Central has a New Office!

We have relocated to 2760 Airport Drive, Suite 120B, Columbus OH 43219

Perspectives – 2023
Central Diversity Conference

Power Up! March 4th
Our public schools should be safe, just, and welcoming spaces for all our students. As educators, we must prepare students for a global society and how they will interact within it. It is our job to assist students in becoming global citizens. However, some seek to divide and instill fear within our school buildings. It is our responsibility as professionals to work with parents and the community to ensure that this does not occur but instead to ensure all students feel safe to learn.

Critical thinking is an essential and valuable skill with so much misinformation and disinformation being spread within our society. Having learning environments where students feel safe to be themselves, ask questions, and learn is vital. Those who seek to divide our communities are the opposite of what our students need to thrive and learn. We need to work collaboratively with our parents and the community to work against these divisive forces.

Some are trying to make discussions of race or discrimination of any kind destructive. Some educators are being asked to “out” students and feel bullied into not teaching accurate history or not supporting some of our most vulnerable student populations, leading to environments that cultivate fear within our buildings.

Instead, we need to have honest conversations about the importance of learning from accurate history and having empathy, understanding, and compassion for all students. We need to create environments where we treat each other fairly, discern fact from fiction, and feel free to discuss uncomfortable topics that would assist students in preparing for our global society.

This will only occur when educators feel safe to create such learning spaces. We must work collaboratively with parents and the community to work through these issues to bring all the stakeholders together to find common ground. Having common ground will create schools where all our students feel safe and loved and are provided the essentials they need to learn.

We must work together to ensure every public school is a safe and just place where parents feel comfortable sending their students, students feel safe to be themselves to learn, and educators feel safe to do their jobs and help students succeed.

Please join us as an advocate for all students and safe and just public schools for all our students.

---

**Campaign 2022 Election Results**

It was a good night for most of the Local School Districts in Central that had levies and issues on the November 8th ballot, with 11 of 14 passing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local School District</th>
<th>% For</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delaware City</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>Substitute</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerington Local</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Township Local</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthington City</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Albany-Plain Local</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>Replace/ Increase</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Arlington City</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthington City</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville Exempted Village</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakewood Local</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Local</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>Substitute</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison-Plains Local</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Valley Local</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zane Trace Local</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks Local</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>Substitute</td>
<td>Passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide, 87 of 120 levies and issues passed.

It was also a good night for educators and the State Board of Education. All 3 OEA recommended candidates won their races. Congratulations to Teresa Fedor, Katie Hofmann, and Tom Jackson. We look forward to working with them in the coming years.

In legislative races, 46 Ohio House OEA recommended candidates won (26 Democrats and 20 Republicans, there were 30 races where no position was taken), 7 in the Ohio Senate and all 5 for US congress (10 no positions were taken).
Central began its campaign 2022 effort in June, hiring a part-time field organizer - Billie Sarich who is a retired member from Grandview Heights.

Our first plan of action was to set up Central OEA/NEA booths to promote our locals, and recommended candidates, and register voters at the Franklin County and Clark County Fairs. Over 40 Members volunteers to staff these booths over two weeks in the Summer, promoting Central and Public education to over 100,000 fairgoers!

We sent over 51,000 emails to members who had requested to be part of our ACEs (Advocates for Children and Education) campaign with voting, candidate, and volunteer information.

We had an overwhelming volunteer response for the 6 postcard-writing parties we hosted in October. Over half of the 100 volunteers were new to volunteering with Central. They managed to personalize messages to over 8,000 Central members of our target audience.

Central's Organizing committee and Executive Board participated in a “Hustle” campaign which had 4 individualized text messages that went out to over 10,000 members over 4 weeks.

We also advertised and supplied volunteers to local phone banks and canvassing efforts on behalf of OEA-recommended candidates.

Central members in Columbus and Springfield participating in our postcard parties

Sign up to be a Central Advocate for Children and Education (ACE) and learn about how you can engage in local and state activism by joining our Aces email list at www.centraloeanea.org/ace
Central OEA/NEA is proud to present the Diversity Conference 2023 Saturday, January 21, 2023, titled "Perspectives."

This conference will be held via Zoom, so please join us from the comfort of your own space. We will start promptly at 8:45 am offering six different breakout sessions. You may choose to attend any three of the following:

**Equitable Literature within the Classroom**

Lee Rutherford and Latresa Rieves are Equity Department Coordinators and teachers from Westerville City Schools. They will explore practices on how to honor the many voices of the students in our classrooms and what it means to build a thoughtful and engaged community of young student learners.

