

Ohio Schools

MARCH 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Profession

- average (grassroots) members
- local leaders w/ varying opinions (both sides)
- Through RAs
- Possible survey??? (include definitions)
- Really listen to opposite viewpoints
- Broaden to communities (parents, voters)
- Business + industry individuals that may enter profession
- Prospective teaching candidates

Crisis and Change

in public education

Federal initiative for economy approved p14

Strickland state budget proposal:
What will it mean for Ohio's schools? p17

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photo by Bill Lavezzi

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Ohio Schools

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The professional publication of the 130,000 members of the Ohio Education Association

The OEA Mission Statement:

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

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Reality check

A CRISIS WITH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL IMPLICATIONS CALLS US TO ADVOCACY AND ACTION

As I've traveled throughout Ohio in recent months, two things have become very clear: The impact of this recession is personal; and the impact of this recession is professional.

The people feeling the worst effects of the economic downturn are people we know—our family members, our friends and neighbors. Many are among the more than 4.4 million people who have now lost their jobs since the recession began. Many are struggling to keep up with mortgage payments, health and child care expenses, utility bills and tuition costs.

The impact of this recession is also professional. The economy has profoundly affected our lives as educators, and the potential for painful cuts in education funding is real.

In a time of crisis, the job of the Ohio Education Association is to advocate for the preservation of public education funding and the economic security of its members. Our job is to come together—as members, leaders and staff—to make recovery and renewal a reality.

We advocated at the federal level for passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that President Barack Obama signed into law on February 17. This landmark legislation will help struggling families, public schools and states around the country cope with the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Ohio will receive at least \$8.2 billion in federal funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Of this, \$981 million is aimed at transforming and modernizing public schools for the 21st century.

In Ohio, we are working with Governor Ted Strickland, who recently introduced extensive education reforms and a new funding plan for Ohio schools, including a budget that preserves education programs and expands learning opportunities for Ohio students.

The Governor has protected public schools from budget reductions, despite \$1.8 billion in overall cuts this year to other state government programs, preserving an estimated \$900 million in education programs. In his 2010-2011 budget, the Governor has proposed a budget increase of \$925 million, beginning the phase-in of a wide range of programs to improve the quality of public education in Ohio.

The state budget bill for fiscal years 2010-2011, Substitute House Bill 1, was introduced February 24. OEA views Governor Strickland's overall vision for public education positively, and is committed to working on solving problematic issues.

OEA will continue to be at the table in discussions on the education budget, school funding and education reform and will work to secure funding, uphold collective bargaining rights and shape a promising future for our members and the learners we serve.



OEA will be strong in our advocacy for our principles and for our members—both in these discussions and in collective bargaining, where many of these proposals must be implemented.

The economic and education proposals set forward by our president and our governor demonstrate that they understand that ensuring great public schools for every student is fundamental to the long-term economic well-being of our nation and our state.

The information shared in this issue about education funding and reform is intended to offer background and to start conversation on how we, as educators, can best work together—with each other and with our elected leaders—for the future of public education.

Just as we are all affected by this crisis, we are all responsible for responding to the challenges and opportunities it creates.

**Together, we'll keep listening,
keep learning and keep leading.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Frost-Brooks".

Patricia Frost-Brooks
OEA President

State Children's Health Insurance Program expansion a legislative victory for NEA

On February 4, President Barack Obama signed into law a new State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) law—the federal government's insurance program for the nation's poorest children—expanding the number of participants from 7 million to 11 million.



THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION

- expands coverage for another 4.1 million uninsured children for a total of 11 million;
- provides an additional \$32.8 billion through Sept. 30, 2013, by increasing federal excise taxes on tobacco products. The tax on cigarettes will go up 62 cents to \$1.01 a pack;
- provides \$100 million in grants for states, local governments, schools and others to enroll more eligible children;
- requires states to offer a dental benefit;
- allows states to offer SCHIP dental coverage to children whose private medical insurance does not cover dentist visits;
- allows states to extend SCHIP and Medicaid to newly arrived legal immigrant children and pregnant women; and
- allows states to use Social Security numbers to verify an applicant's citizenship, making it easier to prove eligibility and enroll in the program.

SCHIP was established in 1997 to provide matching funds to states in order to provide health insurance to children in families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. At its creation in 1997, SCHIP was the largest expansion of taxpayer-funded health insurance coverage for children in the U.S. since Medicaid began in the 1960s. The statutory authority for SCHIP is under Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

States are given flexibility in designing their SCHIP eligibility requirements and policies within broad federal guidelines. Some states have received authority to use SCHIP funds to cover the parents of children receiving benefits from SCHIP and Medicaid, pregnant women and other adults. SCHIP covered 6.6 million children and 670,000 adults during fiscal year 2006, and every state has an approved plan. Despite SCHIP, the number of uninsured children continued to rise, particularly among families that cannot qualify for SCHIP.

In Ohio in 2008, there were an estimated 251,278 children enrolled in SCHIP with family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Under the 2009 program, Ohio's projected allotments are \$293.7 million, an increase of 87% over its original FY2009 federal SCHIP allotments.

NEA was successful in getting the SCHIP legislation passed by both houses of Congress twice before only to see President Bush veto the bill both times.

While the legislation was passed by the U.S. Senate with a bipartisan vote of 66-32 and the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 290-135, seven members of Congress endorsed by NEA in their last election voted against the measure.

President Barack Obama pledges to make education a national priority in address to Congress

President Barack Obama addressed a joint session of Congress on February 24 to outline his ambitious vision for America in the 21st century, pledging to make education a national priority in his administration and usher a new era of national service for this and future generations.

In a global economy, where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity. It is a pre-requisite.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

President Obama noted that three-quarters of the fastest-growing occupations require more than a high school diploma, and yet just over half of American citizens have that level of education. He further noted that America has one of the highest high school drop-out rates of any industrialized nation, and that half of the students who begin college never finish.

"This is a prescription for economic decline, because we know the countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow," the President said. "That is why it will be the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education, from the day they are born to the day they begin a career. That is a promise we have to make to the children of America."

The President's address followed his signing of legislation to provide health care coverage to 11 million children (See "State Children's Health Insurance Program expansion a legislative victory for NEA" on p3.) On February 17, he signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, landmark legislation to help struggling families, public schools and states around the country cope with the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression (See "Federal stimulus package includes \$981 million in education funds for Ohio, p14.") With the help of the National Education Association (NEA), he successfully urged Congress to make the largest investment of federal funds in the history of public education, aiming to transform and modernize public schools for the 21st century.

