

Winter 2018

# COMMUNIQUE

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



**Power Up  
with Central PD**

**A.L.I.C.E.**

**The Superheroes  
of our Schools**

**The  
Monster  
Under  
the  
Bed**



# Central Leaders and Delegates Assemble for the 2017 All-Area & Delegate Briefing

**David Schottner (Bexley EA), Central Area 5 Representative**

November 10 proved to be the most engaging and interactive All-Area & Delegate Briefing to date.

Upon their arrival, delegates registered and were issued a bingo card to guide their exploration of tables featuring local actions such as Lancaster EA's "Breakfast in the Classroom" grant initiative, the latest in PD and literacy, raffles from OEA retired, and the silent auction that made over \$1,000 for Central OEA's non-dues campaign fund, just to name a few.

Delegates then had their choice of two breakout sessions—one to learn how to write grants to guide growth and development in locals, and one for new delegates to learn the ropes of the December OEA Representative Assembly.

After dinner, delegates participated in an interactive Kahoot game using their phones and devices to learn about all of the great things that Central OEA does on behalf of its members, including issuing grants, hosting professional development, leading political action, awarding scholarships for leadership events and supporting Central members who run for statewide OEA elected positions.

There was time during the meeting for members to chat with delegates from other locals and share our dynamic practices that have helped engage members and advocate for students.

The evening wrapped up with a delegate briefing that included background information on Janis v. AFSCME, the Portage County DD SSA strike, and the exciting announcement that Senator Sherrod Brown and every declared Democratic candidate for Ohio Governor would address the OEA Representative Assembly on December 2 at the State Fairgrounds!



## COMMUNIQUE

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# Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate

Soozie Hetterscheidt (Olentangy TA), OEA Director

Being prepared to act when bad things happen is the uncomfortable reality in which we are living. The worst-case scenario of our fellow human beings' behavior is not a warm, cozy thought. ALICE training and drills prepare us for the possibility of a threat in our school, but what if we apply the same process to the threats our profession faces, so that we are more prepared, together, to face and defeat them?

This article's purpose is not to equate or diminish the threat of active shooters in our nation's schools. The purpose is to make educators aware that there is an active threat to the well-being of our profession and the union that protects our rights in the workplace. If we turn our backs on the reality that is upon us, we will not be prepared to defend teaching as a profession. It will be privatized, and students will become the victims of a monetized education system.

If we lose our rights as professional educators to actively advocate for our students, we are not protecting them from this threat.

## ALERT:

We'd all like to think that everyone values Public Education, but sadly this is not the case. Prior to the 2010 gubernatorial race there were no legislative policies that so negatively impacted education. There is a clear and active threat from corporate reformers to put a consumer price tag on education. What does this mean? When Public Education is turned into a business, it STOPS being about kids and starts being about profit. When unions are disbanded, your profession will no longer be viewed as professional. Your voice will not be heard.

## LOCKDOWN:

Lockdown your rights to bargain for a fair wage and health insurance, and the right to advocate for better learning conditions for your students. A strong collective voice will accomplish far more than any number of individual voices. Immediately following the 2010 election, legislators began the attack on public unions that continues today.

## INFORM:

Stay informed! Your local leaders are charged with keeping members actively involved and up-to-date on the issues impacting public education. If you aren't aware of the threats, how can you be prepared? Ask questions of your local leadership about information they receive at the state level concerning organizing members in the face of the impending SCOTUS Janus v. ACSFME case. Inform stakeholders about the attacks on public education, including parents, administrators and students.

## COUNTER:

You have a voice and a VOTE. Use both with confidence and conviction. Do everything it takes to get Pro-Public Education candidates elected. Donate to FCPE (and if you already donate, increase the contribution), pay attention to local races and ASK a trusted colleague who is informed.

## EVACUATE:

Is there a profession you love more than the one you are in now? If the answer is no, then evacuation is not an option. We must use our collective power to remove those that seek to destroy a free public education system for everyone. There will be those that do not have the means to evacuate a privatized system. What will public education look like for them?

You can no longer hide in your classroom with your head buried, claiming you do not want to get involved. No one will fight for you and your students better than you and your colleagues.

