



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

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Winter 2016



ECOEA Vice President
Julie Nelson

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Seven Habits of ECOEA Members

By Julie Nelson, ECOEA Vice President

This year my school is implementing activities based on Stephen Covey's *Leader in Me* program to help students develop leadership traits. The seven habits outlined in the program are traits that all of us should practice on a regular basis and ECOEA can help you achieve.

Habit 1- Be Proactive- You are in charge! If you are not happy with what is happening in your classroom, local association, or the state of education in Ohio find ways to change it! At ecoea.ohea.us you can find information about ECOEA and OEA scholarships, conferences, and events. Take advantage of what is available and find ways to be a positive influence.

Habit 2- Begin With the End in Mind- whether you are a first-year teacher right out of college or a teacher with 28 years of experience and retirement on the horizon, we hope you will attend the upcoming Retirement/Financial Planning workshop. It will be held Saturday, January 30 at the Courtyard Marriott at Belden Village. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:15. During the first session all members will hear from NEA Member Benefits, OEA-Retired, and Kathleen McKinley, OEA Attorney. The second session offers three options to meet the needs of all members: STRS: Retirement Countdown, SERS, and Being Proactive About Your Future. Speakers will answer questions and address how we can *Put First Things First* (Habit 3) with regards to our financial planning. [Register today!](#)

Habit 4 is to Think Win-Win and Habit 5 is Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood. We wish that all of our elected officials practiced these habits. It is easy to feel frustrated by decisions made in Columbus and Washington DC that have a negative effect on our students, schools, and staff. You can be a voice at the table at our annual Legislative Dinner. Please note there is a change in venue this year. The Legislative dinner will be at LaPizzaria in Canton on Friday, March 4. It is a unique opportunity to speak to legislators and State Board of Education members in person. [Registration opens January 1, 2016.](#)

Habit 6-Synergize and Habit 7-Sharpen the Saw
Synergizing is about working together and valuing differences. *Sharpen the Saw* is a reminder to have a balanced life and to take time for yourself. All ECOEA events offer unique opportunities for socializing and networking- and delicious food! We can learn so much from our colleagues throughout ECOEA. Look for more information to come about our Summer Leadership Workshop.

All ECOEA events are open to you as an Association member at no charge. Make your reservation online at ecoea.ohea.us and send in a \$10 deposit check to reserve your spot. You will receive the check back upon signing in at the event. Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming program!

ECOEA Office

129 Easton St. NE
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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 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



ECOEA Calendar

January 2016

- Wed 1/13: ECOEA Finance Committee meeting 5:00
ECOEA Constitution & Bylaws meeting 7:00
- 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
- Mon 1/25: OEA Board of Directors Letter of Candidacy deadline
- 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
- Fri 4/15: ECOEA Summer Leadership Scholarship applications
due

May 2016

- Wed 5/4: ECOEA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 PM
- Fri 5/13-5/14: OEA Spring Representative Assembly Columbus
- Fri 5/13: 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-R G Drage CTC
New venue! New time!

ECOEA is on facebook!

Like us!





ECOEA Leader of Distinction

Recognized for outstanding service at the ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly were Ed Sims and Angela Stewart. The pair received the Leader of Distinction award for their dedication and service to the members of ECOEA. Ed has served as the president of Rittman EA for 29 years and a delegate to the OEA Rep Assembly for 28 years. He has served on the Exec Board of ECOEA as Wayne County Rep for 26 years and in that role as the chairman of the Elections Committee and a valued member of the Finance Committee. Angela has the distinction of being the longest-serving president of ECOEA with 8 years in office. She had previously served as ECOEA Recording Secretary and as Tuscarawas County Rep. She has been a long-time delegate to the OEA Rep Assembly and to the NEA Rep Assembly and currently serves ECOEA as our Unit III Board of Directors member. She serves on the state FCPE Council and represented ECOEA on the OEA Legislative Committee and Professional Efficacy CFC. She serves as Chair of both OEA District Leaders Council and Women's Caucus. She is a member of the Newcomerstown Teachers' Association. Both Ed and Angela have served ECOEA proudly for many years. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

ECOEA FALL REP ASSEMBLY 2015

President Tracy Lemus Santos presided over her first ECOEA Rep Assembly on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at the CPEA office. Guests included OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro and OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers who both addressed the assembly with OEA legislative and financial updates. Tim Myers also gave an STRS update. Important actions of the assembly included the election of Roxann Long, **Wooster EA**, to the vacant ESP #1 seat to the ECOEA Executive Board and the endorsement of Sophia Rodriguez, Coldwater TA, for NEA Representative #2. Rodriguez was elected to the position at the OEA Rep Assembly.

