

Fall 2017

COMMUNIQUE

Publication for Members of Central OEA/NEA • Adrienne M. Bowden, President



Welcome Back!

Picture Books to Build Community

50 Years and Working Harder Than Ever for Members and Their Families

Become an OEA Delegate

Be in the Know This Fall



Welcome Back!

Adrienne M. Bowden (Pickerington EA) Central OEA/NEA President

The Start of a New Year!

I hope that your summer break has been filled with relaxation and fun with family and friends. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, meeting a new group of students and families, trying out innovative ideas you've learned over the break, and the start of building a community together. I am proud to represent 23,000 educators, teachers and ESPs, which make our schools safe and enjoyable learning environments that allow our students to thrive and be successful.



As educators, we must keep actively working toward creating great public schools our students deserve. Throughout the year, we are going to send out calls to action that will allow you to express why quality public schools are important for our students and ways we can work together to strengthen them to increase student success. Please participate in these calls to action because we are only as strong as our collective voice.

Central's goal is to provide experiences and information that will enrich you as an educator and professional. Each issue of our newsletter will highlight resources, support, and member benefits. Thank you for belonging to our Association. We value you as a member, professional and for what you do each and every day for the students in our schools.

Best wishes on a great upcoming year!

Our partnership with parents and community members is key to ensuring that we are able to maximize every student's educational potential. We as educators bring a diverse set of experiences to address the variety of learning styles and needs that walk into our schools. It is important that we remember to work with our parents and community to promote building cultures and educational environments that engage all our students in meaningful work so they can become constructive citizens in our society. Central is working to continue to provide resources and opportunities to assist you with this and to help you learn and grow as a professional. All opportunities are free for members and provide CEU credits. Throughout the year, each issue of the Communiqué will highlight those opportunities.

Grant Schedule for 2017-2018

Another Central OEA/NEA "Grant Season" has arrived! Get dollars for your local!

Participation Award – attend events, communicate with members, keep your local constitution up to date, elect delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly, and get up to \$1,000 for your local!

Technology Award – attend the November All Area Meeting to get a laptop for your local!

Growth and Development Grants – design a project to improve the effectiveness of your local association. Grants from \$2000 to \$5000 depending on the size of your local!

Local Emergency Grants – need help with a ballot issue? Apply for funds to get that levy or bond issue passed!

NEA Representative Assembly – the 2018 RA is in Minneapolis. Locals must elect delegates to the NEA RA. Central will help defray costs for airfare/hotel/other expenses!

More information (from how to register for events to completing grant applications) is available online (www.centraloanea.org).

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A First Time Delegate's Perspective

Anders Miller (South-Western Education Association), NEA Co-Vice Chair Young Professional Caucus

I received an email from Amber, my building representative with the subject line "Forms to Run as a Delegate for the OEA/NEA RA." Being a high school English teacher in my first year, I had to ask Amber what those acronyms meant and if I was able to run. Two years and two Ohio Education Association Representative Assemblies later, I have come to learn the positive impact these assemblies have.

The Representative Assembly, or RA, encourages delegates to grow professionally through its fostering of networking opportunities during the time we meet. The R.A. brings nearly one thousand educators from around the state from all roles imaginable.

As a new educator, these interactions were invaluable to me in my first years. Catalyzing my adjustment into the role as an educator. As much as the RA is an opportunity to grow professionally, it is also an opportunity for us to ensure that we, those on the front lines of public education, have a seat at the decision-making table, guiding the future of our students and the future of our profession.

As the democratic decision-making body of our Association, the RA sets our Association's agenda, policies, actions, and belief statements. Every delegate has the opportunity, and in my view, an obligation, to voice their opinions about the future of our Association.

This deliberation is completed through a debate process encouraging all viewpoints. During my first spring RA, I was encouraged to submit a change to our belief statements (Resolutions) and, with the assistance of my fellow delegates, was able to be a part of driving the Association's Resolutions document to be more representative of the beliefs of our members.

If a first-year educator, and first-time delegate can make a change in our Association, then anyone can.

