

# The 2023-2024 Central OEA/NEA Member Resource Guide



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How to Connect with Us Who is Central and what do we do? The 2023-24 Central Executive Board and Roles



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# **Proudly Serving the Members of Central Ohio:** Your Resource Guide

#### Adrienne M. Bowden, Central President and NEA Director

Happy 2023-2024 School Year! This is always one of my favorite times of the year! I love the excitement of beginning a new school year, meeting a new group of students, creating new learning experiences, and the start of building a community together. It is also the time of year to reconnect with my union family! I am proud to represent a community of 23,000 professional educators who create safe, just, and enjoyable learning environments that allow all our students to succeed.

Central OEA/NEA is here to support you in your work and as an advocate for public education. We strive to provide professional development opportunities, leadership support, and financial resources to our Locals and Members so that we can assist in creating stronger Associations. This first issue of the Communique is designed to serve as a member resource guide to provide an overview to help you make the most of your Central OEA/NEA Membership. Please review the resources in this guide to find the right opportunities for you! Check out our website for the most up-to-date details on the conferences, scholarships, grants, and committee work we offer.

The most important thing to know about your union is that YOU are the union. Our Association is only as effective and powerful as the members participating in our committees, activities, and conferences. You can best exercise that power by staying informed, involved, and engaged. There are various opportunities throughout the year. The Association is only as strong as our members- your membership counts!

Thank you for belonging to our Association. We value you as a member and professional and for what you do every day for our students in our schools. Best wishes for a great upcoming year!

Please let us know if we can help you or your Local during this year.

In solidarity, Adrienne M Bowden President, Central OEA/NEA





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# $\overset{\mathcal{V}}{\bigcirc}$ Who Is Central and What Do We Do?

#### You Belong to One, You Belong to All

As a member of your Local Association, you are also a member of Central OEA/NEA, the Ohio Education Association, the National Education Association, and Education International. Central is one of ten districts within OEA. We are your link between your local and OEA. We are divided into five services areas:

Area 1: Licking & Fairfield Area 2: Marion, Union & Delaware Area 3: Clark, Logan & Champaign Area 4: Fayette, Pickaway, Ross & Madison Area 5: Franklin Co. including SCOPE, DD

Here are some of the services provided at each level:

#### Local EA (Your school district)

- Contract Negotiations
- Working with Administration
- Community Outreach
- Local Education Advocacy

#### **District (Central OEA/NEA)**

- Leadership development
- Grants for locals
- Member scholarships for district, state and national conferences
- Free professional development opportunities for members
- Education advocacy
- Central Communiqué

You can check out **www.centraloeanea.org** for more details

#### State (OEA)

- Provides your local Labor Relations Consultant
- Education Advocacy- Lobbying
- Free professional development opportunities
- Ohio Schools

For more information on Central, including our committees, programs and grants, visit our website at

www.centraloeanea.org

#### Central OEA/NEA has four main goals.

#### **Meeting Local Needs**

- Recognize leadership development needs of all locals and provide strategies to support them.
- Promote understanding of and commitment to diversity in our membership.
- Offer grant programs to meet the needs of our locals.

Central offers several grants to Local Associations for levy campaigns, growth and development activities, scholarships to conferences, and incentives for participation.

#### **Political Action**

- Provide training and support to increase local awareness and participation in the political process.
- Have a media program to promote public education.

Central promotes political action through training, organizing and communication with members on a wide range of political activities such as lobby days, candidate screenings, and campaign activities. Central also provides a stipend for up to three members in each local to be Education Advocate Leaders.

#### Training

- Provide quality professional development.
- Expand opportunities for leader involvement beyond the local level.
- Train members in leadership roles.

Central hosts many conferences and training opportunities throughout the year, which are always free for members. We train members on technology in the classroom, professional issues such as OTES, bargaining, testing, social justice, and much more. We host diversity conferences and also provide training for Local Association leaders, building reps and treasurers.

#### Communications

- Provide communication between Central and its local leadership and members.
- Collaborate with and improve relations with other OEA districts.

Central publishes four Communiqués a year, plus a regular electronic communication. Recognizing that we all get a lot of email, much of our email is opt-in. You can sign up to receive important Central information at www.centraloeanea.org/ace.

