

COMMUNIQUE

Publication for Members of Central OEA/NEA • Jim Templeton, President



Member Resource Guide



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There's No Union Without 'U':

How You Make a Difference

Jim Templeton (Northeastern EA), Central OEA/NEA President

As we begin another school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to each one of you, and an especially heartfelt greeting to our newest members. Whether you've been part of Central OEA/NEA for 20 years or 20 days, thank you for the work you do. You are the heart of public education in Central Ohio.

Our union is made up of more than 23,000 dedicated professionals across 13 counties and 111 local associations. We are teachers, education support professionals, and advocates committed to making our schools and communities stronger. Each of us brings a unique perspective, and every member plays an essential role in shaping our future.

To our veteran members, your continued dedication, leadership, and advocacy have built the strong foundation we stand on today. To our new members, you bring fresh energy, ideas, and passion that will move us forward. Together, we are better. Together, we are stronger.

Central OEA/NEA is here to support you through leadership development, professional growth opportunities, political action, grants, networking events, and member services. Our work is guided by one goal: to ensure you have the tools, support, and voice you need to thrive in your profession.

This year, I encourage every member to find a way to connect more deeply with your union. That might mean attending a training, joining a committee, running for a local position, or simply checking in with a colleague to

see how they're doing. If you're already in a leadership role, thank you. If you've been waiting for the right time to get involved, this is it.

One of my favorite t-shirts says, "There is no Union without 'U'." That message is for all of us. Whether you're just beginning your journey or have been with us for decades, your voice matters. Your involvement matters. You matter.

Let's continue building a union that reflects the strength, diversity, and passion of our members. I'm proud to be in this work with you.

Wishing you a successful, fulfilling school year ahead.

In solidarity,
Jim Templeton
President, Central OEA/NEA



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How to Connect with US

You can find Central OEA/NEA on the web

www.centraloearnea.org



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 and eight OEA Units (Area # in parenthesis):

Unit 1

Chillicothe EA (4)
Circleville EA (4)
Greenfield Ex. Vlg. EA (4)
Huntington Local EA (4)
Jonathan Alder EA (4)
Logan Elm CTA (4)
Miami Trace Assn (4)
Miami Trace SS (4)
Paint Valley Local TA (4)
Pickaway Ross TA (4)
Southeastern Local TA (4)
Tolles EA (4)
Union Scioto Assn/OEA (4)
Union Scioto EA (4)
Washington EA (4)
West Jefferson EA (4)
Westerville EA (5)
Westerville SSA (5)
Westfall EA (4)
Zane Trace EA (4)
Zane Trace SSPA (4)

Unit 2

Amanda-Clearcreek EA (1)
Amanda-Clearcreek SSA (1)
Berne Union TA (1)
Bloom Carroll EA (1)
Eastland EA (5)
Fairfield-Union EA (1)
Forest Rose EA (1)
Groveport-Madison EA (5)

Lancaster EA (1)
Lancaster SSA (1)
Liberty Un. EA (1)
Pickerington EA (1)
Pickerington SSA (1)
Reynoldsburg EA (5)
Reynoldsburg SSA (5)
Walnut Township EA (1)

Unit 3

Bexley EA (5)
C-TEC TA (1)
Canal Winchester EA (5)
Gahanna-Jefferson EA (5)
Granville EA (1)
Heath EA (1)
Heath ESSA (1)
Johnstown EA (1)
Lakewood AC (1)
Lakewood TA (1)
Licking Heights EA (1)
Licking Hgts. Loc. ESP (1)
Licking Valley EA (1)
North Fork EA (1)
Northridge EA (1)
Plain Local EA (5)
Southwest Licking EA (1)

Unit 4

Big Walnut EA (2)
Big Walnut Prof SS (2)
Buckeye Valley TA (2)

Delaware City EA (2)
Delaware JVS EA (2)
Elgin EA (2)
Marion EA (2)
Olentangy TA (2)
Pleasant AT (2)
River Valley EA (2)
River Valley TA (2)
Tri-Rivers EA (2)

Unit 5

Dublin EA (5)
Dublin SA (5)
North Union EA (2)
S.C.O.P.E. (5)
Worthington EA (5)
Worthington ESP (5)