"On behalf of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, we thank President Barack Obama for making public education a national priority and calling on all Americans to join him on his quest to usher in a new era of national service in the name of Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch



photos compliments of Gretchen Washington

(Top) OEA Board of Directors members Gretchen Washington (Sycamore), left, and Deloris Rome Hudson (Hamilton), right, were among the OEA representatives who witnessed the historic Inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C.

(Above) Pictured left to right, OEA Vice President William Leibensperger (South-Western), ECOEA Vice President Kathleen Purdy (Plain Local), U.S. Representative John Boccieri (CD16) and his wife Stacey Kennedy-Boccieri attend Ohio's Inauguration celebration.

(R-UT)," NEA President Dennis Van Roekel said. "His vision for public education is one we firmly embrace, affirming that the road to economic recovery and prosperity runs through the nation's classrooms.

"Moving forward, we believe President Obama will make the tough decisions to tackle the pressing issues of our times—bringing economic security, restoring fiscal discipline, modernizing the nation's education system and ushering energy independence. The president also plans to tackle health care reform, which is important not only to our economic future but also critically important to our nation's children and their families. Students can't learn unless they come to school healthy."



OEA

is pleased to announce
the upcoming 2009
Educator Lobby Days

April 28, 2009

May 12, 2009

- *Protect funding for public education*
- *Provide economic security for our members*

Educator Lobby Day provides an opportunity for OEA members to meet with state legislators to discuss key educational issues. In an effort to broaden support for public education issues and build partnerships, we have invited education partners, including administrators, school board members, students and parents to join our lobby day efforts.

Please join your OEA colleagues at the OEA Headquarters' Media Center, 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio at 9 a.m. for an hour-long briefing at the beginning of each lobby day. We strongly encourage you to schedule your meetings with your legislators prior to the lobby day you plan to attend. The legislative information can be found at www.legislature.state.oh.us/.

If you need further information or would like to attend Educator Lobby Days, please contact Jada Wilson at wilsonja@ohea.org or 1 800 282 1500 or register online at

http://ga1.org/ohea/events/lobbydayapr282009_1593002/details.tcl (April 28, 2009)

http://ga1.org/ohea/events/lobbydaymay122009_1593003/details.tcl (May 12, 2009)

The OEA Legislative Reception will be held May 12 at the Ohio Theatre Pavilion from 5-7:30 p.m.

The Legislative Reception offers an additional opportunity for members to discuss education issues with legislators and OEA leaders.

If you need further information or would like to attend the OEA Legislative Reception, please contact Briana McKay at mckayb@ohea.org or 1 800 282 1500 or register online at

http://ga1.org/ohea/events/lobbydaymay122009_1593004/details.tcl



Better teacher development is key to student success

NATIONAL REPORT SAYS
U.S. PROVIDES INADEQUATE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

Sustained and intensive professional development for teachers has a direct and positive impact on student achievement. American teachers report that much of the professional development available to them is not useful. That's the message from a national report released February 4 by the National Staff Development Council.

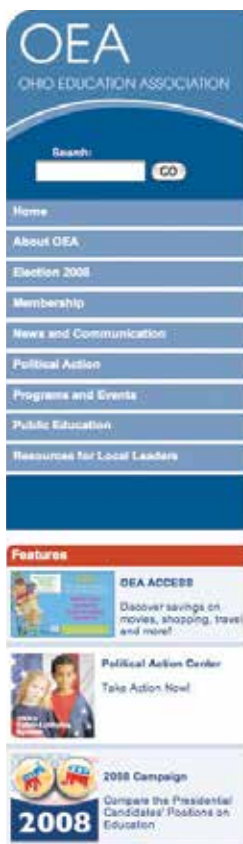
"This is just the latest study that makes the point that real and sustained student achievement happens when teachers are provided meaningful professional development opportunities throughout their career," said Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association. "Teachers need time to engage in sustained and focused professional development that is collaborative and focused on content."

The NSDC study looked at professional development of teachers in the United States, compared those results with nations around the world, and cross-referenced their findings with student achievement in each country. The results are clear. Nations that invest the most in continually improving and strengthening the skills of their educators have the highest gains in student achievement.

According to the study, nine out of 10 teachers in the U.S. have participated in professional learning opportunities, but almost all have been short-term conferences and workshops. The report notes that those learning opportunities are too seldom tied to subject content, identified by teachers as being not useful, do not foster professional collaboration, are often paid for by teachers themselves, and are providing little help with the challenges teachers face in effectively reaching students with special needs or with limited English proficiency.

According to the report, other nations where students outperform those in the United States invest heavily in professional learning for their educators and provide time that is built into the teachers' work hours for ongoing, intensive professional development and collaboration.

"There is no easy or quick way to increase student achievement," said Van Roekel, "but we now have research that shows us what works. If the United States is truly serious about helping every student succeed, we will invest in research-based professional development programs that get us there, and we'll have the patience to let them work."



OEA on the Web

A GUIDE TO THE BEST FEATURES ON OEA'S WEB SITE, www.ohea.org.

Most Popular Online Stories for February

1. Share OEA Talking Points on Governor's Education Proposals
2. Gov. Strickland seeks transformation of Ohio public education
3. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965: From the War on Poverty to No Child Left Behind
4. Why Collective Bargaining matters—especially now!
5. OEA's First Annual Collective Bargaining Conference



Why collective bargaining matters—strategies for an economic crisis

New laws, statutes, regulations and policies have all made negotiating more difficult. Adding to the complexity are the diverse values, positions, backgrounds, styles of communication and bargaining and levels of experience held by those on both sides of the bargaining table.

See <http://www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=6&Content=13230>

Here's a short list of important web resources on education reform, school funding and the economic recovery.

The economic stimulus: How will it boost education in your state, a special report from NEA, www.nea.org/home/ns/29549.htm.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, www.21stcenturyskills.org.

The U.S. Department of Education website on economic recovery funding for public education, www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery

The Ohio economic recovery web site, <http://recovery.ohio.gov>.

Governor Ted Strickland's education reform and school funding discussion site, www.conversationoneducation.org.



Ohio Schools online

If you missed our January-February issue of *Ohio Schools* magazine, you've missed a lot—bulletins on the economic crisis, school funding, education reform and the Ohio state budget. But it's not too late! The online edition of *Ohio Schools* appears in the News and Communications section of the OEA web site every month. Please see www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?page=2&TopicID=6&TopicRelationID=121.



OEA Teacher Tips

The OEA web site's Multimedia section contains the OEA Teacher Tips Videos, a collection of six short video presentations on how students can do better when parents and guardians are interested and supportive. OEA has gathered suggestions from teachers across the state and shares them via Ohio News Network television programs, the ONN web site at www.10tv.com/live/content/onnews/oea.html, and of course, at www.ohea.org.