To organize and implement these goals, members of Central volunteer to serve on a wide range of committees.

# The 2023 - 2024 **Central OEA/NEA Executive Board**



Adrienne Bowden, **President and NEA Director** 

Adrienne teaches Jr High Science and STEM at Pickerington Local Schools. Adrienne is also the Co-Vice President of Pickerington EA.



Jim Templeton, Vice President Jim teaches band at Kenton Ridge High School in Springfield.



Scott DiMauro. **OEA** President Scott DiMauro is a high school social studies teacher from Worthington.



Geoff Mize, OEA Unit 1 Geoff teaches history at Westerville Central



Paige Harding, OEA Unit 3 Paige is a vocal music teacher for Middle

School East in Gahanna Jefferson.

Mark Hill. **OEA** Treasurer Mark Hill is a middle school math teacher at Worthington City Schools.

Photo not available.

#### Jessie Keplinger, OEA Unit 4 Jessie teachers high school science at Elgin Local Schools. She is the president of Elgin Education Association.





#### Denise Hermetz. **OEA** Unit 6

Denise teaches K through 6 Technology at the Northwestern Local School District in Clark County.

#### Marjorie Langston, **OEA Unit 7**

Marjorie teaches chemistry for Hamilton Local Schools and is the STEM Curriculum Coach and one of the diversity leads for (one of) the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Teachers.

#### Linna Jordan. **OEA** Unit 8

Linna is an EL teacher in Hilliard City Schools where she is also full-time release President.

#### Hannah Affolter. Area 1 Rep

Hannah is a first-year sixth grade math teacher at Licking Heights Central in Pataskala, Ohio,

#### Juliet Litzel. Area 2 Rep

Juliet is a math & science intervention specialist at Bunsold Middle School in Marysville Schools. Juliet is a Building Rep.



Dwayne Marshall, **NEA Director** 

Dwayne is a social studies teacher and department chair at Gahanna Lincoln High School in Gahanna Jefferson.



#### Tammy Shelton, OEA Unit 5

Tammy is a career tech teacher teaching business office secretarial services at Lebanon Correctional Institutions and is the Secretary for SCOPE Local Association.



Jeff Caivano, Area 3 Rep Jeff is a Middle School satellite instructor for Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center (CTC).



David Jardot, Area 4 Rep David teaches social studies at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City.



Photo not available.

Diana Long, ESP Rep Diana works at Thomas Worthington High School as the ALS support educator.

#### **Dominic Marsano**, **SCOPE** Rep

Dominic is a US Navy veteran, a graduate from the Ohio State University, and a career technology teacher at Marion Correctional Institution.



Amy Grittani, Area 5 Rep Amy teaches fifth grade at Hayes Intermediate in South-Western School District. She is also the Legislative chair for her Local Association.



Kelly Modlich, Area 5 Rep Taught American Sign Language for 24 years at Westerville South High School. Is now the full-time

Westerville EA.





Kim Cooper, Area 5 Rep Kim teaches ELL at Herbert Mills STEAM Elementary. She is the Treasurer of Reynoldsburg Education Association.



Barry Alcock, **Retired Rep** Barry is the Central Rep on

the OEA-Retired Advisory Committee, and is a retired English teacher in the South-Western City Schools.

The Executive Board is supported by staff members Russell Hughlock (Organizing and Communications Coordinator) and Mary Kennedy (Fiscal Manager)

## Central Board Member Roles

The **President and Vice President** are elected by delegates to the Central Representative Assembly. The President is the executive officer and spokesperson for Central, presides over all meetings of the Executive Board and Representative Assemblies, and appoints all committees and their chairpersons with the advice and approval of the Executive Board. The Vice President assumes the duties of the President in their absence and perform other duties as directed by the President and the Executive Board.

Ohio's **NEA Directors** are elected by delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly. Their role is to represent Central members as they lobby in D.C., taking concerns to our federal lawmakers and acting as a liaison between the NEA Board of Directors and OEA's Board and membership.

**OEA Directors** are elected by delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly. Central has nine OEA Directors in Units 1-8 and an Education Support Professional (ESP) At-Large Director. Their role includes representing Central on all matters before the OEA Board of Directors and acting as a liaison between the Central Executive Board and the OEA Board of Directors.

