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VIEWPOINT

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View our web site at:
eastern.oea.us

2012 Spring OEA Representative Assembly Report

Tim Myers of the Elida Education Association, was elected Secretary/Treasurer of OEA at the Spring RA. Myers will serve a three year term. He replaces Jim Timlin who is term-limited.

Delegates also voted to launch a new effort to recruit employees of Ohio charter schools as members of the OEA.

Several candidates have declared their intent to seek the office of OEA President at next Spring's RA. They include - Bill Leibensperger, Becky Higgins, and Andre Taylor. Scott DiMauro has declared his candidacy for OEA Vice President.

By an overwhelming majority, delegates voted to approve a one-time \$22 dues assessment

to help fund the effort to gather petition signatures and support the the Voters First Initiative to amend the Ohio Constitution on redistricting and reapportionment.

The VFI proposal will create an Independent Citizens Commission. Politicians, lobbyists and political insiders are prohibited from serving on the Commission. The Commission's work will be open and it will be accountable to the public. The Commission will empower voters to choose their politicians instead of politicians picking their voters.

In order to qualify for the election this fall, the coalition behind Voters First needs to collect over 386,000 valid signatures by July 4, 2012.

NEA-R Dues to Increase

Join NEA-R before September 1st and save. This summer the lifetime dues will increase an additional \$50 for a total of \$250. Additional increases are expected for future years.

Active members can join as pre-retired members and avoid future increases. You may join one or both, but you must be a member of both OEA-R and NEA-R once you retire.

August !!

On Tuesday, August 14, 2012, we will be offering several workshops for local leaders and volunteers.

The annual Local Treasurers workshop will be conducted by OEA Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Timlin. Attendance at this workshop is one of the requirements of the OEA Fiscal Fitness Award.

There will be a workshop to discuss the "new" evaluation system for Ohio and the other will instruct members how to create and maintain the local association websites that have been setup by OEA.

Following the workshops we will host our annual Local Leaders Picnic at the Saint Clairsville Park in the Rotary Pavilion. All workshop attendees are encouraged to attend as well as other local leaders.

Please RSVP for these events by Tuesday, August 7, 2012, by emailing to:
oea.eastern@gmail.com

Remember to indicate which workshop you wish to attend. All workshops are offered at the same time, so you will only be able to attend one.

Nellie's Notes

I would like to take this time to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your EOEA President. I have learned a lot this year about the demands and operations of being an EOEA officer. I hope I have lived up to your expectations and served you well, as I take this responsibility very seriously. I hope that you will contact me with concerns and about services you feel are needed in your local. I will work with you to get those items taken care of and resolved.

As we look to end one year and start yet another, I have a task to ask of you. The OEA is involved with yet another very important initiative, Voters First. In the next couple of weeks and months, the OEA will be asking you to take part in a nonpartisan campaign to end gerrymandering in the state of Ohio. I encourage you to participate in this process. For those of you who are politically active, this process will seem "old school", but for those of you who like to hide behind the scenes, this will provide a nonthreatening opportunity to make a difference. As much as we as teachers would like to think that our jobs are not political in nature, the governance and history in the state of Ohio has forced a new realization. Please play an active role in this campaign; your job satisfaction may depend on it.

STRS News

Changes to our retirement system are starting through the legislative process. The Ohio Senate has introduced SB 342 which addresses our system. Other bills were introduced to cover the four (4) other public retirement systems.

Hearings have been held and the bill was voted out of committee on Tuesday, May 15th. The

Senate then passed the bill on May 16th. The bill now goes to the Ohio House for their consideration.

To see what is in the bill and what you can do to encourage its passage go to the following website:

<https://www.strsoh.org/legislation/main.html>

Local Association Websites

For several years OEA has provided local associations the opportunity to have a website. They have recently changed the procedure for creating and maintaining those sites to make the process more user friendly.

One of the workshops this August will provide your local web-

master with the skills to have your site up and running in a very short time.

Darren Clum from OEA will lead the workshop and it is hoped that everyone will finish the day with a website that members will be able to access for the latest association news.

EOEA Spring RA Report

The 2012 Spring RA was held on April 19th at Undo's in Saint Clairsville. We had 51 delegates and 8 guests attend.

A motion was made from the floor to endorse Tim Myers for OEA Secretary/Treasurer. The motion carried.

Elected to the EOE Board of Directors were: Adreinne Cook from Harrison, M.J. Burkett from Jefferson(A) and Deborah Day from Monroe. Alisha Steele was elected as alternate

for Harrison, Keith Coss as alternate for Monroe and Tom Komisak as alternate for Jefferson(A).

Motions to consider different locations for future RAs and workshops were made. Locating workshops across the districts was recommended to the Board of Directors. Moving the RA location was defeated.

The Crisis Fund raffle winner was Laura Crozier from Shady-side. She won \$164.