## Educators in the Classroom



Senator Bob Hackett visits to Northwestern High School



Rep Tim Schaffer visiting Barbie Lumbard's kindergarten class at Tallmadge Elementary, Lancaster City Schools








Senator Troy Balderson spent time in Barb Summers' classroom at Tallmadge Elementary

# POWER UP

With Central OEA/NEA PD

March 3, 2018 Columbus Airport Marriott 1375 N Cassady Ave

Five tracks to choose from! You need only register for one track to attend the conference and movement between tracks is permitted

-  *Student Mental Health*  
Explore helpful resources and hear from positive role models for our students
-  *New(ish) Educators*  
Learn about transitioning from student to educator and finding that balance between home and work life
-  *Education Advocacy*  
Learn about Campaign 2018, how to apply for Central Grants and ways to advocate for education issues
-  *Building Local Association Capacity*  
Legal Services information, helpful hints for building reps, and organizing for the future
-  *ESP*  
The benefits of membership and learning about elections to achieve representation at OEA events

## Agenda:

9:00 am	Registration	1:00 pm	Breakout Session
9:45 am	Breakout Session	2:15 pm	Breakout Session
11:00 am	Breakout Session	3:30 pm	Closing & Eval
12:15 pm	Lunch		

**Earn Free CEU's, hang out with friends, network with colleagues, and Power Up with some awesome PD!**

**Registration Required**     [www.centraloeanea.org](http://www.centraloeanea.org)

# The Changing Faces of Poverty and its Impact in Our Schools



2018 Central  
OEA/NEA  
Diversity  
Conference

Recognizing the impact of poverty on student learning and education. The conference will focus on providing educators with tools to positively impact this growing community within our schools.

January 20th, 2018  
8:30am - 3:00pm  
947 Goodale Blvd, Columbus  
Registration is open on our website  
[www.centraloecnea.org](http://www.centraloecnea.org)

This conference is free for all Central members, and attendees will earn contact hours towards their license renewal.

# The **SUPERHEROES** of Our Schools

**Diana Long (WESP), Central ESP Representative**

On November 13, Central OEA/NEA members began American Education Week by honoring Education Support Professionals (ESPs). American Education Week honors individuals like you who are making a difference and ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

The theme for the evening was Education Support Professionals: The Superheroes of Our Schools. We chose this theme because ESPs play a significant role in keeping our students and schools safe.

We recognized the nine classifications of ESPs as identified by NEA: clerical services, custodial and maintenance, food service, health and student services, para-educators, security services, skilled trades, technical service, and transportation.

Support staff members from the following associations were in attendance: Dublin, Reynoldsburg, Grandview Heights, Pickerington, Licking Heights, Northwestern, NEOEA, Westerville, Southeastern and Worthington, along with several Central board members.

Cheryl Williams (Dublin S.S.A.), the OEA ESP At-Large Director reminded us of the opportunity available through OEA for members and their family members to earn an associate degree online [www.freecollege.ohea.org](http://www.freecollege.ohea.org).

Thank you, ESPs, the superheroes ensuring and promoting safety in our schools. Each of you plays an important role in the education of students. You do the work that often goes unnoticed and I want to encourage you to continue to inspire, lead and be a superhero every day.



# The Monster Under the Bed

**Diane Valentino (Olentangy TA)**

The monster under the bed is real for Ohio's third graders. Since 2015, the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee has been keeping our youngest students awake and afraid of the dark. As a fourth-grade teacher, I am seeing the after-effects of this test and punish regulation and am calling on our legislators to undo this damaging policy.

I see the battle-worn, traumatized faces of children who now view reading as nothing but a mountain that they must climb in order to "make it" to fourth grade. Being "held back" has long been striking fear in the hearts and minds of elementary-age children and their parents. The idea of retention has been used as a threat, a misguided motivator, or a cautionary tale for years with little success.

Basic reading is a developmental skill and must be grown in a garden of solid resources, adult encouragement and time. Children do not walk, talk or eat with a spoon on one state-specified date, nor do their families receive letters outlining the consequences of not reaching these developmental goals. The reading intervention needs to continue; but punishment and public shaming need to stop.

Motivation comes in many forms, you may remember rising victoriously to the challenge of one or more educators, mentors, coaches or family members. What you don't remember is the years of psychological development it took for you to realize that it was just that, a challenge, not a threat that you were powerless to overcome.