President Tracy made several presentations to locals including the **Leader of Distinction** award to Angela Stewart and Ed Sims. She announced the 13 locals that qualified for the ECOEA Five Star Award. The drawing for the \$500 award was held with **Perry Classroom Teachers' Association** receiving the award this year. Business Manager Valerie Heban announced the Top Ten FCPE locals along with the presentation of the Public Relations grant winners. Each of the four PR Grant winners were awarded a \$500 check for their proposals. Accepting for **Wooster EA** were Wooster EA President Scott Miller and grant writer Karen Linch for her proposal "*Cornerstone PlayLab.*" A \$500 donation was made to the Cornerstone PlayLab project with a matching \$500 provided by Wooster EA. Accepting for **Dover EA** was Catherine Bailey for their proposal "*We Are Dover*" to promote the Association at a street fair with summer reading books for students. Accepting for **Jackson Certified Personnel Association** was JCPA President Cindy Endres for her proposal "*Scholarship for Seniors.*" JCPA is awarding a \$500 scholarship to a graduating Jackson student based on a competitive essay to recognize the influence of school support personnel. The final PR grant was accepted by ECOEA President and grant writer Tracy Lemus Santos for the **Fairless Education Association** for her proposal entitled "*Everyday Heroes.*" All Fairless students will write about their everyday hero with two students per grade level being recognized at a breakfast with their guest heroes.

Unit Scholarship drawings were held for the three ECOEA \$500 scholarships for continuing education for members. Winners were from Unit I-Jennifer Holland, **Fairless EA**, from Unit II-Randall Robart, **Rittman EA**, and from Unit III-Allison Medley, **North Canton EA**. Congratulations to these members!

There were 33 delegates from 13 different locals and OEA-R represented at the ECOEA RA. The Spring ECOEA Rep Assembly will be held at the CPEA office on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

ECOEA FALL REP ASSEMBLY 2015

Leader of Distinction
Ed Sims
Angela Stewart



Public Relations Grants
Wooster EA
Jackson CPA
Dover EA
Fairless EA



Top Ten FCPE Locals



Top FCPE RA donors



Five Star Locals

Fairless EA Wooster EA
CantonPEA Newcomerstown YA
Jackson CPA Massillon EA
Lake Local EA East Liverpool EA
North Canton EA SCEPYA
Perry CYA Rittman EA
Southern Local YA

ECOEA Spring Elections 2016

Elections will be held at the ECOEA Spring Representative Assembly on April 9, 2016, for positions with expiring terms. In order for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, a Letter of Intent must be received in the ECOEA Business Office no later than March 1, 2016. Letters of Intent should be submitted for the following positions:

For the following three year terms on the ECOEA Executive Board:

Stark County Rep #1

Stark County Rep #2

Stark County Rep #4

Tuscarawas County Rep

For the vacant ECOEA Executive Board position:

Columbiana County #1

ECOEA Executive Board members meet 7 times a year for Executive Board meetings at the ECOEA office in Canton and serve on one or more ECOEA Standing Committees.

For a three year term on the **OEA Professional Efficacy Core Function Committee**

For the remaining two years on the **OEA Local Training and Development Core Function Committee**. This position is currently filled by appointment.

For the remaining two years on the **OEA Resolutions Committee**. This position is currently filled by appointment.

OEA Core Function Committees and Resolutions meet several times a year in Columbus.

The **OEA Board of Directors Unit III** seat will be up for election for a three year term. In order to run for a Board seat, you must file a Declaration of Candidacy with OEA no later than January 25, 2016. Fax copies are not acceptable. Candidates for the Unit III seat must come from a local in Unit III.

OEA Board responsibilities include meeting 10 or more times per year in Columbus, serve on OEA committees, attend all Service Council meetings in their voting unit, as well as other responsibilities.

Samples of a Letter of Intent and the Declaration of Candidacy form are both available on the ECOEA website at ecoea.oea.us.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor of the RA for all positions. The ECOEA Spring RA will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Canton Professional Educators' office. For additional information, please contact the ECOEA Business Manager or any of the ECOEA officers.

