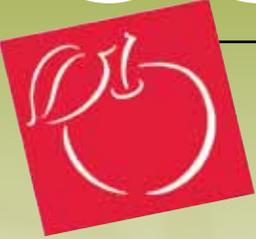


Summer 2019 

# COMMUNIQUE

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



## Who wants Fair School Funding?

### Raise your Hand

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# Raise Your Hand

Adrienne M. Bowden (Pickerington EA), Central President



Public education continues to undergo significant change. As professionals, we must make education reform a priority. We must continue to work together to create a culture that truly values public education.



We know that being an educator isn't just a 9-month job. Advocating for education doesn't have a time frame either. Working to improve public education is 365 days a year task. Whether it is advocating for better school funding at the national level or electing supportive school board members at the local level, we as educators need to make sure our voices are heard.

The complexities involved in our work is often misunderstood by the public and policy makers. Advocacy allows us to unite our voices as professionals and have a greater

impact on policy and legislation. We need to be mindful of opportunities to speak up about the issues we know our best for our students and public education.

To do this we must share our personal stories, write letters to the editor, engage in conversations with legislators or simply talk with friends and family. We can impact the way our profession is perceived and most importantly, give voice to our students' needs. We also need to create partnerships with our community members and policy makers.

The National Education Association has issued a renewed call to action—Raise Your Hand—a national initiative to mobilize educators, parents, and community leaders who share our commitment to ensuring the success of all our students. The goal is to unite members with parents, community leaders and elected officials across the country, to fulfill the promise of public education and prepare every student to succeed.

To learn more, you can visit [www.nea.org/home/raiseyourhand.html](http://www.nea.org/home/raiseyourhand.html)

You can use these national and state resources to advocate. They are quick and easy to use:

NEA Education Votes:  
[www.educationvotes.nea.org/issues-and-actions](http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/issues-and-actions)

OEA On the Issues:  
[www.ohea.org/get-involved/oea-on-the-issues](http://www.ohea.org/get-involved/oea-on-the-issues)

Join the Future:  
[www.jointhefuture.org](http://www.jointhefuture.org)

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# Recapping the Central Representative Assembly

David Schottner (Bexley EA), Central Area Representative

The Central OEA Representative Assembly on Friday, April 26, was a time of solidarity and inspiration for the 150+ delegates and guests in attendance. Highlights include the following:

- Members of the OEA Board of Directors introduced a new initiative titled “My School, My Voice” that empowers educators to let their voices be heard, because we are the experts and we know what is best for our students!
- FCPE Coordinator Molly Wassmuth of Westerville EA used the OTES rubric to issue a challenge to delegates and guests; the crowd met her challenge and scored “accomplished on the rubric,” donating over \$2000 during the evening to the Fund for Children and Public Education.
- The Friend of Education award was given to Education First Credit Union, which provides many products and services with the mission of making the lives of educators easier so they can serve students.
- OEA Lobbyist Matt Dotson spoke about the importance of repealing House Bill 154, which has caused the detrimental state take-over of several districts of OEA locals.
- The NEA Directors reported that the goals of their upcoming lobbying efforts in Washington DC include DACA and responsible gun control.

- Candidates gave speeches for statewide offices, including OEA Board of Directors, NEA Board of Directors, OEA Vice President, and OEA President. In the contested elections, the delegates voted to endorse Scott DiMauro for OEA President and Adrienne Bowden for OEA Vice President.

- OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro and OEA Treasurer Mark Hill reported the state of our union to the delegates, focusing mainly on the need to stay up to date on legislation and focus on maintaining membership in each and every local association in OEA.

The Central delegates reconvene along with the delegates of all of OEA’s districts at the OEA Representative Assembly on May 10 and 11 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.



Linna Jordan (center) receives the Accolade Award from President Bowden (left) and VP Griffin (right).



# Diversity Conference

Naomi Allison (Grandview Heights EA)

On Saturday, February 9th, Central Ohio OEA/NEA once again hosted its annual Diversity Conference. As an attendee of this conference for my second consecutive year, I can attest that this year's presenters did not disappoint. Never before have our classrooms been comprised of students who bring with them not only a widening array of unique gifts and talents, but also their own specific challenges.

As educators, we are charged with meeting each student's needs, helping them to progress along the learning continuum. Recognizing the need for resources and strategies to support educators in their daily work, this year's Diversity Conference was aptly entitled "Square Pegs, Round Holes, Diverse Learners."

The four presenters were individuals who were passionate about meeting the needs of all students, regardless of their ability. Similarly, the sessions offered practical strategies which helped conference attendees feel empowered and confident in their abilities to best support each unique student they encounter throughout the day.