Getting Ready for Tomorrow



On April 3 and 4, 2009, the Ohio Education Association will present Getting Ready for Tomorrow: Building 21st Century Learning Skills to Close Achievement Gaps Conference. This event will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Dublin, OH. This conference is designed to help participants understand 21st Century learning skills necessary to succeed in our exponentially changing environment and help participants develop the leadership capacity to positively transform schools. Please see www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=102&Content=13405.

Maximize the value of your membership

The OEA Access discount program provides coupons and discounts for national brands of merchandise, for local services and dining and for tickets to movies, theme parks and cruises. The savings can add up, and the OEA Access calculator at www.memberweb.com/Memberweb/savingsCalculator.aspx# can show you how.

Create—and celebrate: March is Youth Art and Music in Our Schools Month!

Youth Art Month is an annual observance that emphasizes the value of art education for all children and encourages support for quality school art programs. The Council for Art Education (CFAE) is the sponsor of Youth Art Month which was established in the 1980s.

The theme for Youth Art Month in 2009 is “Start with Art, Learn for Life.” The event offers an opportunity for students to gain new skills and experiences in the visual arts while preparing them for a lifelong appreciation for the creative process.

- Plan a celebration of the talents in your school by hosting an art show in the lobby, library or town hall. Get more ideas from the Council for Art Education, http://acminet.org/youth_art_month.htm.
- Celebrate the birthday of a famous artist like Michelangelo Buonarroti (March 6), Piet Mondrian (March 7), Elaine de Kooning (March 12), Rosa Bonheur (March 22) and Vincent van Gogh (March 30).



The National Association for Music Education also designates March as Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation.

MIOSM began as a single statewide celebration in 1973, and has grown over the decades to encompass a day, then a week, and then in 1985 to become a month-long celebration of school music.

The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children—and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.

- Make a “Music Month” calendar, and suggest that students dress for different musical eras.
- Play appropriate music as students arrive in the morning and at lunchtime.
- Plan an all-school sing.
- Collaborate with the art teacher and have students design posters, banners, and buttons featuring the MIOSM theme.
- Collaborate with your school’s history or social studies departments to create cross-curricular activities based on the theme of the concert or the pieces being performed.
- Have students list ways in which music is a part of their everyday lives. Have them compare lists with friends and family members.
- Avery Elementary School in Hilliard, held a month long Composer Contest. Each week featured a new composer, and clues were provided every day that became more specific throughout the week.
- At Santrock Elementary School in Barberton, students sang and played their band instruments during the morning announcements throughout March, and some of the beginning band members performed at the monthly PTA meeting.
- The band at Worthingway Middle School in Worthington took their MIOSM celebrations as an opportunity to perform “young people’s concerts” at local elementary schools.





Educators invited to join social responsibility program

Educators and administrators for students in grades 5-12 are invited to learn more about the Project Citizen program first hand on Friday, May 15 at the Ohio Statehouse. Through interdisciplinary, hands-on activities, Project Citizen empowers students to make or impact public policy.

Interested educators are invited to observe the culminating show-case and learn how Project Citizen

works. Project Citizen is presented by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. The Center is sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Attorney General, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the ACLU of Ohio Foundation.

More information is available at www.oclre.org or contact Addie Natalie, Project Citizen program coordinator, at 614 485 3507 or anatalie@oclre.org.

Law Day video contest seeks entries showing "What courts do for US"



Are you an aspiring filmmaker looking to start your film career? A middle school student dreaming of becoming a lawyer or student participant in your school's mock trial program? A citizen wanting to share your views about the role of our courts in our lives?

If you are, enter the Ohio State Bar Association's Justice 4 All: What Courts Do for US YouTube video contest in celebration of Law Day 2009 which takes place each year on May 1. Create a video about the role of courts in our democracy, and why fair and impartial courts are essential to our justice system.

The OSBA will choose two winners: one from videos submitted by Ohio residents under 18, and one from videos submitted by Ohioans 18 and older. Each will receive \$500.

ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS MUST:

- Create a three-minute or less video based on the theme: "What courts do for US."
- Fill out the contest entry form. If under 18, get parent's permission.
- Post the video to www.YouTube.com/group/justice4all by 11:59 p.m. (EST) March 15, 2009.
- Print the contest flier and post to spread the word about the contest!

Entry forms and rules are available at www.ohiobar.org/pub/?articleID=1413.

Established in 1958, Law Day celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. Every year, Law Day provides legal professionals and others with an opportunity to help students and the public understand how the law protects our freedoms.

Saturn gives back to those who give so much.



Saturn has always valued the extraordinary work of our educational community. Now, the company is giving back with its **Saturn Thanks Educators** program, offering great deals to educators on Saturn's fuel-efficient reliable products.

Many of us are members of credit unions, and right now, educators associated with a credit union can take advantage of the **Credit Union Member Discount** on any new Saturn vehicle in addition to current offers. To receive your discount, simply follow these steps:

- Go to saturn.com/educators and click the "Register Now" button next to the **Saturn Thanks Educators** logo.
- Follow the steps to log in and get your authorization code.
- Take the code and credit union membership card or statement to your local Saturn retailer.

All 2008 and 2009 Saturn vehicles come with the confidence of the best coverage in America—the Saturn 100,000-Mile/5-Year Transferable Powertrain Warranty, plus Roadside Assistance and Courtesy Transportation programs. And, Saturn's complete lineup of innovative vehicles gives savvy shoppers plenty of smart choices they can feel good about.

For more information on current offers, visit www.saturn.com/educators or your local retailer.



Apply now for the NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow program

The NEA Leaders for Tomorrow program is a three-session training program, held over an eight month period, that is open to any current NEA ESP member who has been an NEA member in good standing for at least the last three years. Candidates must be nominated for the program and have their application acknowledged and signed by their state Association. The program trains both current and future leaders in leadership attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enhance their ability to be visible, vocal advocates at the local, state and national levels of the NEA.

Three training sessions will be held: July 22-26, 2009, location to be determined; November 13-15, 2009, Washington, DC; and March 7-14, 2010 (includes attendance at the NEA ESP National Conference), location to be determined.

All participants are fully funded as allowed under the NEA travel guidelines, including transportation, lodging, meals and substitute pay or salary reimbursement, including attendance at the ESP conference.

To apply to be part of the Leaders For Tomorrow program, download the application packet at www.nea.org/home/ns/30163.htm.

Complete the application on a computer by opening the file and filling in the answers in the spaces provided. Then print out the application and send it to NEA c/o: Lisa Connor, Program Coordinator, NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow, 1201 16th St. NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20036. You may also email the application to LConnor@nea.org, or fax it to 202 822 7624. If you email or fax, you must still mail in a hard copy with signatures. Completed applications must be received no later than March 30, 2009. Please note that all applications must be typed.