ECOEA Spring Rep Assembly

Saturday, April 9, 2016

8:30 AM

Canton Professional Educators'
Association Office

OEA Spring Rep Assembly

Fri-Sat, May 13-14, 2016

9:00 AM

Greater Columbus Convention Center

NEA Representative Assembly

July 3-7, 2016

Washington D.C.

Marriott Wardman has been designated as
the Ohio delegation hotel

*** Save the Dates ***

ECOEA

Retirement/Financial Planning

Workshop

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Courtyard Canton

Registration is open now!

ECOEA Spring

Legislative Dinner

and Program

Friday, March 4, 2016

LaPizzaria

Registration is open now!

**All event registrations can be found on our
website at ecoea.ohea.us**

OEA Collective Bargaining Conference 2016

Register today at: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1782575>

Remember you must make a separate reservation for the Hilton Downtown!



Locals are encouraged to send their leadership and bargaining teams to the upcoming OEA Collective Bargaining Conference that will be held in Columbus on February 4-6, 2016. ECOEA is proud to offer support to our locals by offering a \$50 scholarship to the first ten locals that apply.

The ECOEA scholarship application is located on the website at:

<http://ecoea.ohea.us/formsapplications/oea-collective-bargaining-conference-scholarship-for-ecoea-locals/>

Angela Stewart, Past President for ECOEA, announced her candidacy for NEA Director #4 at the OEA Fall Rep Assembly. Newcomerstown TA President Janel Travis presented Angela at the microphone to make the announcement to the RA delegates. Following the RA, ECOEA members from Lake Local EA, Jackson CPA, and others distributed campaign announcements to the departing delegates. The election will be at the OEA Spring Rep Assembly. Good luck, Angela!



OEA Fall Representative Assembly Information

ECOEA locals represented at the OEA Fall Representative Assembly:

**Canton Professional Educators' Association
 Stark Area Vocational Educators
 Jackson Classified Personnel Association
 Rittman EA
 New Philadelphia EA
 Perry Classroom TA
 Dover EA
 Triway EA
 Wooster EA
 East Liverpool EA**

**Lake Local EA
 Minerva EA
 Jackson Memorial Education Association
 Newcomerstown TA
 North Canton EA
 Southeast Local EA
 Southern Local TA
 Fairless Local EA
 East Canton EA
 SCEPTA**

The two Stay-to-the-End Drawing winners were delegates Ramona Moore, Lake Local EA, and Robin Gonzalez, Wooster EA. The fundraiser drawing winner was Cindy Endres, Jackson Classified Personnel Association. Congratulations, ladies!

President Higgins Fall Listening Tour 2016



On a beautiful fall day, OEA President Becky Higgins traveled to Wayne County Career Tech Center where she was joined by ECOEA President Tracy Lemus Santos. Local president Bruce Steiner had arranged for the duo to visit several classrooms to see the variety of programs available to Wayne County students and the great work of the staff. The morning began in Pam Vorkapich's Nursing classroom where students practiced IV insertion. The guests were escorted around the room by two senior students. They then moved to the

powerline classroom of Rich Grimes where they observed students wiring a model home for electric, cable, phone in a practical application of skills taught in class which Rich says he "runs like a workplace" which empowers the students and instills pride in their work because he treats them like adults. Outside students practiced pole-climbing skills. A visit to the robotics and electronics class of Gary Wimer showed students as they programmed robots they had built in small teams. The pair also visited the culinary students of Andrew Arko and sampled some goodies prepared by

the students. It is good to visit on doughnut day! Becky and Tracy moved on to Wooster High School for a visit escorted by Wooster EA President Scott Miller and school principal Tyler Keener. After visiting several classrooms, a stop was made at General Grounds, the student-run coffee shop in the school library. Students can purchase coffee and hang-out in the coffee shop setting with passes earned in classrooms as a reward. Also visited were the blended learning classrooms where specialized schedules accommodated students who need an alternative program to be successful.



The group moved to Cornerstone Elementary where they observed several primary classrooms. President Becky read to the second grade students of Heather Higgins (whose mother-in-law's name just happens to be Becky Higgins). An after school reception was organized by ECOEA board member Karen Linch who is a Reading Specialist at Cornerstone. Members stopped by to chat and have a snack with the visitors. Becky uses her Listening Tour as an opportunity to see the great work our members are doing and keep in touch with members and students. It affords her an opportunity to see diverse curriculums and school settings. Thanks to our Wayne County members who opened their classrooms for Becky's Fall Listening Tour and to Becky for visiting ECOEA.