Unit 6

Bellefontaine EA (3)
Benjamin Logan E. A (3)
Clark Co Voc Assn Of Se (3)
Clark Co Vocational EA (3)
Clark-Shawnee Local EA (2)
Fairbanks EA (2)
Graham EA (3)
Indian Lake A C E (3)
Indian Lake EA (3)
Madison Plains EA (4)
Marysville EA (2)
Mechanicsburg EA (3)
Northeastern Loc A Of S.E. (3)

Northeastern Local EA (3)
Northwestern A Of Sch Empl (3)
Northwestern T A - Clark (3)
Southeastern Local EA (3)
Southeastern Local Esp (3)
Springfield EA - Clark (3)
Springfield E.S.P - Seuss (3)
Tecumseh A.S.E. (3)
Tecumseh EA (3)
United Riverside EA (3)
Urbana A.C.T. (3)
West Liberty Salem EA (3)

Unit 7

Franklin Co. BD of DD EA (5)
Grandview Heights EA (5)
Grandview Heights ESSA (5)
Hamilton Local EA (5)
South-Western EA (5)

Unit 8

Adena EA (4)
Hilliard EA (5)
London City EA (4)
Newark TA (1)
Ridgedale TA (2)
Teays Valley EA (4)
Upper Arlington EA (5)
Whitehall EA (5)

Higher Ed

Columbus State EA (5)

Central OEA/NEA has four main goals

1

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.

2

Political Action

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

3

Training

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

4

Communications

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



Central OEA/NEA

2025 - 2026 Executive Board



**Jim Templeton,
President**

Jim teaches band at Kenton Ridge High School in Springfield.



**Joie Moore,
OEA Unit 2**

Joie is an ESP at Pickerington Local Schools. She is the President of Pickerington Support Staff Association. [joie Moore.jpg]



**Karen Via,
OEA Unit 6**

Karen is an Integrated Preschool Teacher at Northwestern Local Schools. She currently serves as the local president. [via.jpg]



**Linna Jordan,
NEA Director,
Vice President**

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



**Paige Harding,
OEA Unit 3**

Paige is a vocal music teacher for Middle School East in Gahanna Jefferson. [paige.jpg]



**Jennifer Avery,
OEA Unit 7**

Jennifer works at Hamilton Local Schools as a science teacher.



**Dwayne Marshall,
NEA Director**

Dwayne Marshall is a Social Studies Teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School who teaches Government and African American History.



Photo not
available

**Jessie Keplinger,
OEA Unit 4**

Jessie teaches HS science at Elgin High School and is the president of Elgin EA. [Jessie. Keplinger.jpg]



**Sherise Thompson,
OEA Unit 8**

Sherise is an educator for Hilliard City Schools. She teaches 7th grade social studies. She is also HEAs secretary and Membership Chair.



**Molly Wassmuth,
OEA Unit 1**

Molly is a Spanish Teacher at Westerville City schools and full-time Release President for Westerville Education Association.



**Janet Carter,
OEA Unit 5**

Janet is a Career Tech teacher at Madison Correctional Institution teaching Business Office Services Support and a Board Member for S.C.O.P.E.



**Greg Moore,
Area 1 Rep**

Greg is a Business Teacher for Pickerington Local Schools at Pickerington Central High School.



**Juliet Litzel,
Area 2 Rep**

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



**Mark Brugger,
Area 5 Rep #2**

Mark is a 4th grade teacher at McVay elementary in Westerville city schools, and a building rep for WEA.



**Diana Long,
ESP Rep**

Diana works at Thomas Worthington High School as the ALS support educator.



**Jeff Caivano,
Area 3 Rep**

Jeff is a Middle School satellite instructor for Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center (CTC).



**Nicole Marsano,
Area 5 Rep #3**

Nicole is and a career technology teacher at Marion Correctional Institution. She has been the SCOPE President for 18 years, NEA Delegate 22 years, OEA Legislative Committee 6 years and a US Navy veteran.



**Tammy Shelton,
SCOPE Rep**

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



**David Jardot,
Area 4 Rep**

David teaches social studies at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City, and is the Tolles Vice President.