**Pathway To Success**

Alesia Gillison is the Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent for Pickerington Local School District. Her breakout session is developed as an educational option and an alternative to suspension and expulsion. There are firm expectations of parents as educational partners to support student success. The opportunity allows students at the secondary level to receive academic and attendance credit and improved conflict resolution skills.

**Transitions and Careers/Career-based interventions**

Amy Wagner and Gregg Severt are two staff members of Bunsold Middle in Marysville Schools. In this breakout session, they will discuss a career-based intervention class where students who are at risk of failing and potential students who will not graduate are put into special elective classes to help them get into their chosen career path earlier.

**Code of Conduct for ESPs**

A speaker will also be geared toward Education Support Professionals about the education Code of Conduct and how it applies to diversity within schools.

**“Labels & Language: The Conditioned Perception of Inner-City Children & Classroom Culture”**

Donte Wood-Spikes began working with youth in the Near Eastside of Columbus, Ohio, in 2011. His time is now devoted to professional development and contract work with schools to create diverse, inclusive environments for all children.

**Using Inclusive Vocabulary and Making All Welcome**

The last of our speakers are from Kaleidoscope Youth Center in Columbus. The vision of Kaleidoscope is to expand the safe and affirming spaces of Kaleidoscope Youth Center into the greater community by working with organizations, community members, educators, and youth-serving professionals through education and consultation; and empowering youth leaders to organize their schools and local communities.

Thanks to The Engagement Committee for working hard on getting these great speakers for this year’s conference. Please register on the Central OEA/NEA website by January 16, 2023. We will send out the Zoom link a few days before the conference begins to all registered attendees. See you on January 21!
A lot has changed in our world since March 2020. We made it through a variety of educational modes, learning new ways to teach and present at the drop of a dime. Made sacrifices to do what was best for students, parents, and our districts as necessary; and survived 2021-22, which can only be described as the worst years in many educators’ careers.

But here you are. You made it through all of it. We see you and recognize your efforts. Things are generally better this year, and we are working our way back to what is a more stable, sustainable work-life balance. We’ve run through the adrenaline and survival mode and now need to replenish. As sometimes happens, the onus is put on us to ease our stress and anxiety while schools and districts move on, going “back to normal”.

While we can’t do anything about the new programs, assessments, and demands being added to your plate, we can offer suggestions to help you refocus on what’s important. We provide an opportunity to stop for a moment (a day) to reevaluate what’s necessary to keep yourself personally, financially, or professionally healthy. This conference is a chance for you to learn some ways to put ideas into practice from other Central and OEA members and a few targeted professionals.

Please mark your calendars and join us in person on Saturday, March 4, 2023, for Central OEA/NEA’s Power Up! conference. Our theme this year is Fill Your Bucket. Be an active participant while you network with colleagues and recharge! Central OEA/NEA offers professional development and CEUs through this conference, which can be used toward license renewal. As with all of Central’s conferences, registration is free to all Central OEA/NEA members.

Attendees will have access to relevant and timely sessions. Whether you are a classroom teacher, school counselor, paraprofessional, secretary, etc., there will be options appropriate for your personal or professional growth. We are planning various sessions which will help ease your load.

The following are just a few examples, but check back once registration is open to get a finalized listing of choices: I’ve been hacked again- don’t accept my friend request – protecting your online world. Google Professional and the work of Your Association- how to use this tool to keep your association safe and how to fund it. Movement Matters– various sessions using mindfulness and/or movement to recenter. Using Grants to Rejuvenate your Local – ideas to take back to replenish all your members. Are you (truly) ready for Retirement? – join STRS and SERS as they discuss the beginning steps. My Financial Health- tips and tools to work on our finances. Brain Breaks – quick suggestions to ease stress and refocus our students and ourselves as we start testing season. New(er) President check-up - how are you doing, and what do you need? Me Time is Critical Time: how-to/ participatory sessions by members who share hobbies/ activities that help them relax

We hope you can join us on March 4, 2023, for the Power Up Conference. Encourage a colleague to attend this event. Bring a buddy, whether a newer member to start them on the right track, a mid-career pro who needs that extra boost, or that near-retirement icon who wants to ensure all their ducks are in a row.

Registration is required and will soon be available at www.centraloeanea.org, so check often.
A discussion with Central OEA/NEA O.N.E. Member Ambassador David Grimes

Molly Wassmuth (Westerville EA) Central Communications Committee Chair

Tell Central a little about yourself: David Grimes, Westerville Education Association. Certified middle school science and social studies 4-9. Currently teaching 7th-grade medical detectives, a semester-long elective course. This is my 4th year in Westerville. Before Westerville, I taught in Columbus City Schools for four years. My dad was a science teacher and local president until his retirement a few years ago from the Delaware Area Career Center, so I grew up visiting his lab and constantly being exposed to science education.

