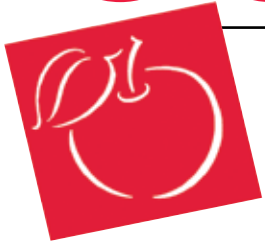


# COMMUNIQUE

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



## The 2021-2022 Central OEA/NEA Member Resource Guide

This Member resource guide is broken down into three sections.

### Who and What is Central OEA/NEA

How to Connect with Us

Who is Central and what do we do?

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Know Your  
Weingarten  
Rights

# Your Resource, Our Strength

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

Welcome back to the start of the 2021-2022 school year! Thank you for belonging to the Central OEA/NEA District. We are proud that you are a member and part of the more than 23,000 teachers and education support professionals in the Central Ohio area. This year the 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.

Central OEA/NEA strives to provide support, financial resources, and professional development experiences to our Locals and members so that you may continue to shape the lives of our Central Ohio students. Please review the resources in this guide to find the opportunities that are right for you! Check out our website for details on the conferences, scholarships, grants, and committee work we offer.

As members, we continue to use our collective strength to ensure that resources and opportunities are directed towards students and the families we serve. Our working conditions are the students' learning conditions! We saw last year our collective power used to ensure all students received quality public school education resources, opportunities, and safety measures, equitably. This year, it will be important how we as an educational community work with the community at large to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments where our students and members can be successful and thrive.

Central OEA/NEA will be here to support you in your work and educational advocacy. I wish you a successful and safe school 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



## How to connect with us



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[www.centraloearnea.org](http://www.centraloearnea.org)



Centraloearnea



Centraloearnea



Scan the QR Code to see all the ways you can connect with Central OEA/NEA.

# 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

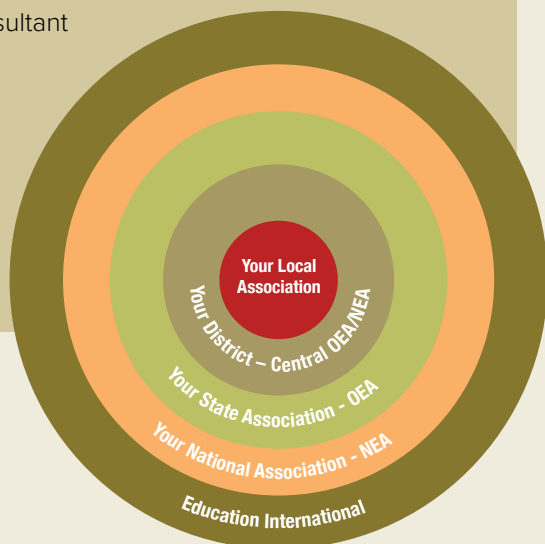
### District (Central OEA/NEA)

- 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.centraloearnea.org](http://www.centraloearnea.org) for more details

### State (OEA)

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



## 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.centraloearnea.org/ace](http://www.centraloearnea.org/ace).

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

For more information on Central, including our committees, programs and grants, visit our website at [www.centraloearnea.org](http://www.centraloearnea.org)

# 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 5, 2022 via Zoom. 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 13-14, 2022. It offers training specific to current and future leaders. It includes sessions for local presidents/vice presidents, new/ experienced treasurers, association representatives and emerging 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.

The Member Engagement Committee provides members with opportunities year-round, from the annual **Diversity Conference** scheduled for January 22, 2022, 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 micro-credential 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](http://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/micro-credentials)

## The OEA Higher Education Benefit

With the OEA Higher Education Benefit, you and your family members can earn an associate degree online from a public, accredited community college – with no out-of-pocket costs to you. This can save you thousands of dollars. And the process is simple. To learn more visit [freecollege.ohea.org](http://freecollege.ohea.org)



# Conferences and Scholarships

Central, OEA, and NEA offer many professional development opportunities throughout the year. Your Central OEA/NEA District provides several scholarships to help with the expenses of attending various conferences both in-state and around the country.

These scholarships will help pay for the cost of transportation, including your flight, hotel, meals, and conference fees. All you need to do is log on to Central's website [www.centraloanea.org](http://www.centraloanea.org) and apply. There will be a limited number of scholarships offered for the national conferences. It is our goal to offer the opportunity to members who have not experienced an NEA conference.

