Spring
Legislative Dinner
and Program

Friday, March 4, 2016
LaPizzaria

Details and reservation information
 will be posted on the website at
ecoea.ohea.us

OEA Summer Academy 2015

ECOEA members attended the OEA Summer Academy in Columbus this August 3-5 to gain valuable bargaining, organizing, political activism, and leadership skills. The theme this year was **Professionally Speaking: Discover your voice. Develop your message.** ECOEA is proud to have provided 5 scholarships through a matching grant program with OEA. Receiving scholarships this year were:

- Dan Campanaro, North Canton EA
- Melissa Kath, Fairless EA
- Sharon Caiazza, East Liverpool EA
- Cindy Endres, Jackson Classified PA
- Victoria Freday, SCEPTA

Also receiving scholarships from OEA Region 2 were:

- Yvonne Parks, Canton PEA
- Julie Nelson, North Canton EA
- Lori Liskey, Jackson Classified PA



ECOEA at Summer Academy
Left: North Canton EA President Julie Nelson and NCEA member Dan Campanaro.
Right: Cindy Endres, President Jackson Classified, Lori Liskey, Jackson Classified, Board of Directors Anne Bowles, Wooster EA, and Past President Angela Stewart, Newcomerstown TA.



Pending Medicare B Premium Spike Would Hurt Ohio Public Retirees

It is anticipated that without Congressional action, Medicare B premiums for millions of Americans will increase by 52% on January 1, 2016. However, this increase would only be experienced by around 30% of enrollees, including many public education retirees in Ohio. The projected increase would be from \$104.90 a month to \$159.30 a month. Additionally, the premium increase will be accompanied by a hike in the Part B deductible—up to \$223 from \$147. The increased deductible would apply to all enrollees.

The projected increase in premiums is attributed to higher utilization of outpatient services than projected. However, at the same time, Social Security recipients will receive no cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2016. Federal law has a hold harmless provision that limits increases in the Medicare B premium to the dollar increase in an individual's Social Security benefit. The premium increase would apply only to those without a Social Security benefit, new enrollees, and those who have income above a specified level. Because Ohio public employees do not pay into Social Security, many retirees do not receive benefits and therefore are not subject to the premium increase.

The National Education Association and 70 other organizations sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to find a solution that addresses the inequity. OEA leadership has asked the same of Ohio's Congressional delegation. While lawmakers are working to advance a solution, the issue is complicated by the cost associated with the change and internal leadership battles in Washington.

OEA Fall Representative Assembly Information

Locals who elected delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly are participating in the democratic governance of our organization. Delegates vote on our guiding documents, officers, dues, legislative policy, and much more. They listen to and participate in debate on the floor of the RA. They are part of the decision-making process that guides OEA. Every local should elect and send delegates so your voice is heard.

Delegates will gather on Saturday, December 5, at the Ohio Expo Center, Voinovich Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. There are several new procedures for this year's RA at this new venue.

- Preregistration the night before at the host hotel will be from 6 PM to 9 PM. Delegates are invited to attend the Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus dinner at the hotel. A ticket order form will be included with your RA documents from OEA.
- Delegates arriving on Friday evening are invited to the Hospitality Event sponsored by the District Leaders Council at the host hotel beginning at 8:30 PM. DJ, dancing, networking, door prizes!
- Delegates should arrive early at the Expo Center for best parking. There are several other events going on at the Fairgrounds. Registration that morning begins at 7:30 AM.
- There will be no lunch break. You may not carry in food, other than a small snack such as a granola bar. There will be concession offerings ranging from hot dogs and wraps to box lunches, \$4-\$10. You may eat in the dining area or take the food back to your seat. Delegates are encouraged to pay **with cash**, not credit cards, to expedite lines at vendors.
- Voting will be continuous during the morning of the RA, such as we do at the NEA RA. You will be assigned your voting time. There will be one election for NEA Director #2 to fill the vacated seat.
- It is estimated that with no lunch break or unforeseen events that the RA will conclude about 1:15 PM.
- There is an open hearing for the Commission on Student Success open to any delegate or member immediately following the RA.
- ECOEA Delegates should stop by the ECOEA booth in the vendor area. We have a special gift for you from ECOEA!

**Ohio Expo Center
717 East 17th Ave
Columbus, OH 43211**

ECOEA locals electing delegates are:

Buckeye EA JVS	Canton Professional Educators' Association	
East Canton EA	East Liverpool EA	Rittman EA
Lake Local EA	Jackson Classified Personnel Association	
Minerva EA	Jackson Memorial Education Association	
Newcomerstown TA	New Philadelphia EA	North Canton EA
Norwayne ESP Association	Perry Classroom TA	Southeast Local EA
Southern Local TA	Triway EA	Fairless Local EA
United EA	Wooster EA	Dover EA
		Stark Area Vocational Educators