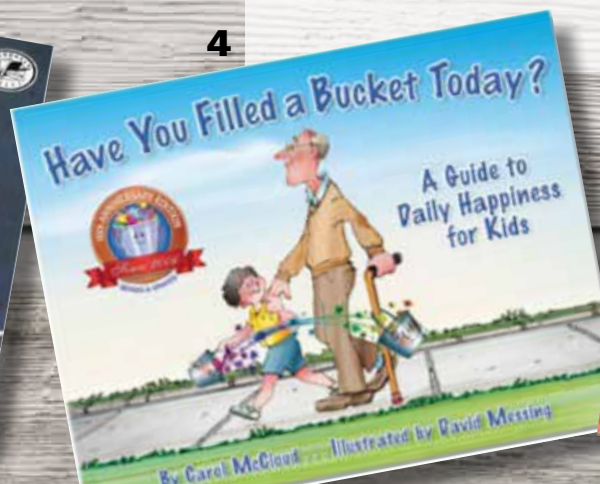
Please consider running to become a delegate to the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly. Our students need their educators to be active so that they have what they need to grow into the next generation of critical thinkers, advocates, and, hopefully, educators we know that they could become.

Below: Central Delegates at the 2017 NEA Representative Assembly



Picture Books to Build

Soozie Hetterscheidt (Olentangy TA) OEA Director



Start the new school year with something everyone can access. Picture books provide excellent opportunities for creating a sense of community.

Think your students are “too old” for picture books? Mary Jo Fresch, professor emeritus at The Ohio State University, explains that picture books can be quite complex and can be used to teach higher-level thinking skills with older students. In her book titled *The Power of Picture Books: Using Content Area Literature in Middle School* (National Council of Teachers of English 2009) she writes, “Not everything is in the pictures and not everything is in the words. It takes some real critical thinking to use a picture book.”

Visit your public or school library to find the titles mentioned here or spend some time browsing the picture book shelves looking for something new to share with students.

Titles and Descriptions

1. *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* by Laurie Keller ~ Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.
2. *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O’Neill ~ Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean’s status as the Recess Queen.
3. *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* by Mark Teague ~ A schoolboy tells his class about his summer vacation, during which he joined a group of cowboys and stopped a cattle stampede.

Old Community

4. *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? ~ A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* by Carol McCloud ~ Uses the metaphor of filling a bucket to encourage children to practice kind and considerate behavior to teach them the benefits of positive relationships.

5. *Fox* by Margaret Wild ~ An injured magpie and a one-eyed dog live happily together in the forest, until a jealous fox arrives to teach them what it means to be alone.

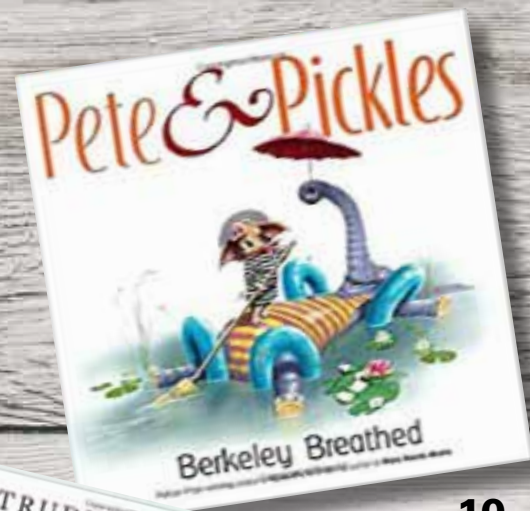
6. *Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting ~ A young boy and his mother are forced to flee their apartment during a night of rioting in Los Angeles. Fires and looting force neighbors—who have always avoided one another—to come together in the face of danger and concern for their missing pets.

7. *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan ~ A graphic novel that depicts the journey of one man, threatened by dark shapes that cast shadows on his family's life, to a new country.

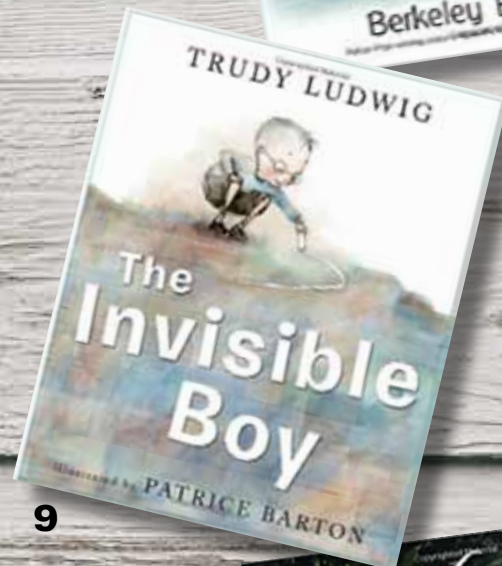
8. *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson ~ When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

9. *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig ~ Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or thinks to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.