What drew you to be active in your Local? During my time at CCS, I had a principal who was doing many concerning things to students, staff, and with money. After my second year, I ran for Jr. Fac rep of my building and had the best Sr. Fac rep and union mentor anyone could ask for. I felt so empowered by participating in the CEA legislative assemblies, co-facilitating our 10-minute meetings, serving as a building site council member, and representing members, etc.

How did you find or become aware of ONE? At my New Educator orientation in Westerville, Steven Yeager presented to us about the wONEderful OEA organization that is ONE. Steven then introduced me to other Central Member Ambassadors (MA). Then, last spring, Central and Capital ONE held an event at the Clippers game. While there, I filled out a year-round organizing card. Within a week, I had calls from an OEA staff member Taraja Shepard, which eventually led me to apply to be an MA.

What is your role in ONE? What does that entail? I am currently the only Central OEA/NEA Member Ambassador for ONE but I am one of 30 across the state. ONE was awarded a generous grant from NEA that OEA matched, so we have much to do now. Attend and promote ONE at new
educator orientations and other local and district events. We plan and host socials/networking, professional development, and support leadership training. MAs are here to support our 0-10s in a wrap-around approach and help locals and districts meet the needs of our early career educators. I am in year 8, so my goal is to find and support additional MAs from Central that will take my place.

**How have you been active, or what have you done (activities) since joining ONE?** We have had two wonderful retreats so far that are jam-packed with learning and strengthening our team. In addition, our Beyond the Classroom team has hosted professional developments for members. Recently we held a ONE event for the OEA night at a Blue Jackets game, for nearly 100 members. In addition, I attended new educator orientations and events at locals and central to promote ONE.

**What are some ways central members can be involved with central area ONE?** Any member educator with 0-10 years’ experience is automatically part of ONE. Members can get more involved by subscribing to our newsletter, following ONE on social media, registering to go beyond the classroom PDs, and attending a social/networking event. All of that can be found on our website https://ohea.org/one/. Come talk to us at the ONE table at Central, OEA, and maybe at your local events. Please email me, your central member ambassador, at grimesd@oeaone.org.

**Why should people be active in ONE/their Local?** In the first years of teaching, feeling alone and overwhelmed is a feeling that educators often experience. However, being part of your union, and therefore ONE, can be the difference between leaving the profession and realizing this is the greatest career someone can have. You are part of something much bigger than each of us singularly. Thousands of people feel something similar to you when that lesson doesn’t go to plan, or you were not able to complete the 20 tasks for today in your contractual time, or that student brings that heartbreaking story to you. If you engage with your union siblings, you are never alone during those times.

**What are some goals you have for central’s ONE?** I want to see ONE invigorated for Central. Regular events for ONE members, more engagement from Central members in our Beyond The Classroom PDs, and personally, for me, developing our next ONE leaders that will take their leadership skills to their local, to Central committees and boards, OEA RAs, committees and boards, and NEA committees and boards, and to replace me as a ONE Member Ambassador to further this great work.

---

**Central OEA/NEA Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students**

The Central OEA/NEA Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students was created in memory of thirty-three-year teacher and 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 degrees in education at an Ohio university or college. This scholarship will be awarded each spring to the child of a Central OEA/NEA member.

**Criteria & Eligibility**

- Each applicant must be a child of a member of Central OEA/NEA district.
- Each applicant must be accepted and enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree in education at a degree-awarding university or college.
- Applications will be received beginning January 1, 2023 and no later than February 28, 2023.
- Each applicant must include two (2) recommendation letters with the application, with one (1) being from a current professor/teacher.
- The total amount of the scholarship must be used during the school year immediately following the presentation.
- Previous recipients of the Central OEA/NEA Vivian Brown Educational Scholarship for College Students are not eligible.
- To download an application, go to: www.centraloeanea.org
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
Association Benefits
Free CEUs
Liability Protection
Improving Professional Practice

Upcoming Events
1/21/23  Diversity Conference*
3/4/23  Power Up Conference
4/21/23  Central RA
5/12/23  OEA RA**
6/3/23  NEA Delegate Briefing
6/12/23  Central Local Retreat
7/2/23  NEA RA**

*Virtual
**Multi-day event. Start date shown.

Follow us!
Centraloeanea.org
Central OEA/NEA
@Centraloeanea.org