FIVE STAR LOCALS FOR 2014-2015

Thirteen ECOEA locals have earned the **ECOEA Five Star Award** for 2014-2015. The Five Star Award was designed to encourage participation in ECOEA District activities. At the end of the year, local associations that have met at least 5 of the 6 criteria are acknowledged at the ECOEA Fall Rep Assembly for their accomplishment. A drawing is held among the qualifying locals for a \$500 unrestricted award. The winner this year was the Perry Classroom Teachers' Association. To qualify, a local must meet five of the following criteria:

1. Have a local delegate attend at least two of the four ECOEA or OEA Fall and Spring Representative Assemblies
2. Have at least 5% of local membership make FCPE contributions and be in good fiscal standing with OEA
3. Have full slate of local officers
4. Have local represented at least one ECOEA training, workshop, roundtable, retreat, or service council
5. Have local or at least one member apply for ECOEA Public Relations Grant, In-Service Meeting Funds, Levy Assistance, Unit Scholarships, William and Delores Quinn Scholarships, NEA ESP Conference Scholarship, NEA Leadership Summit, or ECOEA Conference Scholarship to OEA Summer Leadership Conference
6. Have a local member serve as a representative on ECOEA or OEA Committees

Thirteen locals met the criteria. Those locals who met all six of the criteria are acknowledged with an asterisk.

*Canton Professional Educators' Association, Paul Palomba, President
East Liverpool Education Association, Cathy Reed, President
Fairless Education Association, Melissa Kath, President
Jackson Classified Personnel Association, Cindy Endres, President
Lake Local Education Association, Allison McGinnis, President
Massillon Education Association, Wendy Snodgrass, President
*North Canton Education Association, Julie Nelson, President
*Newcomerstown Teachers' Association, Janel Travis, President
*Perry Classroom Teachers' Association, Kelli Green, President
Rittman Education Association, Ed Sims, President
*SCEPTA, Victoria Freday, President
Southern Local Teachers' Association, Karen Marquis, President
Wooster Education Association, Scott Miller, President

Congratulations to these locals for their involvement in ECOEA activities!

SAVE THE DATE

ECOEA SUMMER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

R. G. DRAGE CAREER TECH CENTER

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

OEA TREASURER TRAINING, BUILDING REP TRAINING,
LOCAL LEADERS NETWORKING, AND MUCH MORE!

TOP TEN FCPE LOCALS:

1. Newcomerstown TA
2. Massillon EA
3. Perry Classroom TA
4. Wooster EA
5. Chippewa EA
6. Triway EA
7. Louisville EA
8. Alliance EA
9. Plain Local TA
10. North Canton EA

The top ten locals donating to FCPE were recognized at the ECOEA Fall RA. These locals have the highest percent member participation.

EAST CENTRAL OEA RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP



The Courtyard Marriott is located at
4375 Metro Cir NW
North Canton, OH 44721

East Central OEA
ecoea@sbcalobal.net
ecoea.ohea.us
(330) 499-8587

Presented with the support
of OEA-R through a grant from
NEA-R.

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL BREAKFAST WORKSHOP!
SESSIONS FOR EVERY MEMBER!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016
COURTYARD MARRIOTT CANTON

FREE
to all
members

East Central OEA is proud to provide this financial planning opportunity for all members! It is imperative that members take some time to prepare for their future retirement by planning now and reviewing their plan periodically to be sure they will be able to meet their retirement needs when the time comes. We plan for our students' needs; we need to plan for our loved ones and ourselves as well!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Registration 8:15-9:00 AM

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet

Sign in, sign up for door prizes, and enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet.

Opening Session 9:00-10:15 AM

All members will gather for the first session as a group for the following presentations:

Welcome by ECOEA President Tracy Lemus Santos

OEA-R presentation-Join our retired membership

NEA Member Benefits-Maximizing your dues dollars today and in the future

Featured Speaker Kathleen McKinley, LPA-Kathleen will discuss being comfortable with your retirement preparations because you have planned and prepared today.

Door prize drawings

Break 10:15-10:30 AM

Visit the OEA-R and NEA Member Benefits displays

Restrooms

Coffee

SECOND SESSION OPTIONS:



STRS-Late Career 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

John Buch of STRS will provide information for those members nearing retirement. This is a general session and does not replace an individual counseling session.



SERS 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Cameron Vaughan of SERS will help members understand their SERS retirement and upcoming changes in the SERS pension program.