All applicants must have a letter of acknowledgement signed by the State Affiliate President or Executive Director. This letter is not an endorsement of the candidate, but rather an acknowledgement by state affiliate leadership that they are aware of who is applying. No applications will be accepted without this acknowledgement letter.

NEA and OEA Board
of Directors member
Jim McClure (Mentor ESP)



photo by Bill Lavezzi

NEA seeks Friend of Education Award nominees

The Friend of Education Award is NEA's highest honor and may be bestowed on an individual or organization whose leadership acts or support have significantly benefited education, education employees or students on a national scale.

The deadline to nominate candidates for this award is April 3, 2009.

Letters of nomination must include:

- Name of nominee
- Nominee's position and/or organizational affiliation
- Nominee's mailing address (or organization mailing address)
Name of the nominator or affiliate
- Signature of the nominator or affiliate officer
- Name of nominator's local affiliate, if applicable
- Nominator's mailing address and telephone number
- If the nominator is an NEA member, send proof of membership (e.g. an NEA Today mailing label with a membership number).
- In 100 words or less, indicate the reason for your nomination, and summarize the nominee's qualifications for the award. Nominees will be evaluated based on leadership, acts and support of education on a national scale.
- Supporting materials, such as publications or videos, may be submitted along with the nomination information.

Submit all nomination materials to: NEA Friend of Education Award Committee, Executive Office, Attn: Joyce Parker, National Education Association, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Nominations may also be faxed to 202 822 7974.

OEA member named National Vocational Teacher of the Year

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) recently named OEA member **James Scott**, who teaches Turf, Landscape and Greenhouse Management at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City, the National Vocation Teacher of the Year.

Scott manages a 20-acre land laboratory on site and serves as a co-advisor for the FFA chapter and as a mentor. Scott has developed an advisory committee of 21 representatives including businesses, colleges, parents and students that assist in making decisions about expanding facilities and/or purchasing equipment. In 2006, Scott created Ohio's Sequenced Horticulture Curriculum Model.

Scott joined Tolles in 2004, and his involvement with the program has increased enrollment from nine students with no career placement or college bound students to 23 students who are 100 percent successfully employed, enrolled in a postsecondary program or in the military.



James Scott, the National Vocation Teacher of the Year

His students volunteer in the community working on various projects including "Breakfast with the Superintendent" when the students share program goals for the school year and their career goals at least once a year. The students have created a state-of-the-art greenhouse facility where they grow seasonal flowers and plants. Their efforts have resulted in nearly \$12,000 in sales. Since Scott joined Tolles, he has been able to add more than \$190,000 in new equipment and \$60,000 in donations from the green industry.



ACTE Regional Teacher of the Year winners and the Teacher of the Year recipient were honored in Charlotte, North Carolina at the association's national convention. Pictured left to right are Kathryn Gifford, Health Sciences Teacher at Kearney Public Schools in Kearney, Nebraska; Shelley Carter, Business Education Teacher at West Watkins Technology Center in Wetumba, Oklahoma; James Scott, Teacher of the Year recipient and agriculture instructor at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City, Ohio; Grace Decken, Health Science instructor at Daniel Morgan Technical Center in Roebuck, South Carolina, and Vicki Hillsman, Marketing Instructor at El Dorado Springs High School in El Dorado Springs, Missouri.

How to save a life



Step one: Become an organ and tissue donor during National Donate Life Month

As you read this, more than 100,000 Americans are on the waiting list for organ transplants. An average of 17 people die each day while waiting for a life-saving transplant.

On any given day, nearly 2,500 Ohioans are waiting for an organ transplant, with 70 percent waiting for a kidney transplant due to end-stage kidney disease. Hundreds of others are in need of cornea and tissue transplants. Each year more than 1,600 Ohioans could have their sight restored through cornea transplants, and thousands more could benefit from tissue transplants, including, bone, tendons, skin and heart valves.

So far, however, scientists have not found a way around the basic imperative that organs be taken undamaged, and quickly, from their donors. And only about 12,000 people a year die in circumstances—such as brain death after a car crash—that make them suitable donors for transplants.

The real problem, experts say, is that many of these people do not become organ donors. No matter how often Americans tell pollsters that donating an organ is a wonderful thing, less than half the population has signed up to actually do so. When it falls to a family to decide after a loved one's death, only about 50 percent give permission.

It's statistics like these—combined with a deep interest in helping others—that led OEA-Retired member **Donald Traxler** to draft a proposal for a New Business Item at the May 2005 Representative Assembly. Fellow delegates and members adopted the resolution

“... that OEA shall annually provide information about and promote the designation of April as National Donate Life month to promote organ and tissue donation throughout Ohio. Such information and promotion shall be included in regular publications.”

A recently-released national report card prepared by Donate Life America shows that despite a 10 percent increase in donor designations over the last 18 months only 35 percent of licensed drivers and ID card holders have registered to be donors through their state registry or motor vehicle department.

To focus public attention on this critical gap, Donate Life America has partnered with Discovery Health. To commemorate National Donate Life Month, the cable network will feature primetime airings of the three-part special **TRANSPLANT** throughout April. Discovery Health also will air public service announcements targeted toward recruiting new donors and will feature donor registration information on www.DiscoveryHealth.com.

Fact: Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race or medical history.

Fact: All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

Fact: If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

Fact: When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type and other important medical information, not your financial status or celebrity status.



In 2006, Donate Life America launched the Donor Designation Collaborative (DDC) as a nationwide effort to improve organ, eye and tissue donation rates in the United States. One of the main tactics to achieving the DDC's goals was ensuring that each state had an effective system for allowing individuals to legally designate themselves as donors. The primary goal of the DDC is to obtain 100 million actionable donor designations—commitments of individuals to donate their organs and /or tissues upon their death that are recorded in a searchable donor registry.

A secondary goal is to attain a 50 percent designation rate among licensed drivers in every state—that is, half of all people applying for or renewing a driver's license or ID card register to be donors. In 2007, only four states had a designation rate of at least 50 percent: Iowa (67 percent), Colorado (60 percent), Ohio (52 percent) and Utah (50 percent).

In 2007, 1,521 organ donors had joined their state registry before their death. Approximately 4,600 people received lifesaving organ transplants as a result. Additionally, it is estimated that registered donors enhanced or saved the lives of more than 300,000 people through tissue donation and gave sight to more than 14,000 through cornea donation.