Central **Area Representatives** are elected by delegates to the Central Representative Assembly from their specific area. Areas 1-5 are based on counties within the Central OEA/NEA District. Their role includes acting as a liaison with their area association leaders and membership and reporting concerns to the Central Executive Board.

**ESP Representative** is elected by Central's ESP members. The number of ESP representatives reflects the proportion of Central's ESP members. Their role includes acting as a liaison between ESPs and the Central Executive Board.

The Central Board also includes a Retired Representative, a SCOPE Representative and a Student Representative, all appointed annually by the Board.

Supporting the Board are staff members, the Fiscal Manager and the Communications & Organizing Coordinator.

## Top 4 Reasons to Become an OEA Representative Assembly Delegate

The Representative Assembly (RA) is the policy-making body of the Association. The OEA RA meets semi-annually in the fall and spring in Columbus, OH to establish Association policies and objectives, elect officers, establish dues, adopt Association budget, adopt/evaluate a legislative program, act on resolutions, act on new business items and other necessary business. The RA is comprised of members who have been elected as delegates to represent their Local Associations. Any member is welcome to attend the OEA RA as a guest, but only duly elected and reported delegates may debate and vote according to OEA Constitution and Bylaws provisions or policy.

#### Top 4 Reasons to become an OEA Representative Assembly Delegate

4. You will be the point of information person When you attend the OEA Representative Assembly (OEA RA), you will go back to your association members with knowledge about what goals all OEA members have charged OEA leadership with for the upcoming year. Members will look to you to keep them informed about state association business, state education issues and state political agendas.

3. You can grow your network You will have an opportunity to meet, speak with and listen to educators, paraprofessionals, and other OEA members from across the state of Ohio. You will develop friendships that will impact your professional growth and give you contact with valuable educational partners.

- 2. You will add your voice to OEA's collective voice We are the experts when it comes to knowing what is best for students. It is your voice along with over 121,000 other voices that move action items to ensure state policy provides for a quality public education. When you share your personal experience as an educator with others, our collective stories matter and make a difference.
- With you, we are stronger together Those 121,000+ members are powerful advocates for students, parents, and educators across the state of Ohio. Being an OEA RA delegate means you join together with like-minded professionals to move the business of OEA. When we stand together, great change is possible.

# **Free Professional Development and CEU's**

The Membership Development Committee is privileged to present professional conferences for Central members. They are always open and free to all, provide CEUs and are opportunities to network with other educators.

**The Power Up Conference** will be Saturday, March 9, 2024. Topics have included student and educator wellbeing, advocating at the local level, professional code of conduct training, social media awareness and more.

**The Local Leader Retreat** takes place June 20-21, 2024. It offers training specific to current and future leaders. The most important part of this retreat though is time to work together as a leadership group to plan for the coming year or deal with issues in your local.

**Local Association Training,** which includes sessions for local presidents/vice presidents, new/ experienced treasurers, and association representatives takes place on June 10, 2024. The Member Engagement Committee provides members with opportunities year-round, from the annual **Diversity Conference** scheduled for February 3, 2024, to 1-hour virtual **Speaker Series sessions** throughout the year. Educating members on topics as diverse as dyslexia, economic and social justice, rural education, second language learners, and much more. We are constantly striving to meet the needs of members as our communities and challenges change.

#### **Micro-Credentials**

NEA has a program that allows educators to earn microcredential certificates. Whether you want to learn about bully-free schools, restorative practices, exceptional learners, English language learners, or 80 other topics of interest, NEA micro-credentials has a course for you. The micro-credential program has the benefit of being personal, flexible, and performance-based for the educator. Learn more at www.nea.org/professional-excellence/ professional-learning/micro-credentials

## **Conferences and Scholarships**

As part of our mission, Central OEA/NEA offers members scholarships to attend Central, OEA and NEA conferences and events that promote leadership, involvement, diversity, and building and supporting locals. More information and applications are available on our website.

**NEA Leadership Summit:** Incredible learning experience to prepare our leaders with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead a relevant and thriving organization. Special pre-conference workshops for women and minorities will be offered.