Central OEA/NEA would like to thank the following most excellent presenters:

Amber Nickels - Mental Health Specialist, Grandview Heights City District Schools - Anxiety/Depression/Trauma -in Our Students' Lives

Earl Oremus - Headmaster Emeritus of Marburn - Dyslexia: What is it?

Cindy Eldridge - Special Education Consultant from ESC - Understanding the Law for Your IEP and 504 Students

Linna Santamaria - ELL Teacher, Hilliard Schools - ELL Students and the SIOP Model



# Central OEA/NEA is Moving!

After over a decade at our Grandview office, we have moved. We are now located at on the 3rd floor at 360 S. 3rd St., Columbus 43215. We are located in the United Way of Central Ohio's building, with ample free parking to the side and rear of the building.

All our other contact information remains unchanged.



# Central OEA/NEA Local Training & Retreat

The Leadership Training and Local Association Team Building Retreat is free to all Central OEA members. It will be held June 10 & 11 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. Monday afternoon will provide training sessions (Treasurers workshop, Building Rep and Novice Officers training) with dinner and discussion on upcoming changes to OTES. Tuesday will be a retreat for local association teams to meet and plan for the upcoming year. Members can register before May 31 by visiting

[www.centraloeanea.org/teams](http://www.centraloeanea.org/teams).



# Who wants Fair School Funding?

In years past, educators and public education advocates would look on with dread as Governor Kasich cut school public school funding, increased spending on private school vouchers and introduced yet more ill-conceived education policy via the budget.

Will this year, with a new governor, be any different? Early signs point to yes. Years of advocacy by educators and their allies, including wide-scale strikes in many states have awakened Ohio's legislators to the dire financial distress Ohio's public schools have been dealing with – and the causes of those stresses.

Early in April, the Governor introduced his budget that, while keeping the cobbled-together funding formula intact did add an additional \$550 million dollars over 2 years to support disadvantaged students by providing wrap-around services, mental health care, PD, and other services needy students often require but seldom.

Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice President, had this to say when testifying before the House Finance Committee: "Educators know firsthand that students' access to these integrated services and supports are critical to the social and emotional development and academic success of the students. Research tells us that when educators, parents, and community members collaborate to identify problems they will find solutions to meet unique needs of their students. This collaboration is particularly important in high-poverty communities. However, we remain concerned that HB 166 retains a school funding methodology that is not driven by what constitutes a high-quality education."

An attempt to address that last concern came in the form of the Fair School Funding Plan, developed by Rep. Cupp and Rep. Patterson, via extensive working groups over a period of some time, and made public at the end of April. It would add an additional \$700 million to funding our schools.

This plan attempts to create a comprehensive and fair system of funding schools based on student needs. From the executive summary of the plan:

The Fair School Funding Plan's new formula will provide instructional resources to ensure high quality education for Ohio's children. Nearly all base funding (95%) is for classroom instruction and instructional support costs, including classroom teaching (60%), educational supports (15%) and

school operations (20%). Decisions to spend base funds will be locally controlled. How much each district gets is based on the actual cost of educating its students, its income level, and its property values. Over time, the formula will minimize funding guarantees and caps. It will allocate state funds using a rational, defensible formula.

Beyond base funding, the state must respond strategically to critical needs that impact some districts more than others. Thus, the Fair School Funding Plan includes additional state aid to accomplish the following:

- Address issues associated with poverty and mental health
- Help special needs, gifted, and new English language learners
- Upgrade educational technology and learning materials
- Bolster vital STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Support high-quality preschool for young children
- Improve school security, and lower the age of school bus fleets to enhance safety
- Send school choice funds directly to each student's actual education provider (school)
- Fund the important services of our Career Technology and Educational Service Centers

As the Ohio House and Senate work through the budget, there are still changes that need to be made to make the Cupp-Patteron formula as fair and equitable as possible, but it has become clear that serious solutions are being considered in a bipartisan manner, with educator input.

Educators should continue to press their Representatives to support adequate and fair funding for our schools; your efforts to date have had a significant impact for the betterment of students, educators and our communities.

You can find the Fair School Funding Plan and the district runs on the OEA website at [www.ohea.org/bipartisan-school-funding](http://www.ohea.org/bipartisan-school-funding).

# Anti-Union “Think Tanks” - Watch Your Back

Kevin Griffin (Dublin EA), Central Vice President

This summer you will be contacted by Betsy DeVos or the Koch brothers inviting you to drop your union membership. Except the invitation won't be directly from them. It'll be under the guise of a “free-market think tank” that only wants to inform you of your rights.