BE A HERO

LEARN MORE ON LINE

An important component of the mission of Ohio's organ procurement organizations is to educate people of all ages about the need for organ and tissue donors, as well as the benefits of donating life. If you would like more information or would like to request a program, contact: Lifeline of Ohio [Central Ohio] www.lifelineofohio.org, LifeBanc [Northeastern Ohio] at info@lifebanc.org, Life Center [Cincinnati] at www.lifecnt.org, Life Connection of Ohio [Northwest/ West Central Ohio] at www.lifeconnectionofohio.org. For additional information, visit Donate Life Ohio at www.donatelifehio.org.

Created and maintained by Donate Life America, www.donevida.org addresses misinformation and mistrust of the transplant network and the healthcare system among Hispanics.

The web site, www.organtransplants.org, focuses on the miracle of organ, eye and tissue transplantation in America.

Created and maintained by United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), www.unos.org is the organ transplantation and donation data and information resource for medical professionals and the general public.

Created and maintained by UNOS, the Transplant Living web site, www.transplantliving.org, is the definitive information and education resource for transplant patients and their families.

Maintained by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Healthcare Systems Bureau (HSB), Division of Transplantation, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human, www.organdonor.gov is the U.S. Government Web site for organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation.

JOIN THE OHIO DONOR REGISTRY

The Ohio Donor Registry gives all Ohioans the opportunity to make a personal decision concerning donation. Placing your name in the Ohio Donor Registry is more than just an expression of interest in becoming a donor, it is a way to legally give consent for the anatomical gift of your organs, tissues and eyes upon your death, for any purposes authorized by law. The Registry also allows you the opportunity to indicate restrictions or specifications to your anatomical gift.

The Ohio Donor Registry is a statewide database of Ohioans who have indicated their wish to become a donor upon their death. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles maintains the system and access is limited to the donation professionals at Ohio's organ, tissue and eye recovery agencies. It is not available to doctors, hospitals and EMTs. The Registry is used only at the time of death to confirm the wishes of the deceased for donation.

Join the Registry online at any time or sign up when you obtain or renew your Ohio driver license or state I.D. card at an Ohio BMV by saying, "YES" when asked if you want to make an anatomical gift. You can also place your name in the Registry, or further refine your donation consent, by completing a Donor Registry Enrollment Form, and returning it by mail to: BMV Record Clearance Unit, PO Box 16784, Columbus OH 43216-6784. This form may also be found in the Ohio Donor Registry Brochure available from your local Deputy Registrar. If at any time, should you change your mind about donation, you can remove your name from the Registry.

SUPPORT THE SECOND CHANCE TRUST FUND

The Ohio General Assembly created the Second Chance Trust Fund in 1997 to provide education about, and increase awareness of, the critical need for organ, tissue and eye donation. The fund is supported by a voluntary \$1 donation made when a person obtains or renews an Ohio driver license or state identification card from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

Help increase awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation by purchasing the Donate Life license plate. Five dollars of the total cost of the plate benefits the Ohio Department of Health's SCTF. The plates cost \$15 annually in addition to normal registration fees. (The Ohio Revised Code section 4503.721 determines this fee.)



Federal stimulus package includes \$981 million in education funds for Ohio

On February 17, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, landmark legislation to help struggling families, public schools and states around the country cope with the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Ohio will receive at least \$8.2 billion in federal funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"The effects of this recession reach deep into the lives and pocketbooks of everyday Ohioans," Governor Ted Strickland said. "The federal stimulus is the right investment at exactly the right time to jumpstart the stalled economy. These resources will save or create more than 130,000 jobs for Ohioans and provide tax cuts to working families, while also helping to protect essential state services that Ohioans rely upon every day.

Crisis
and **Change**
in public education



With the stroke of a pen, President Barack Obama took a bold and necessary step to return the nation to more solid economic footing, delivering on a promise to make education a national priority and, at the same time, affirming that the road to economic recovery runs through the nation's classrooms.

DENNIS VAN ROEKEL
NEA PRESIDENT

"The stimulus resources will enable Ohio to make targeted investments in the critical sectors of our economy that will create and grow jobs—laying the foundation for future economic growth and shared prosperity," Strickland said.

President Obama pledged to make education a top priority in his administration, noting as much during his historic inaugural address.

"Because we know America can't outcompete the world tomorrow if our children are being outeducated today, we are making the largest investment in education in our nation's history," President Obama said. "It's an investment that will create jobs building 21st century classrooms, libraries, and labs for millions of children across America.

"It will provide funds to train a new generation of math and science teachers, while giving aid to states and school districts to stop teachers from being laid off and education programs from being cut...It's an investment that will create a new \$2,500 annual tax credit to put the dream of a college degree within reach for middle class families and make college affordable for seven million students, helping more of our sons and daughters aim higher, reach farther, and fulfill their God-given potential."

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel attended the historic bill signing ceremony representing the 3.2 million members of the NEA.

"His action will put millions of Americans back at work, keep thousands of schools and libraries open, and help educators hold on to their jobs. It will also modernize schools and labs to provide students with 21st century learning environments, and school districts across

the country will receive additional resources to help millions of children, especially low-income and children with special needs."

According to Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) and the General Accounting Office (GAO), Ohio is estimated to receive at least \$8.2 billion in federal stimulus resources. State and local governments and other entities will be able to compete for other federal stimulus funds. Pell Grants and Unemployment Compensation, among other resources, will be available to individuals who qualify.

DIRECT RELIEF THROUGH STATE FISCAL STABILIZATION FUNDS AND ENHANCED FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES: \$4.8 BILLION

The legislation provides direct fiscal relief to Ohio through state budget stabilization resources, including approximately \$3 billion in increased Medicaid reimbursements, \$1.5 billion for education (including school modernization) and \$326 million in general government operations which will be allocated for health and human services, public safety, education, and protecting and preserving Ohio's natural resources.

INFRASTRUCTURE: \$1.5 BILLION

The legislation gives Ohio \$971 million for highway and bridge projects, \$203 million for transit capital grants and \$9 million for rail modernization. Additionally, the legislation provides \$58 million for the Drinking Water SRF program and \$224 million for the Clean Water SRF program.

EDUCATION: \$981 MILLION

The legislation provides Ohio \$461 million in special education funding, \$472 million in Title 1 funding, \$44 million for vocational rehabilitation for Ohioans with disabilities, \$23 million for technology in schools, and \$3 million for school lunch equipment.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: \$597 MILLION

The legislation provides \$146 million for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which includes training and employment services for Ohio's dislocated workers, as well as training and counseling activities for adult workers and youth. Additionally, \$68 million in stimulus funds will be allocated for childcare services, \$27 million for the Head Start program and \$39 million for community services block grants. The legislation also allocates significant resources for food and housing assistance, including \$129 million to the Public Housing Capital Fund, \$65 million to the HOME program and \$66 million for homelessness prevention efforts.