It is the goal to safely have conferences in-person once again, however; some may remain virtual. Dates and times for many of the conferences have not been released; please check the website and the various forms of communication from Central for updated information, including dates and when the scholarship forms will become available. The online application process is fast and simple.

On Central's website, you will find a complete list of conferences along with descriptions.

Here are examples of a few:

OEA Advocacy and Organizing Institute, OEA Summer Academy, NEA Leadership Summit, NEA ESP National Conference (March 25-27, 2022 – New Orleans), and NEA Retired Conference. If there is an OEA or NEA conference, we've likely got a scholarship for it.

## Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students

The Central OEA/NEA Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students is offered in memory of Central OEA/NEA member Vivian Brown, who dedicated her life to the purpose of public education and the mentoring of future educators.

The Purpose of the Central OEA/NEA Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students is to provide \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing a degree in education at an Ohio college or university.

The Vivian Brown Scholarship for College Students will be 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.

## Lobby Day Substitute Grant

To allow members to participate in lobby days, where they may not otherwise be able to, Central can award up to \$100 per local to cover the expense of a substitute. To qualify, the local must have conducted an FCPE drive. Apply online [www.centraloanea.org/lobby-day-substitute-grant!](http://www.centraloanea.org/lobby-day-substitute-grant!)

# Grants, Grants, Grants

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 will support you in any of these activities—just ask! Check out our website for activities and register there.

The Central Board established the **COVID-19 Grant** disbursing funds through the COVID-19 grants to all of our applying Locals! Realizing that this academic year may have continuing challenges, Central's Board is extending this grant another year. The 2021-22 COVID-19 Grant can be for anything your union or its members need—share your ideas with local leaders.

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 booth, 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 submit the application. Some of these may be activities that your Local has wanted to try but lacked the funding to get them 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-a-year 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's applications soon! There is more information on our website, [www.centraloeanea.org](http://www.centraloeanea.org), where you will also find the online applications. Central's Project Manager ([pm@centraloeanea.org](mailto:pm@centraloeanea.org)), Sue Chaney, is eager to assist and answer questions.



## and Incentives!

# The 2021 - 2022 Central OEA



**Adrienne Bowden,  
President and  
NEA Director**

Adrienne teaches science at Pickerington Local Schools



**Angela Stewart,  
NEA Director**

Angela teaches fourth grade at Taylor Road Elementary in Reynoldsburg City Schools and is a Building Rep for her Local Association.



**Geoff Mize,  
OEA Unit 1**

Geoff teaches history at Westerville Central



**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.



**Erin Stevens,  
OEA Unit 2**

Erin is an intervention specialist at Pickerington Central High School for Pickerington Local Schools and is a Co-Vice President of her Local Association.



**Sean McCullough,  
OEA Unit 3**

Sean teaches special education at Licking Heights High School and is a resident educator mentor for the district.



**Mark Hill,  
OEA Treasurer**

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



**Amy Shenefield,  
OEA Unit 4**

Amy teaches English at Buckeye Valley HS and is a BVTA Building Rep.



**Dwayne Marshall,  
NEA Director**

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



# /NEA Executive Board

**Tammy Shelton,  
OEA Unit 5/SCOPE**

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



**Joie Moore,  
Area 1 Rep**

Joie is an ESP at Pickerington Local Schools. She is the President of Pickerington Support Staff Association.



**Kelly Modlich,  
Area 5 Rep**

Kelly teaches American sign language at Westerville South High School.

**Denise Hermetz,  
OEA Unit 6**

Denise teaches 6th Grade Science at Northwestern Elementary School at the Northwestern Local School District in Clark County and is her Local Association's President.



**Juliet Litzel,  
Area 2 Rep**

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



**Kim Cooper,  
Area 5 Rep**

Kim teaches ELL at Herbert Mills STEAM Elementary. She is the President of Reynoldsburg Education Association.

**Amber Clark,  
OEA Unit 7**

Amber Clark is an Intervention Specialist at Franklin Heights High School in South-Western City Schools. She also serves on the Board of Directors for her Association.



**Jeff Caivano,  
Area 3 Rep**

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



**Diana Long,  
ESP Rep**

Diana works at Thomas Worthington High School as the ALS Support Educator.