**Kim Cooper,
Area 5 Rep #4**

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.



**Kristina Newton,
Area 5 Rep #1**

Kristina is a kindergarten teacher at Stiles Elementary in South-Western City Schools. She is SWEAs Negotiations Chair. Kristina also chairs the OHIO Leadership Council and is a ONE Member Organizer for OEA.

The Executive Board is supported by staff members
Russell Hughlock (Organizing and Communications Coordinator),
Mary Kennedy (Fiscal Manager)
and Amy Grittani (Project 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 Representatives are 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 the **Fiscal Manager, Communications & Organizing Coordinator** and **Project manager**.

Why Me?

Should I be a delegate to the Representative Assembly?

I'm sure most of you have seen OEA's document on the Top 10 Reasons to Belong, which outlines some of the best reasons to become members of OEA. But let's talk about why you should become a delegate to the OEA's Representative Assembly (RA).



The RA is the policy-making body of the Association. The OEA RA meets twice a year, typically in December and in May, in Columbus to establish OEA's policies and objectives, elect officers, establish dues, adopt the Association budget, adopt/evaluate a legislative program, act on resolutions and new business items, and conduct other necessary for the business of the OEA.

The RA is made up of members who have been elected as delegates to represent their Local Associations. Suppose you haven't been elected as a delegate and want to see what happens at an RA. In that case, you are welcome to attend the OEA RA as a guest, but according to the OEA Constitution and Bylaws provisions or policy, as a guest, you are unable to debate and vote on any of the issues.

So, why me?

POWER

You will have voting power. Your local is not like any other local in Ohio. We all have similarities, but like we are as individuals, all locals are unique. Being a delegate to the RA allows us to vote for things that matter to our locals, whether large or small, in a rural or urban area. You can vote for things that matter to YOUR local. You get to add your voice to over 121,000 other voices across the state.

VOICE

As educators, we are the experts when it comes to knowing what is best for our students. As a delegate to the RA, you can use your voice to move action items to ensure state policy provides those students with a quality public education. Your voice allows you to be a part of selecting who represents us at the state and national levels. You can share your personal experiences as an educator with others from around the state, and those collective voices matter and make a difference!

NETWORKING

As a delegate to the RA, you have the opportunity to network with other educators from across the state of Ohio. You can talk with members from locals who have problems similar to your local. You can get ideas from different locals and share what has been successful with your locals. As a delegate, you realize that you are not alone. We are all in this together and can be successful together.

KNOWLEDGE

When you attend the OEA Representative Assembly (OEA RA), you are the person who becomes the point of information. You will return to your Association's members with knowledge about the goals all OEA members have charged OEA leadership with for the upcoming year. Members will look to you to keep them informed about OEA's business, legislative issues, and political agendas.

So, why me? Why wouldn't you?

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. For conferences listed in the chart - Members must apply online at www.centraloeane.org.

Central conferences are free for any Central member. Some of Central's conference and training opportunities are Diversity Conference, Power Up Conference, Presidents Training, Treasurers Workshop, Building Rep Training, and the Local Association Retreat.

OAESP, State ESP Conference Oct. 2025

Provides the opportunity for emerging and prospective leaders of the association to obtain practical knowledge and leadership skills for strengthening the local association.

OEA Advocacy & Organizing Institute Feb 2026

Empowering training on the importance of negotiating and protecting and strengthening a collective bargaining agreement for local leaders and bargaining team members.

OEA Summer Academy June 2026

Provides opportunities for emerging and prospective leaders of the association

to obtain practical knowledge and leadership skills for strengthening the local association.

NEA ESP conference March 2026 (apply by Nov. 30, 2025)

Enhance the skills and knowledge of ESP members to positively impact student achievement, build community relations, organize members, advocate for educators and build stronger locals.

NEA Minority & Women's Leadership Training (EAST) Jan. 2026 (apply by Nov. 30, 2025)

Training that aims to advance racial and social justice by preparing and

supporting NEA members to be powerful leaders and advocates for their students, communities, profession, and Association.