**NEA ESP National Conference:** premiere event for ESP members nationwide.

**NEA Higher Ed Conference:** national conference for members of higher educational institutions.

**NEA Retired Conference:** devoted to training retired members to organize.

**NEA RA Delegate Scholarship:** for elected local delegates to the annual NEA Representative Assembly.

**OAESP Summer Leadership Meeting:** statewide meeting for ESP members.

**OEA Advocacy and Organizing Institute:** training for local leaders and bargaining team members. Scholarships should cover the registration cost for the conference including an overnight room (based on double occupancy) and meals.

**OEA Summer Leadership Academy:** provides the opportunity for emerging and prospective leaders to obtain practical knowledge and networking with other leaders. \$100 scholarship to cover the cost of registration.

Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College

**Students:** awarded each spring to the child of a Central OEA/NEA member who is enrolled in an Ohio university or college course of study leading to a degree in education.

**NEW! Continuing Education Scholarship:** We will be awarding a member a scholarship for their continuing education. Stay tuned for more details later in the year!

# Grants, Grants, Grants, and Incentives!

It pays to get involved...literally! Up to \$1300 in **Local Participation Incentives** can be earned for each Local this year! Ask not what your union can do for you, but what you can do for your union. Members can become an Education Advocate Leader, run in your Local as a delegate to the Central and OEA Representative Assemblies, or attend one of Central's professional development opportunities. We are happy to help you get started and support you in any of these activities—just ask! Check out our website for activities and register there.

Central OEA/NEA'S **Public Relations Grant** is designed to provide support to Locals engaging their members with the community. Grant funds can be used for a variety of items or activities including, but not limited to apparel, awards, banners, buttons, fair/festival booths, involvement in community charitable events, sponsoring youth events, races, community parades, or yard signs to welcome kindergarteners or honor graduates. If you have an activity that will bolster the image of your Local in the community, please share your ideas with Local leaders! Central's Locals are eligible for a Public Relations Grant of up to \$500 once every three years.

Central's **Growth & Development Grant** is as easy as ever, and there is no limit to the number of times or the amount for which a Local can apply. We want to keep your Local strong and build leadership. To that end, the online application now includes a menu of growth and development activities based on activities proven to develop new leaders and engage members. As a union member, we encourage you to volunteer and work with your Local leadership to go through the menu and choose a few activities for the year, then apply. Some of these may be activities that your Local has wanted to try but lacked the funding to get started. Let us help you get the ball rolling. The GDG grant coordinator can earn a stipend from Central.

The **Local Emergency Grant Program** was created to assist Local Associations with projects of an immediate or urgent nature. Community initiatives such as a school district levy or bond campaigns are examples of activities that align with the intended target of these grants. Some funding has been for: postcards, postage, printing costs, refreshments for levy committee meetings, support to the levy committee, etc. This grant is available to all of our Locals once a year, and Local Association leadership may apply for this as needed.

As a member, you can work with Local leaders to assist in the application process. Central grant applications are reviewed monthly throughout the year, and Locals may apply for each type of grant. Most grants have a once-ayear limit except for the Public Relations Grant which is once every three years and the Growth & Development Grant which has no limit. We look forward to seeing your Local applications soon! There is more information on our website, www.centraloeanea.org, where you will also find the online applications.

# **Optimize Your NEA Membership Benefits**

If you are already taking advantage of your NEA member benefits, you have seen the wide range of available opportunities. If you are a first-time user, just enter your basic information to create an account. www.neamb.com

#### **Discount Marketplace:**

- Sign up for a Rakuten account through NEAMB.com
- Browse the NEA Discount Marketplace for Cash Back offers.
- Earn Cash Back on qualifying purchases.

#### **Student Loans:**

NEA offers opportunities for you to get student loans for your child, for your own graduate work, or refinance existing student loans.



# Know Your Weingarten Rights

Every OEA member is guaranteed the right to union

representation during an investigatory interview conducted by his or her employer if the interview could in any way lead to discipline, including termination, or could affect the member's personal or working conditions. In this situation, the member should request that an association representative or officer be present at the meeting. Without this representation, the member has the right to choose not to answer any questions per the United States Supreme Court case of NLRB v. J. Weingarten, Inc., 420 U.S. 251 (1975). It is very important to remember that the employer does not have to advise an employee of his or her rights under Weingarten.