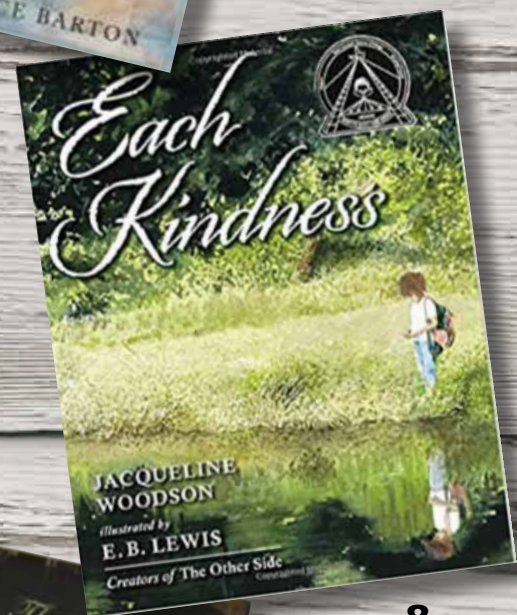
10. *Pete & Pickles* by Berkeley Breathed ~ Pete, a practical pig, has his life intruded upon by Pickles, a runaway circus elephant that needs a friend, and the two dive off Niagara Falls, careen down the Matterhorn, and engage in other adventures until their friendship wears thin.



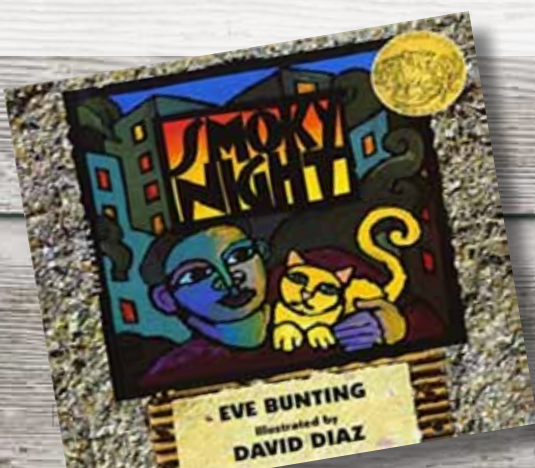
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Mark Hill Announces Candidacy for OEA Secretary-Treasurer



After the gavel fell at the OEA Spring Representative Assembly, Mark Hill, current President of the Worthington Education Association and member of the OEA Board of Directors, announced his candidacy for election to the office of OEA Secretary-Treasurer beginning in 2018. That position is currently held by Tim Myers, who is term limited from seeking another term.

Hill says his goal is to, "activate members, support locals to help them become stronger, to protect public education."

"Public education is under attack from state budget cuts and an unaccountable charter school system. We have to get mobilized and fight for the future of our students," Hill said.

In addition to being president of his local and a member of the OEA board, Hill has served on the STRS retirement board since 2010. "We've had to go through some painful changes in the last five years. My goal has always been to maintain a solvent pension system to ensure a secure retirement." Hill says his experience on the STRS Board has prepared him for being the fiscal officer for OEA, "I believe I've developed a track record of leadership overseeing our retirement system that's prepared me to be a leader at the state level."

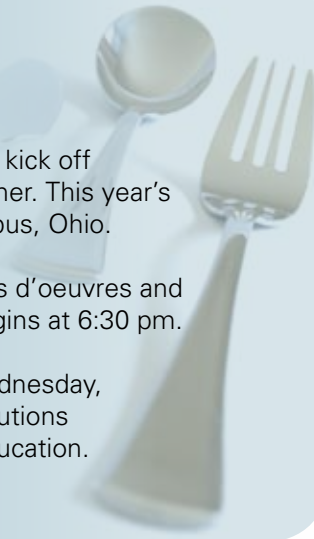
The election for Secretary-Treasurer will take place at the OEA Spring RA in May 2018.

Save the Date for the ESP Appreciation Dinner

On Monday, November 13th, 2017, Central OEA/NEA will kick off American Education Week with our ESP Appreciation Dinner. This year's event will be held at The Boathouse Restaurant in Columbus, Ohio.

Registration and reception will begin at 5:00 pm, with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm and the program begins at 6:30 pm.

This event will prepare locals for National ESP Day on Wednesday, November 15th, which honors and recognizes the contributions education support professionals (ESPs) make to public education.