**Linna Jordan,  
OEA Unit 8**

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



**David Jardot,  
Area 4 Rep**

David teaches social studies at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City.



**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. [barry alcock.jpg]

**Cheryl Williams,  
OEA ESP At-Large**

Cheryl is an elementary administrative secretary in Dublin City schools where she also serves as the president of the Dublin Support Association.



**Amy Grittani,  
Area 5 Rep**

Amy teaches fourth grade at Highland Park Elementary in South-Western School District. She is also the Legislative chair for her Local Association.

The Executive Board is supported by staff members

**Russell Hughlock** (Organizing and Communications Coordinator),  
**Tim Skamfer** (Fiscal Manager)  
and **Sue Chaney** (Project Manager).

# Optimize Your NEA Membership Benefits

Jennifer Harris (Pickerington EA)

If you are already taking advantage of your NEA member benefits, you may have enjoyed many of the benefits listed below, but if you are a first-time user, you just have to enter your basic information to create an account.

[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com).

## Everyday Savings

NEA Discount Marketplace  
Shop Now, Pay Later  
Office & Classroom  
Supplies  
Flowers & Gourmet Gifts  
Warehouse Club Membership  
Cell Phone Service  
Magazine Subscriptions  
Hearing Aid Program  
NEW! Mental Health & Wellness

## Insurance

Life & Accidental Death  
Auto & Home Coverage  
Dental & Vision  
Medicare Supplement  
Hospital, Disability & Long-Term Care  
Sport & Leisure Vehicle Insurance  
Pet Health  
Renters

## Banking & Lending

Credit Cards  
Personal Loan  
NEW! Personal Banking Account  
Home Loan  
Student Loans  
Student Loan Forgiveness & Refinancing  
Investing & Retirement  
Retirement Accounts

## Home & Auto

Appliances Discount  
Auto Buying

## Travel

NEA Travel Dollars  
Car Rental  
Hotels  
Airfare  
Resorts  
Cruises  
Guided Tours

## Personal Favorite:

When we started checking into life insurance, we began with the company we used for home and auto insurance. The prices were way more than we were willing to spend. Next, we checked with the insurance company that offers supplemental benefits through our work insurance. The cost was better but still higher than we wanted. Finally, we got a quote from NEA. We were able to pay less and get almost double the benefits compared to the previous quotes we had gotten.

# 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.

Stay up-to-date by signing up for the NEAMB Newsletter Email series: Financial Whiteboard, Shopper's Guide, and Travel are series that you can subscribe to if you would like to receive tips and strategies on the respective topics. With an activated account, click on your icon and you can choose to subscribe there.



# 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.

# 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.

# 1

**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.

# Become an Education Advocate Leader

Education Advocate Leaders (EALs) are members! They strengthen their Local Associations legislative and political grassroots capacity year-round, by engaging fellow members around legislative and political campaigns.

Each local should try to have at least one Education Advocate Leader to represent primary, one for intermediate, one for secondary educators and one to represent the different classifications in a classified local, SCOPE or Higher Ed.

Central OEA/NEA will provide a \$100 stipend to each local Education Advocate Leader who meets the Mandatory Criteria.

To become an Education Advocate Leader, apply online: [www.centraloearnea.org/eal](http://www.centraloearnea.org/eal)

Education Advocate Leader training details: We will have a virtual training on October 6, 2021, via Zoom.

A list of criteria for receiving the Education Advocate Leader stipend follows.

## Mandatory Criteria:

- Communicate with your local/colleagues on education issues
- Contribute to the OEA Fund
- Recruit at least 10 colleagues to receive Central ACE's emails and send their addresses to [russell@jointhefuture.org](mailto:russell@jointhefuture.org)
- Attend an Education Advocate Leader training session
- Join the OEA Outreach Circle

## Strongly Recommended:

- Play an active role in local election activities
- Attend OEA phone banks or an OEA sponsored canvass
- Like and share Central social media content

## Topics covered will include:

- Communication & Involvement (sign up colleagues to ACE's list, disseminating info to your local)
- How to sign up for the OEA Outreach Circle
- How to sign up for and use the Hustle App
- Cyber lobbying, and engaging Central, OEA, NEA Social Media
- Understanding what FCPE is & is not
- Statehouse lobbying
- EAL Stipend Criteria
- Campaign 2021

To apply to become an Education Advocate Leader apply online:

[www.centraloearnea.org/eal](http://www.centraloearnea.org/eal)



# 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.centraloearnea.org/for-members/committee-interest](http://www.centraloearnea.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.