OEA suggests that representation occur any time the purpose of the meeting is any of the following:

- Any type of disciplinary action;
- Investigation meeting;
- Reprimand;
- Infraction of a work rule or board policy;
- Questions concerning a request or use of any leave;
- Allegations of abuse; and

Parental, student or community complaint. Members should ask their principal, supervisor, or other management personnel to clarify the purpose of the meeting to determine if association representation is needed. We recommend using the following language to ensure your rights:

If the discussion I am being asked to enter into could in any way lead to my discipline or termination or affect my personal working conditions, I ask that an association representative or officer be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions. That is my right under a U.S. Supreme Court decision called Weingarten.

When the employee makes the request for an Association Representative to be present, the employer can do any of the following: (1) stop questioning until the representative arrives; (2) cancel the interview; or (3) tell the employee it will cancel the interview unless the employee voluntarily gives up his or her rights to

representation. No member should ever waive his or her right to representation.

For more information about your rights as an OEA member, speak to your Labor Relations Consultant.



# Sign Up for Central's Advocate for Children and Education (ACE) Emails

Interested in education policy and how you can stay informed? Want to know how to get involved? Sign up to receive our ACEs list at

#### www.centraloeanea.org/ace

Elected officials enact policies that affect our students, our schools and the daily lives of educators. Decisions regarding school funding, services, curriculum standards, licensure, class sizes and teacher evaluation are all made by elected officials. As Ohio's legislators consider policies that affect public education, they must hear from educators—the true experts on education issues. As teachers, faculty and education support professionals, OEA members should get involved in these decisions and make their voices heard.

By signing up you will be able to learn more and act on current issues affecting public education.

We promise we won't spam you, but instead, we will always try to make sure our emails are relevant and timely. You can unsubscribe at any time. www.centraloeanea.org/ace



# Serving on a Central Committee

Your experience, expertise and voice are needed and can help shape the direction of Central's many programs.

If you are interested in participating in one of the following Central committees, you can apply on our website here **www.centraloeanea.org/for-members/committee-interest.** 

Committees typically meet once a month, with most meetings held virtually. Central provides a meeting stipend.

#### Here are the committees you can apply to serve on:

#### **Constitution and Bylaws**

Periodically reviews the governing documents and makes recommendations for changes. Handling the details of preparing ballots, conducting elections, and other electionrelated responsibilities.

#### **Convention Planning**

Plans and implements the annual Representative Assembly.

#### **Awards Committee**

Designs an award program for effective Local Associations and outstanding association leaders and nominating potential award recipients.

#### **Finance Committee**

Recommends an annual budget and oversees expenditures, administering grant programs, and fiscal oversight of the Association.

#### **Membership Development Committee**

Plans conferences and workshops for local leaders and membership designed to meet Local Association needs and personal professional growth.

#### **Membership Engagement**

Plans strategies for engaging a diverse cross-section of members in Association leadership (i.e., Minorities, ESP and Retired members).

#### **Member Communications Committee**

Makes recommendations related to effective communications between the Association and its members.

#### **Organizing Committee**

Reviews the NEA competencies on organizing to determine how to best serve our members. Mobilizing members into action to become education advocates.

You can also apply to serve on OEA committees. Learn more and apply to serve by visiting **www.centraloeanea.org/for-members/committee-interest** 

# Meet a Member Who Recently Got Involved!

Hi I'm Haylee Ziegler and I am a high school Spanish teacher at Teays Valley High School and a member of Teays Valley Education Association. I have 6 years of teaching experience. My hobbies include writing curriculum for Calico Spanish, crocheting, traveling, and watching Bravo TV!

#### What drew you to be active in Central OEA/NEA?

My relationship with teacher unions started at a young age by watching my mom in her roles as a building rep, secretary, and treasurer of her association in NEOEA. Joining Central was a no brainer. Last summer, I learned about the social media specialist position at Central and was really interested because I have several years of experience doing social media for Calico Spanish and small political campaigns. I have loved getting to know so many people.