ENERGY: \$399 MILLION

The legislation provides \$277 million in home weatherization assistance and \$123 million for the State Energy Program.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: \$75 MILLION

The legislation provides \$62 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and additional funds for crime victims assistance, Internet crimes against children and violence against women.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) represents the largest investment in education in the nation's history to prevent teacher layoffs, make key education improvements and help make college affordable.

Following are details about how the ARRA will affect education:

■ **Preventing teacher layoffs and education cuts in every state.**

A recent study by the University of Washington found that states are likely to cut nearly 15 percent of their education spending over the next three years, which could eliminate 574,000 education jobs. The ARRA will help prevent devastating cuts to education by providing \$53.6 billion to states and school districts to prevent layoffs and cuts in critical education services and \$25 billion in support for educating at risk students and those with special needs.

■ **Investing in Early Head Start and Head Start—programs that work. Doubling the number of children in Early Head Start and expanding Head Start.**

The ARRA will provide \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start and \$1 billion for Head Start, thereby providing services for approximately 120,000 additional infants and children over two years. Taken together, investments in Head Start and Early Head Start are estimated to create at least 15,000 new jobs, many of which are held by low-income women.

■ **Providing enough funding to support quality child care for an additional 150,000 children and keep 200,000 children from being dropped from care.**

The plan's \$2 billion investment in the Child Care Development Block Grant will help an increasing number of families during the downturn who are struggling to afford care and allow parents to hold onto their jobs

■ **Providing a new higher education tax cut to nearly 4 million students.**

Helping people afford college is particularly important during an economic downturn. When people are unable to find work one of the best investments we can make is to improve the skills of the workforce. The ARRA will create a new \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit that is partially refundable. As a result, the nearly one-fifth of high school seniors who receive no tax credit under the current system will receive a tax cut to make college affordable for the first time.

■ **Increasing college affordability for more 7 million students by funding the shortfall in Pell Grants and increasing the maximum award level by \$500.**

Demand for the Pell Grant has surged during the economic downturn. The ARRA will ensure the Pell Grant is available to those who need it and make the award more generous.

■ **Investing in data systems to improve student achievement.**

The ARRP will enable states and school districts to put in place comprehensive data systems that provide teachers, parents, and students with the useful information they need to support student achievement and growth. These critical, one-time investments will enable policy-makers to continually measure the progress of students, schools, districts and states in meeting high standards.

■ **Maintaining key education reforms during the economic downturn.**

The AARA ensures that states, districts and schools can continue pursuing important education reforms enacted by Congress that have effectively closed the student achievement gap. The plan will ensure that there are high-quality teachers in the classroom, especially in low-income and minority communities and for high-need subject areas such as science and math. The plan will support compensation and incentive systems that fairly reward educators for their performance. The plan will also invest in school systems and organizations with track records of success to expand their work and share what's working with educators and policymakers across the nation.

For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit Recovery.gov.

Recovery.gov enables taxpayers to find out where the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is going.

Governor's leadership on budget, school funding and education reform signify public education is a top priority

Amid economic crisis, Governor Ted Strickland introduced sweeping education reforms and a new funding plan for Ohio schools, including a budget that preserves education programs and expands learning opportunities for Ohio students.

The Governor has protected public schools from budget reductions, despite \$1.8 billion in overall cuts this year to other state government programs, preserving an estimated \$900 million in education programs.

In his 2010-2011 budget, the Governor has proposed a budget increase of \$925 million, beginning the phase-in of a wide range of programs to improve the quality of public education in Ohio.

Simultaneously, the Governor worked for passage of the federal economic recovery and stimulus package, ensuring that the recovery legislation included ample funds for public schools and other essential state services for children and families.

"OEA's priorities are to preserve public education funding and the economic security of members, so OEA supports the Governor's proposals to reform and increase funding for public education and improve teaching and learning," OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks said.

In a worst-case scenario analysis, the Strickland administration said Ohio faces a \$7.3 billion budget deficit during the next two years. This translates into state aid cuts of \$840 per student next year and \$870 per student the next, as well as 10,000-25,000 staff layoffs

over the next few years, leading to larger class sizes and program cuts of an historic scope.

Without a dramatic turnaround in the economy or widespread voter approval of new local taxes, as many as 80 percent of Ohio school districts could face a deficit by the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

The only way Governor can close a projected \$7.3 billion deficit for Ohio over the next two years is by combining federal recovery and infrastructure funds, Ohio's rainy day fund and painful cuts in other areas of state government.



While at Favorite Hill Primary School in Piqua, the Governor discusses upcoming lessons with OEA member Mary Pitts (right) and Principal Mindy Gearhardt (left).

photos courtesy of Kim Honeycutt, WOEa office manager



Governor Strickland listens to students read during a tour of the Piqua Favorite Hill Primary School in Piqua on February 4.

The Governor's leadership on the state budget, school funding and education reform mean public education is at the center of his value system and his top priority for state government.

PATRICIA FROST-BROOKS
OEA PRESIDENT

"The Governor understands the needs of the whole child, going beyond the basics, beyond the tests and unfunded federal mandates to a vision of creativity and innovation in our schools," said Frost-Brooks. "He has taken a comprehensive and systemic approach, and his ideas represent an opportunity to improve Ohio public schools that we cannot afford to waste."

OEA will continue to be at the table in discussions on the education budget, school funding and education reform and will work to secure funding, uphold collective bargaining rights and shape a promising future for our members and the learners we serve.

OEA will be strong in our advocacy for our principles and for our members—both in these discussions and in collective bargaining, where many of these proposals must be implemented.

OEA will continue to share more information on the state budget, education reform efforts and school funding initiatives through Ohio Schools, the OEA web site and other forums.

For a downloadable file on the Governor's Education Reform and Funding proposals, visit www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=102&Content=13167. The OEA's talking points on the Governor's proposals can be found at www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=102&Content=13194.

Effective Funding for a 21st Century System of Education

Teacher Licensure

Tenure & Termination of Employment Standards

Testing/Graduation Requirements

Changing the school year and school day

GOVERNOR STRICKLAND'S PROPOSALS*

- An increase in the state's share of education funding to 55 percent in the proposed 2009-2011 state budget, with a state share of 59 percent by fiscal year 2017
- Ending phantom revenue that reduces the state's contribution to local school funding. The state will provide the difference between 23 mills of local tax levies and a minimum of 20 mills local schools must raise.
- Letting voters decide if they want to use new "conversion levies," which would allow local districts' revenues to grow as local property values grow, helping schools to keep up with inflation.
- The funding model will be phased in over time. For the 2009-2011 biennium, all districts will be guaranteed 100 percent of fiscal 2009 funding the first year and 98 percent the second year.