## Emerging Leaders Committee

Creates and delivers programs and services that address the needs of Central's emerging leaders.

## 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.centraloearnea.org/for-members/committee-interest](http://www.centraloearnea.org/for-members/committee-interest)

# Join An OEA Caucus

Joining a caucus is a great way to meet and advocate with like minded educators. If you would like to join one of the following caucuses, you should email the contact person for more information on how to get involved.

## OEA Women's Caucus

Contact: Angel Dyer-Sanchez,  
[dyersancheza@ohea.org](mailto:dyersancheza@ohea.org)

## OEA LGBTQ Caucus

Contact: Meaghan Coe,  
[Meaghan.coe@neomin.org](mailto:Meaghan.coe@neomin.org)

## OEA Hispanic Caucus

Contact: Linna Jordan,  
[oeahispaniccaucus2017@gmail.com](mailto:oeahispaniccaucus2017@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OEA-Hispanic-Caucus-369866226863893](https://www.facebook.com/OEA-Hispanic-Caucus-369866226863893)

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

Contact: Tai Hayden,  
[taitai007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taitai007@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.dlamcofohio.org](http://www.dlamcofohio.org)

## OEA BAT Caucus

Contact: Brittany Alexander,  
[oeabats17@gmail.com](mailto:oeabats17@gmail.com)

Website: [sites.google.com/view/oeabatcaucus/home](https://sites.google.com/view/oeabatcaucus/home)

## 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 our ACEs list at [www.centraloearna.org/ace](http://www.centraloearna.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.centraloearna.org/ace](http://www.centraloearna.org/ace)



## Curious About Getting Involved in the Union? Join the Emerging Leaders Program!

Ashley Lambacher

Two years ago, I was volunteered by a friend to join the Emerging Leaders program through Central OEA/NEA. To give you some background, I'm quiet, an introvert, and not a "take charge" kind of person, so to have someone suggest I be a part of a program about leaders in the union was scary! I actually thought my friend had lost her mind.

But I had just spent the year as a building representative for my local union, and it was clear I still had much to learn. My curiosity got the better of me, and I trusted my friend, so I decided to attend. Wow -- I am so glad I did! This program opened my eyes and I was able to learn so much about the union at all the different levels. I now have a better understanding of myself and my leadership style, the struggles and victories other unions have dealt with, parliamentary procedures, the roles of different leadership in the union, how the union specifically helps students and teachers in

a variety of ways, and various experiences of those in the union from different locals. It also helped me understand more about Central OEA/NEA's committees and where I can best use my skills. (It didn't hurt that there was always a delicious dinner ready to eat, reimbursement for my travel, and gracious and friendly members willing to chat.)

If you are wanting to learn more about the union and how you can get involved, please register for the Emerging Leaders program. As someone who thought she'd be the last person who would be a good fit for such a program, I promise you -- you won't regret it!

To find out more contact our emerging leaders committee at [emerging.leaders@centraloearna.org](mailto:emerging.leaders@centraloearna.org). Training dates will be finalized and posted on our website in early September.

# COMMUNIQUÉ

Fall 2021

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

Contract protections during uncertain times

Policy advocacy at the state and federal levels

Quality professional development



## Upcoming Events

- 11/5/21 Central All Area & Delegate Briefing
- 12/4/21 OEA RA
- 1/22/22 Diversity Conference
- 1/28/22 MLT/WLT (East)
- 3/5/22 Power Up Conference
- 3/11/22 NEA Summit
- 3/25/22 NEA ESP Conference
- 4/22/22 Central RA
- 5/13/22 OEA RA
- 6/4/22 NEA Delegate Briefing
- 6/13/22 Central Local Retreat
- 7/3/22 NEA RA

For the full calendar check out our website  
[www.centraloearnea.org/docs/2-calendar](http://www.centraloearnea.org/docs/2-calendar)