NEA Retired Conference March 2026

(apply by Nov. 30, 2025)
The NEA-Retired Organizing Conference is devoted to training retired members to organize their communities to advance the cause of public education.

NEA Leadership Summit March 2026

(apply by Nov. 30, 2025)
Leaders will receive holistic content focused on national and Association-wide issues as well as individual and organizational needs. The Summit will support a competency-based

model of developing great leaders.

NEA Racial & Social Justice Conference June or July 2026 (apply by Nov. 30, 2025)

Provides a unique space for educators, students, parents and families, organizers, community members and leaders to unite for the advancement of Justice in Education.

NEA Representative Assembly July 2026

(apply by May 15, 2026)
Central will provide funding to members elected as delegates to the NEA Annual Representative Assembly. NEA RA Delegate Scholarships are available as funds are available.

Free Professional Development and CEU's

Over the course of the year, numerous professional and Union growth opportunities are provided to all members, free of charge, while also providing CEUs and networking opportunities.

Power Up is an annual conference, brought to you by your Membership Development Committee. Earn CEUs while learning about various topics such as Implementing PBIS Correctly in Schools, Student Assault and Altercations. Agenda and date will be communicated after the beginning of the school year.



The Diversity Committee is excited to present the virtual Diversity Conference on February 7th. Past sessions have educated members on diverse topics such as dyslexia, economic and social justice, rural education, second language learners, and much more.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 4, 2026 - **Local Leadership Training**. Regardless of your position in your association, this provides a deeper insight into the roles and responsibilities of local leadership found within your association, while providing an opportunity to learn how other locals function and handle issues of the day.

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Grants, Grants, Grants and Incentives!

It pays to get involved...literally! Up to \$1250 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. You can run as a delegate to the Central and OEA Representative Assemblies, attend Area meetings, 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 whose members are engaging 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 other 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 to work with your Local leadership to check out the menu and choose a few activities for the year, then apply. These may be activities that your Local has wanted to try but lacked the funding to get started, or things you've done in the past that are tried and true. Let us help you get the ball rolling. Your Local's GDG 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 used 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 school year, and Locals may apply for each type of grant. We look forward to seeing your Local applications soon! There is more information on our website, www.centraloeane.org, where you will also find the online applications. You can contact our project manager, Amy Grittani, at pm@centraloeane.org if you have questions or need help completing applications.

NEA Member Benefits: Helping make members' lives better!

Guy Kendall-Freas, (former Ohio teacher and OEA leader; now an Affiliate Relations Specialist with NEA member Benefits)

NEA Member Benefits offers programs and services to help make member's lives better in more way than you may know and often can save more money than the cost of dues.

NEA Member Benefits takes great care choosing partners committed to public education, and should you have issues or concerns, you have the power of NEA Member Benefits behind you. At NEA Member Benefits, being your advocate is a top priority.

Members who are laid off or who are impacted by a FEMA-declared natural disaster may be eligible for assistance through the NEA Member Benefits Member Assistance Program.

And NEA Member Benefits can provide a wide range of presentations and workshops to locals who frequently turn to us to provide content on professional development days as well as local member engagement and organizing.

To learn more about NEA Member Benefits, go to www.neamb.com/start. To schedule a meeting with NEA Member Benefits in your building or local, contact Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Affiliate Relations Lead for NEA Region 3 at gkendall-freas@neamb.com.

Professional Development Continued from page 7

The Local Retreat is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 8 and 9, 2026. This offers a time and space for locals to work, organize, and address the most pressing needs of their association. Teams can work on negotiation prep, planning for the next school year, work on budgets, update C&Bs, or just take the time to bond as a team. The time is yours and how you plan it is up to you.

NEA has a program that allows educators to earn micro-credential certificates. 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.

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 emails at www.centraloeanea.org/ace

Elected officials shape policies that impact students, schools, and educators, including funding, curriculum, and teacher evaluation. It is important for Ohio legislators to hear from educators because they are the true experts on education issues. As OEA members we need to actively engage in these decisions and make our voices heard.