- Recognize a teacher's skills and accomplishments with a career ladder with four licensure levels:
- Resident Educator License—a four-year program of mentored clinical experience for new teachers modeled after medical residencies
 - Professional Educator License
 - Senior Professional Educator License
 - Lead Professional Educator License
- Advancement to the next licensure level will be based on the teacher's credentials, experience and the progress of the teacher's students

- Teachers will be eligible for tenure after nine years, following the completion of the residency program and after serving as a professional educator for an additional five years. Currently, teachers are eligible for tenure after at least three years of teaching
- Increase the authority of a school board to dismiss teachers for good cause, the same standard that is applied to other public employees

- Make high school graduation requirements "more rigorous and relevant" by including "better methods to measure creativity, problem solving and other key skills."
- Replace the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) with "ACT Plus," a four-part assessment needed for high school graduation: ACT college entrance exam, provided free to encourage college applications; end of course exams; completion of a service learning project; and submission of a senior project

- Phase in 20 additional learning days to the learning year over a 10-year period, bringing Ohio's learning year up to the international average of 200 days.
- Expand the learning day with additional activities, such as community service, tutoring, and health and wellness programs

* Source: *Reforming Ohio's Education System for the 21st Century, Governor Ted Strickland's Education Reform and Funding Plan*

OEA RESPONSE TO THE STRICKLAND PLAN

- The Governor has proposed a systematic way of identifying the resources we need for high quality education in the 21st century. He believes state government has primary responsibility for ensuring public school funding is adequate, fair and effective, and his plan has many elements designed to make that a reality.
- OEA supports ideas like the conversion levy mechanism as ways to help schools obtain increased revenues over time, while preserving the right of communities to vote on taxation. Conversion levies may help relax the need for school levies every year, but they are not un-voted taxation.
- Funding proposal details are still emerging. The impact of new funding formulas, eliminating phantom revenue and eliminating guarantees and other complexities of the current system will clearly vary for different school districts.

- The OEA supports efforts to support new teachers, provide additional time for teacher collaboration and mentoring, and to encourage teacher leadership.
- The Governor's proposal to change licensure tiers and qualifications is intended to elevate the teaching profession, but OEA must further examine the details to ensure that the proposal will attract, prepare, support and retain high-quality teachers.
- OEA will fight to preserve the rights of those who hold teaching licenses and ensure that any changes in licensure be phased in without abridging members' due process rights.
- By policy, OEA opposes using standardized test results in making high-stakes decisions about teachers and their license to work in the profession.

- OEA shares the Governor's goal of making sure that there is a highly qualified and well-trained teacher in every Ohio classroom.
- The nine-year tenure standard is not reasonable. The real problem may be with our evaluation system. It should not take eight or nine years for an informed employer to evaluate whether a teacher is successful and effective.
- We can work with school districts to provide a combination of effective mentoring programs for new teachers, interventions to help struggling professionals get back on track, and – if intervention fails – ways to counsel people out of the profession. We need evaluation systems and employment rules that are fair and even-handed, not based on favoritism or arbitrary decisions.

- The OEA supports multiple measures for student achievement, including the Governor's proposal to substitute the ACT for the Ohio Graduation Test and to add end-of-course exams, service learning and a senior project to the requirements for graduation.
- OEA will work with the Governor and the Ohio Department of Education to ensure that the new graduation requirements will be aligned to updated state academic content standards.
- OEA will advocate for a well-developed implementation strategy, including professional development and collaboration time for teachers to design the curriculum and research-based strategies for evaluating student work.

- OEA supports expanded learning time for students, but school employees must receive additional compensation for the additional days and hours. Phasing in more days and hours must be negotiated as part of collective bargaining.
- OEA supports an expanded learning day where students would be engaged in planned learning, enrichment and wellness activities under the supervision of licensed teachers and health and social service providers. OEA members must be involved in shaping these days.



Protecting our priorities

STRS BOARD ELECTION: A SECURE PENSION AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ARE CRUCIAL TO OEA MEMBERS' ECONOMIC SECURITY

As we learn more each day about the economic crisis, attaining OEA's two priority goals—to preserve public education funding and to preserve the economic security of its members—become increasingly critical.

The pension and retiree health care benefits provided by the state retirement systems are critical to our members' economic security. The upcoming STRS Board election has significant importance for Ohio's teachers.

DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES: CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS FOR STRS MEMBERS

The impact of the downturn—which has been much deeper and faster than most economists and investment professionals projected even a few months ago—on STRS's pension and health care funds has dominated the agenda at recent meetings of the Retirement Board.

The preliminary market value of STRS investment assets was \$49.7 billion as of January 31, 2009; the rate of return for the fiscal year to date (July 1, 2008–January 31, 2009) was –27.7%. The value of the investment assets reflects a drop of \$20.7 billion from the close of fiscal year 2008 on June 30, when assets totaled about \$70.4 billion.

Current retirees' pensions are safe—there are no short-term problems regarding the cash flow needed to pay current pension benefits when due. But the next actuarial valuation of pension benefits (October 2009) is likely to show that the reduced level of assets, along with the normally expected rate of growth, may not be sufficient to amortize the unfunded liability over a reasonable period of time.

At the end of fiscal year 2008, STRS Ohio's pension fund had a funding period of 28.3 years and a funded ratio of 80.1%. The Retirement Board also undertook a five-year actuarial experience review (completed in October 2008) that led the board to adopt changes to some actuarial assumptions, including payroll growth and re-

tiree life expectancy. These changes to reflect expected future experience resulted in the final actuarial valuation for the pension fund showing a funding period of 41.2 years and a funded ratio of 79% as of June 30, 2008. At the end of fiscal year 2008, defined benefit assets were \$66.8 billion, and STRS Ohio expected to pay future benefits over 41 years by achieving an 8% annual rate of return. However, with assets currently under \$50 billion, assumed investment returns of 8% going forward leave a shortfall.

The retirement system's Health Care Stabilization Fund has also been affected by the downturn. Health care costs for STRS's Health Care Program are paid out of this fund. Monies for the fund come from premiums charged to STRS Ohio retirees and their dependents enrolled in the program, 1% of payroll from employer contributions and investment earnings on these funds.