#### What committees or programs through Central OEA/ NEA have you joined or completed?

I recently completed the Emerging Leaders program... but I will be doing it again in the fall because I love the relationships I built this year and still have so much to learn. I have also attended the Power Up 2023 Conference and will be attending the OEA Summer Leadership Academy this summer thanks to a scholarship through Central OEA/NEA.

# What are some ways central members can be involved with Central?

I highly encourage members to join a committee! The best way to know about events, professional development, and committees is to make an account through the website.

#### What do you enjoy most about Central OEA/NEA?

Everyone is so welcoming! I remember being so nervous to

attend the Back 2 School Bash alone last year but by the end of the night I made so many friends, met Scott DiMauro, and Adrienne Bowden went out of her way to include me in many conversations. You may arrive at an event alone, but you will never be alone once you are there because everyone is friendly and inclusive.



# Join an OEA Caucus

After several years of inactivity due to the COVID pandemic, OEA Caucuses are back to hosting regularly scheduled meetings and events. Joining a caucus is a great way to meet and advocate with like-minded educators. Typically, there is a membership fee to join, but all members are welcome to participate in each caucus. If you would like to join a caucus, you should email the contact person for more information on how to get involved.

#### **OEA BAT Caucus (OEABAT)**

Contact: Brittany Alexander **oeabats17@gmail.com** Website: **sites.google.com/view/oeabatcaucus/home** 

#### **OEA Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus (DLAMC)**

Contact: Tai Hayden **taitai007@sbcglobal.net** Website: **www.dlamcofohio.org** 

#### **OEA Hispanic Caucus (OEAHC)**

Contact: Linna Jordan oeahispaniccaucus2017@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/OEA-Hispanic-Caucus-369866226863893

#### **OEA Rural Caucus (OEARC)**

Contact: Sharron Callahan callas44@gmail.com

#### **OEA Women's Caucus (OEAWC)**

Contact: Ellen Giovinazzo efgzzo5260@gmail.com

#### OEA LGBTQ+ Caucus (OEA-LGBTQ+)

Contact: Kara Butlien-Cohenoea.lgbtqia@gmail.com Website: https://oea-glbt.ohea.us



# Curious About Getting Involved in the Union?

Join the Emerging Leaders Program!

If you are looking to get more involved in your local association but don't know where to start, Central OEA/NEA offers interested members an Emerging Leaders program to get you on your way.

#### Come learn about...

- The many layers of the Association
- Learn what your Leadership Style is
- Issues you will encounter as an Association Leader
- Skills you will need as an Association Leader
- How you can become more involved in your Association
- How to become an OEA or NEA delegate to Rep Assembly and why
- What does OEA Headquarters look like....

Led by: Erin Stevens, Pickerington EA and Kim Cooper, Reynoldsburg EA

#### If you Are Interested:

If you are interested in learning more about the program or wish to join, send an email to:

emerging.leaders@centraloeanea.org

#### **Free Contact Hours**

Upon completion of the program, participants will be awarded a certificate detailing the number of contact hours earned.

#### **Meeting Dates**

2023	
August 3	Back to School Happy Hour (Central Office)
September 20	In-person
October 25	OEA Building Tour
November 15	Virtual

#### 2024 \_

January 17	In-person
February 21	Virtual
March 20	In-person
April 17	In-person
May 25	Virtual
June 12	Cadre final dinner



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# THANK YOU

## for being a member of Central OEA/NEA

You are the true expert in education!

You deserve a voice in how best to educate our students.

We are here to support you.

Adrienne & Jim, Central Leadership

### Association Benefits



NEA Micro-Credentials

#### **Dates of Note:**

9/26/23	Central Legislative Reception	
11/3/23	Central All Area & Delegate Brief	ing
11/13/23	Central ESP Appreciation Night	
12/2/23	OEA RA	
2/3/24	Diversity Conference	
1/26/24*	MLT/WLT (East)	
3/1/23*	NEA Summit	
3/9/24	Power Up Conference	
3/22/23*	NEA ESP Conference	
4/19/24	Central RA	
5/10/24*	OEA RA	
6/10/24*	Central Local Retreat *M	ulti-c
7/3/24*	NEA RA Fi	irst d

Multi-day event. First day listed.

## Follow us! Centraloeanea.org