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.centraloaneaa.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 election-related 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.centraloaneaa.org/for-members/committee-interest

Meet a Member Who Recently Got Involved:

“ My name is Marlis Hardamon, and I am currently serving as the co-president of the Springfield Education Association/Clark, where I focus on developing the SEA Newsletter. I hold an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and a Master's in Curriculum Development, and I have been teaching at Springfield City School for 28 years as a High School History teacher. Throughout my career, I have taught subjects such as Government, World Studies, Current Events, and Citizenship. I am also the proud mother of five very productive children and have been happily married for many years.

I have been asked why I chose to get involved with SEA/Central/OEA at this stage of my life. My answer is simple and deeply rooted in my values. The primary reason is my desire to be the voice for the voiceless. The challenges of desegregation and busing profoundly influenced my own educational experience. I was guided by a compassionate African American teacher who supported me despite the adversities she faced herself, including verbal harassment and job insecurity. Witnessing her struggles inspired me to commit to advocating for teachers who often feel unheard.

Being part of SEA/Central/OEA has enriched my professional journey through various workshops and conferences, helping me enhance my skills and expand my worldview by collaborating with other educational leaders. This organization has provided a valuable platform for me to develop my leadership abilities.

Looking ahead, my goal is to continue advocating for both students and teachers, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed. Additionally, I aim to deepen my understanding of local and state politics and explore how these areas can better support and prioritize public education.

”

Join an OEA Caucus

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)

Chairperson, Brittany Alexander

E-mail: buckeyegirl.alex@gmail.com

Vice Chairperson, Karen Linch

E-mail: karensq@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Sherise Thompson

E-mail: sheriseklat@gmail.com

Website: sites.google.com/view/oeabatcaucus/home

Doris L. Allen Minority Caucus (DLAMC)

President, Dwayne Marshall

E-mail: marshall.133@icloud.com or

marshalld@ohea.org

Vice President, Cassandra Daniels

E-mail: danielsc@ohea.org

Secretary, Arthur Lard

E-mail: arthur.lard@gmail.com

Website: www.dlamcofohio.org

OEA Hispanic Caucus (OEAHC)

Chairperson, Linna Jordan

E-mail: jordanli1973@gmail.com

Vice Chairperson, Julie Garcia

E-mail: juliegarcia60@gmail.com

Secretary, Sandra Peloquin

E-mail: speloquin@lorainccc.edu

OEA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Caucus (OEA-LGBTQ+)

Chairperson, Kara Rachel Hara

Treasurer, Jim Templeton

E-mail: jrt747@aol.com

OEA Rural Caucus (OEARC)

** May be suspended due to lack of membership

Chairperson, Sharron Callahan

E-mail: callas444@gmail.com

OEA Women's Caucus (OEAWC)

Chairperson, Cassandra Daniels

E-mail: cdaniels0102@gmail.com

Vice Chair, Belinda Dixon

Treasurer, Gail Andrews Turner

E-mail: gatohiowc@yahoo.com

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: Kim Cooper, Reynoldsburg EA

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

emerging.leaders@centraloeane.org

Free Contact Hours

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

Jason Wyant Testimonial

The Emerging Leaders Program was outstanding. Each meeting focused on a different aspect of OEA Central's operations, goals, and committee structure. I learned a tremendous amount about the opportunities available and how to become involved in OEA Central as an active member. As a result, I ran for, and won, an OEA delegate spot for the 2024/2025 school year. In addition, I have accepted an appointment to the Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy Committee, beginning in July of 2025.

Participating in the Emerging Leaders Program gave me the knowledge and confidence I needed to step up and become an involved member. I recommend the Emerging Leaders Program to anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the OEA but is unsure where to start.



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.

Jim & Linna
Central Leadership

Association Benefits

Free CEUs
Liability Protection
Improving Professional Practice
Professional Networking



Dates of Note

11/21/25	Central All Area & Delegate Briefing
12/6/25	OEA RA
2/7/26	Diversity Conference
1/23/26*	MLT/WLT (East)
3/13/26*	NEA Summit
2/28/26	Power Up Conference
3/27/26*	NEA ESP Conference
4/24/26	Central RA
5/5/26*	OEA RA
6/8/26*	Central Local Retreat
7/3/26*	NEA RA

*Multi-day event. First day listed.