Being Proactive about your Future

10:30 AM-11:15 AM

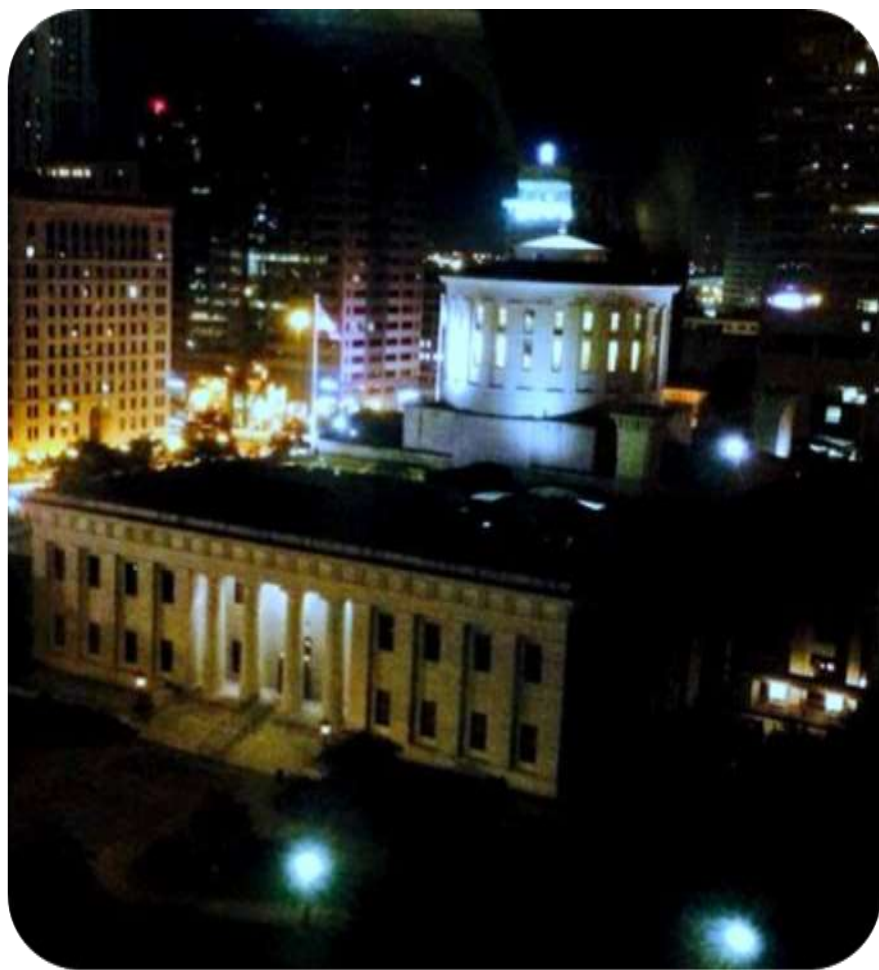
Matt Slain of 21st Century Financial will explore goal-setting by understanding your future benefits. Explore the facts and the myths of financial planning. Appropriate for all members in public retirement systems at any stage of their career.

Two Step Registration:

1. Register online at ecoea.ohea.us Choose your session. Members are free with their \$10 refundable deposit. Guests are welcome for a nominal fee (\$15).

2. Send in your deposit and/or guest fee. You will receive an email confirming your registration once it is received in the ECOEA office. Your registration is not confirmed until the deposit/fee is received. See the website for complete details. **DEADLINE JANUARY 22, 2016**

East Central OEA—the link between your local and the Ohio Education Association



EAST CENTRAL OEA Legislative Dinner 2016

Dine and Discuss with your State Legislators

The annual ECOEA Legislative Dinner gives members the opportunity to talk face-to-face with the state legislators and state Board of Education members that serve the six county ECOEA district. Enjoy a delicious dinner followed by an interactive program where our guests participate in a moderated panel discussion about public education.



ECOEA...the link between your local and the Ohio Education Association

LaPizzaria

3656 Dressler Rd.
Canton 44718

Friday

March 4, 2016

Registration 6:00 PM
Dinner 6:30 PM
Program 7:30 PM
Networking 9:00 PM

Cash Bar

Guests welcome

All ECOEA members are welcome with an online reservation & paid deposit. See website for details.

Reservation deadline
February 26, 2016

East Central OEA
129 Easton St NE
Canton, OH 44721

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