These groups are spending millions of dollars to get you to not belong to your local union. They will come across as being friendly, well-informed, and supportive of your choice. They will appear to be neutral as they will also claim they support your right to belong to a “government union.” They will attempt to make your union membership, or lack thereof, about free speech. They are counting on you to not do your homework.

These “free-market think tanks,” such as the Buckeye Institute, the Mackinac Center, or the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, are anything but “think tanks.” They are funded by dark money donors, they do not conduct their own research, and do not have original ideas or solutions for public policy. In reality, they are nothing more than propaganda machines that regurgitate half-truths and slanted research for special interest groups.

According to Sourcewatch, the *Columbus Dispatch* announced they would no longer publish op-eds from the Buckeye Institute because they discovered parts of the op-ed were plagiarized. Upon further investigation, the Dispatch discovered the original piece was written by a public relations firm in Virginia as part of a larger communications strategy to further the far-right wing ideology. All these “think tanks” do is take the message of their billionaire funders and tailor it to their home state. There doesn't seem to be too much “thinking” going on.

The simple truth is they want you to drop your membership. They want you to be unprotected and they want unions weakened.

We understand that when you made the decision to dedicate your life to helping children, you didn't want all this political union stuff. And that's exactly why you should belong, because no one else has your back like your union.

The think tanks won't bargain your next contract or lobby for opportunities for your students. They won't protect your pension or advocate for smaller class sizes and a well-rounded curriculum. They won't offer you CEU's, help with RESA, or enforce fair working conditions. The think tanks won't take a stand on school funding, failing charter schools, or school safety. Nor will they advocate for student loan forgiveness and meaningful changes to OTES. The think tanks don't care how standardized tests affect your students or school. And the think tanks won't stand beside you when that normally supportive administrator succumbs to parental pressure and disciplines you for something you couldn't control.

Your union has your back. No one else does. Period.

Keep in mind:

The President of OEA is a 1st Grade TEACHER.  
The Vice-President of OEA is a Social Studies TEACHER.  
The Secretary-Treasurer is a secondary Math TEACHER.  
The President of Central is a Middle School Science TEACHER, and yours truly is a Middle School Language Arts TEACHER. The NEA, OEA, and Central Executive boards are all teachers and ESPs.

We have something in common; the think tanks are the outsiders. They have your email, but we've got your back.

# Friday Field Trips

Jillian Kalb (Hilliard EA), Communications Committee chair

Summer is here and it's time to get out and explore some amazing attractions, right here in Ohio. Take some time to roll down the windows, turn up the radio and visit the unique destinations in your own backyard. I'm happy to share with you four free Friday field trips you can take by yourself, with friends, or with your family. Enjoy the drive and the unique destinations you may not have known existed in our great state.

## **Slate Run Living Historical Park** - Cost Free

Have you ever wondered what life was like for Ohioans when Salmon Chase was governor and Abraham Lincoln was president? Touring Slate Run Living Historical Park located near Canal Winchester is a must for a Friday field trip for everyone. The working historical farm is from the 1880s, and operates year-round with volunteers and employees using period tools, methodology, and clothing. You will see many animals including, horses, pigs, and turkeys, to name a few.

## **Velvet Ice Cream- Ye Olde Mill Tour** - Cost Free

On a hot summer day there is nothing better than cool ice cream. When the summer heat has you hoping for cooler air, visit the Velvet Ice Cream Ye Olde Mill. The free 30-minute walking tour explains the history of this treasured gem located in northern Licking County. After the tour, you can purchase a meal at the shop restaurant, or sample several different flavors available in the adorable ice cream parlor.

## **Tour the Ohio Statehouse** - Cost Free

If you've never stood in the Ohio Statehouse rotunda and looked up at the beautiful stained glass, you are missing out on a breathtaking experience. Your tour will end at the Museum Education Center which has a stained-glass replica of the Ohio Seal. You will also learn about the State of Ohio and the Ohio Constitution. Tours begin on the hour Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The tour includes the Ohio Statehouse, Senate building, and the atrium.

**National Museum of the US Air Force** - Cost Free  
If you love history and aviation, plan a visit to the National Museum of the US Air Force – the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. Exhibits include early aviation, WWI and WWII, Korean War, missile gallery, space gallery, presidential gallery, and many more. The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# COMMUNIQUÉ

Summer 2019



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

OEA Summer Academy Scholarship  
Free contact hours  
Summer time discounts

## Upcoming Events

June 10-11 Local Retreat  
June 10 Treasurers' Workshop  
June 17-18 OEA Summer Academy