You see, a seven-year-olds do not yet possess the self-actualization skills needed to realize that they just need to work harder, with more grit and stamina, in order to reach a goal, especially a goal that has been hijacked into a political football for arbitrary reasons. They just know that they have not cracked the secret code of reading. They only see that their parents and teachers are worried, and that there is a lot of extra work they need to do to "catch up."

Do they need the support of extra personnel and programs? Yes! They also need policy makers to be their childhood champions and their defenders, not their judges and juries.



# Members Convene for the Fall OEA Representative Assembly

**Brittany Alexander (Hilliard EA)**

The OEA Representative Assembly met on Saturday, December 2, in Columbus. 816 registered delegates from around the state convened to guide and approve the work of our association. Delegates were called to order by President Becky Higgins, then welcomed with a moving invocation by Central member Linna Jordan.

A highlight for delegates was the gubernatorial candidates' visits and speeches. While all seven announced candidates were invited, only the four Democratic candidates accepted the invitation and appeared before us. Candidates were introduced by President Higgins and given ten minutes to address the assembly before exiting with an opportunity to meet and interact with delegates along the way.

Included below is a link to each candidates website so you can learn more about their stances on the issues. Candidates appeared in the following order:

- Betty Sutton, former State Representative and Congresswoman [www.bettysutton.com](http://www.bettysutton.com)
- Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton [nanwhaleyforohio.com](http://nanwhaleyforohio.com)
- Joe Schiavoni, State Senator [joeforjobs.com](http://joeforjobs.com)
- Connie Pillich, former State Representative [www.conniepillich.com](http://www.conniepillich.com)

Delegates were treated a speech by Senator Sherrod Brown. Having fought and voted against the Senate version of the tax reform bill in the early hours of Saturday morning, he was gracious enough to be there with us only hours later. Senator Brown shared details about the bill, its potential impact and the process by which it was passed by the majority party in the Senate. He also addressed our activism in opposition to the nomination of Betsy DeVos to Secretary of Education, reminding us of our power as a united voice within and beyond our union. His office received unprecedented numbers of calls and emails: 260 in support of, and 36,000 against her nomination. Senator Brown discussed implementation of ESSA and the mess of Ohio's charter schools. It was clear for delegates to see why Senator Brown was endorsed by OEA for his reelection in 2018.

Following the speeches, delegates amended and adopted OEA's Legislative Policy Statement document. A number of amendments were proposed to align with NEA's policy on charter schools, adopted in July at the NEA RA. Two Central members introduced amendments that were

approved by the delegation and included in the final passage. Delegates also discussed and passed two new business items, directing OEA toward actions related to graduation requirements for the Class of 2018 and the creation of a Special Education Work Group to "address the needs of OEA members involved in or supporting education programs for students with special needs."

All told, it was an informative and productive day for our association.

## Help Reach Your New Year Goals with NEA Member Benefits

As we start the new year, many people have made resolutions to save money and budget more.

NEA Member Benefits can help you reach that goal!

**The NEA Click & Save** Program includes a variety of stores and can save you big bucks. The deals of the day change and offer a percentage off the prices. You checkout directly with the store website.

**COSTCO** - You can receive \$60 in free products when you sign up for a new membership. Make sure you purchase the membership through the NEA Members Benefit page to receive the certificate for free items.

**LifeLock** - With data breaches occurring all too often, protecting your identity is sadly now a new normal. With the LifeLock discount you receive a 30-day free trial and 10% off the monthly cost when you decide to purchase their services.

Happy Saving!



# COMMUNIQUÉ

Winter 2018

THANK YOU

## FOR BEING A MEMBER OF Central OEA/NEA

You are the true expert in education!

You deserve a voice  
in how best to educate our students.

We are here to support you.

Adrienne & Kevin,  
Central Leadership



### Association Benefits

**Free Contact Hours** (toward license renewal)

State Member Advocacy

Financial Support for Levy Campaigns

### Upcoming Events

Jan 20	Central Diversity Conference
Jan 30	OEA Lobby Day
Mar 3	Central Power Up Conference
Apr 20	Central RA
May 11-12	OEA RA