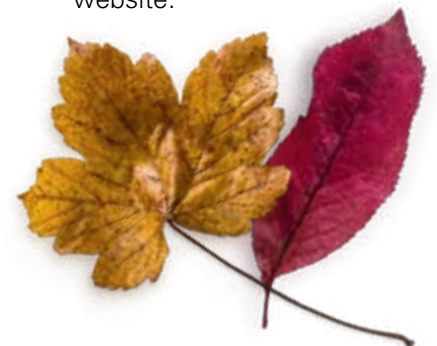


Fall Into an Informed Retirement

**Mary Binegar (OEA-R)
Retiree Committee Chair**

Is retirement in your future within the next five years? Are you wondering whether or not you'll be able to afford health insurance as a young retiree? If so, please join other Central members on October 17 from 5 -7:30 p.m. to hear updated information about our retirement system

Please sign up for this event on the Central website.



Welcome to the Board



Salzer



Long

We are pleased to welcome Erin Salzer (left) from Pickerington EA and Diana Long (right) from Worthington ESP to the Central Executive Board.

Be In The Know This Fall

Diane Valentino (Olentangy TA)

As we return to our educator work spaces, it's important to be informed on recent legislation and regulations that may impact you and your students. The Ohio General Assembly was busy introducing several new education-related initiatives.

Tuancy House Bill 410 was passed in December, 2016 and took effect April 6, 2017.

- Changes the units of truancy to hours rather than days.
- Eliminates the designation of "chronic truancy" and replaces this with "habitual truancy"
- Schools are required to remove truancy from its zero tolerance disciplinary policies.

To learn more about this bill: <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Operational-Standards-and-Guidance/HB-410-communication.pdf.aspx>

Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA)

Our new colleagues have endured six years of expectations above and beyond what can easily be considered one of the most challenging entry level careers. The Ohio Department of Education responded to educator feedback and has made changes to this early career program. The RESA now requires one task that includes a videotaped lesson and 10-12 questions to which the candidates must submit responses. The remaining three RESA tasks: student assessments, communication and professional development will be developed and provided locally.

Please familiarize yourself with these changes to know what options are available in your specific case. <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Resident-Educator-Program/News-for-Program-Coordinators/Ohio-Resident-Educator-Program-and-summative-asses>

Student Assessment-Standardized Testing

Also in response to our collective voices, the Ohio General Assembly has reduced two state-mandated tests. Effective immediately, the fourth and sixth grade social studies tests are eliminated. State Superintendent of Education Paolo DeMaria has indicated that he will be discussing further modification of state testing with legislators this fall.

As a professional educator, it is imperative to be up to date on the laws and regulations affecting you and your students. Relying only on the information your school district provides may limit your full understanding of new information and opportunity to engage in the process and implementation.

NEA Member Benefits – 50 Years and Working Harder Than Ever for Members and Their Families

For more than half a century, NEA Member Benefits has helped enhance the lives of NEA members and their families through advocacy, service and information. We work with each and every member to find the best solutions to meet their needs. We strive to help all members increase their economic security through financial services, insurance programs and investment advice.

We want to maximize members' hard-earned dollars through consumer discounts and special travel and leisure offers. We also offer resources designed to help educators in the classroom—from professional development services to discounts on instructional materials.

At NEA Member Benefits, we take pride in being advocates for members and providing them valuable and trustworthy service—every step of the way.

To learn more about NEA Member Benefits programs and services, go to www.neamb.com



ESP Back-to-School

Cheryl Williams (Dublin SSA) OEA Director ESP at-large

Happy New Year! Back to school is an exciting time for students, teachers and education support professionals alike. While most of us get time off, some ESP's work year-round to keep our facilities, our equipment and our offices running smoothly.

The end of summer break means that it is time for new things. Whether it's new clothes and supplies for students or a coat of paint and shiny floors for our buildings, it is a fresh start.

This is also a perfect time for Association leaders to reach out to new employees and welcome them to your District. We need to be intentional in our efforts to include everyone. Current members are the best advocates for promoting the benefits of membership.

Reach out to each new hire personally. Forming a relationship and establishing a connection is an important first step in showing people the relevance of our Association. One of the ways this can be accomplished is through a new hire event. You can hold a picnic or other social activity that will give your Association an opportunity to promote the positive aspects of belonging (Central offers grants to help with the costs). If your school district holds a convocation, set up a booth that will make your association visible and share the highlights of your latest contract.

Let's make this our best year yet!

COMMUNIQUÉ

Fall 2017

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 & Kevin,
Central Leadership



Association Benefits

Free contact hours (toward license renewal)
Fall Discounts
National Member Advocacy

Upcoming Events

Oct. 13 Central In-Service Day
Nov. 13 Central ESP Appreciation Dinner
Nov. 17 Pre-Retirement Workshop
Dec. 2 OEA RA
Jan. 20 Central Diversity Conference

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