As of January 1, 2009, the Health Care Stabilization Fund stood at \$2.69 billion, reflecting a reduction of \$1.34 billion from its starting value of slightly more than \$4 billion one year earlier. In only one year, the projected life of the STRS Ohio Health Care Program was shortened to nine years from 13 and is now projected to last until 2018. Further, the annual required contribution (ARC) is now 5.01% (assuming an investment return of 8%), slightly exceeding the 5% contribution increase that is being requested in the health care legislation proposed by the Retirement Board and supported by the Health Care Advocates for STRS.

STRS is seeking an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the Health Care Stabilization Fund. However, for a contribution increase to succeed in meeting the program's financial needs, the annual required contribution must be lowered. Currently, the funding shortfall is being covered by withdrawing principal from the Health Care Stabilization Fund. Reliance on the principal rapidly depletes the health care fund, leaving only the 1% employer contribution, enrollee premiums and Medicare Part D subsidy to sustain the fund. With the current 1% employer contribution and no program changes, the ARC will increase further in 2010 and every year thereafter.

In addition to seeking a contribution increase, the board must also begin looking at long-term changes to coverage, premium subsidies and eligibility for the health care program due to its deteriorated financial situation. The initial goal is program changes that achieve a minimum of \$83 million in program cuts. This would return the ARC below 5% and preserve the principal balance in the health care fund in calendar year 2010.

The Board has implemented a Long-Term Fiduciary and Financial Contingency Planning Process to provide a framework to evaluate options to restore prudent funding levels for the pension fund over the long term and to ensure the continuation of the health care program.

DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES: THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTING STRS RETIREMENT BOARD MEMBERS TO PROTECT PENSION BENEFITS AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

One key way in which the OEA and its members can work together to preserve economic security in through the recommendation and election of highly qualified candidates for the retirement system boards.

In April, the STRS will conduct an election for three seats on the State Teachers Retirement Board. One seat represents contributing (active) members and two seats represent retirees. The OEA Board of Directors has recommended three qualified candidates for these important roles—OEA member **Carol Correthers** as a contributing member and OEA member **James McGreevy** and Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) member **David Preslan** for retired seats.

Correthers, a special education teacher in the Lorain City Schools, is in her eleventh year of teaching. Correthers has served as a board member and as treasurer for the Lorain County Community Action Agency, and as a member of the Oberlin School Board. She currently serves on the OEA Board of Directors.

Correthers holds a bachelor's degree from Xavier University and a master's degree in education from Cleveland State University. She is working toward licensure in educational administration at Ashland University.

James McGreevy is a retired social studies teacher from Zanesville's Mid-East Career & Technology Centers. McGreevy retired in 2005 after 35 years of teaching.

McGreevy currently serves on the OEA Board of Directors representing OEA-Retired. While on the OEA Board, he has served as Audit Committee Chair and Program & Budget Vice-Chair. He has also served as an Eastern OEA Vice President and Executive Committee member, as a Mid East Education Association (MEEA) executive officer and lead negotiator, and as Muskingum County Schools Employees Credit Union Board of Directors members and treasurer.

McGreevy holds both bachelors and master's degrees from The Ohio State University.

David Preslan is a retired Toledo Public Schools Industrial Technology teacher and a lifetime member of the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT).

While teaching, he served as building representative and member of the Toledo Federation of Teachers campus-wide building committee. Since his retirement, he served as an Intern Consultant for Toledo Public Schools and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Toledo Public Schools Credit Union. Because of his interest in health care issues, Preslan serves as a STRS Health Care Advocate.

Preslan holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology Education from Bowling Green State University.

► CONTINUED



Carol Correthers



James McGreevy



David Preslan

The challenges of STRS Board members are to assure the soundness of retiree health care and to maintain the financial soundness and independence of the pension system. As candidates for the Board, Correthers, McGreevy and Preslan are highly qualified, well trained in public pension and health care issues, and firmly dedicated to all members of the retirement system.

Correthers, McGreevy and Preslan know the responsibilities of STRS board membership and will faithfully work to advance the concerns of both active and retired members by providing a dedicated revenue stream for retiree healthcare, and by maintaining public and legislative support for the public pension system.

Fiduciaries on the STRS Board are subject to the highest standard of conduct known to law. Trustees are held to something stricter than the morals of the marketplace. In short, being a trustee on a public pension board is not like being a school board member, a member of a not-for-profit board, or a member of a corporate board of directors.

Board members have a responsibility to obtain education and training—to be prudent experts in the face of public scrutiny.

In order to further prepare for the responsibilities of being on the STRS Board, Correthers is taking rigorous course work in pension and health care issues through the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP). The course covers a variety of skills essential to serving as a knowledgeable and effective board member, including global and national economic, retirement system and health benefit liability overviews, operational, asset management and investment issues, and fiduciary responsibility.

McGreevy has gained extensive experience on retirement issues through his regular attendance of STRS Board meetings, retreats and Special Committee on Health Care meetings as a representative of OEA-Retired. He has completed the IFEBP's program for public pension system fiduciaries, earning a Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPPP).

Preslan's work as a member of the Board of Directors for the Toledo Public Schools Credit Union and as a STRS Health Care Advocate have prepared him to address the pension and health care issues pertinent to the STRS Board.

The three OEA-endorsed candidates are committed to serving as informed, constructive members of the STRS Board who maintain a focus on the major issues confronting the retirement system.

As in any organization, positive working relationships between board members and internal entities are crucial. But the reality is that such relationships are not always free of differences of opinion and conflict.

Through their experiences, Correthers, McGreevy and Preslan have learned about governance structure. These three candidates understand that board members are most effective when working collaboratively to represent the best interests of all retirement system members. Correthers, McGreevy and Preslan are committed to contributing to improving the relationship among board members and being accessible and responsive to the STRS membership.

STRS Retirement Board basics

STRS is governed by a Retirement Board consisting of five elected contributing teacher members; two elected retired teacher members; an investment expert appointed by the governor; an investment expert appointed jointly by the speaker of the House and the Senate president; an investment expert designated by the treasurer of state; and the superintendent of public instruction or her designated investment expert. Teacher members are elected to a four-year term by members of the retirement system. Retired teacher members are elected to a four-year term by retirees receiving benefits from STRS Ohio.

If you would like to assist in circulating petitions for Carol Correthers, James McGreevy and David Preslan, or need any further information, please contact OEA Governmental Services at 800 282 1500.

Voting will be conducted throughout the month of April. Ballots must be returned by May 4. Watch for your STRS ballot in the mail and participate in this important election.

OEA Board of Directors actions

At its meeting held February 21, the OEA Board of Directors approved the President's recommendations to

- Appoint the following individuals to the Orientation Committee for new Board members: Mary Binegar-Chair, Juanita Collein, Matt Conrad, Warren Hershberger, Robin Jeffries, and Brad Strong.
- Approve the 2009-2010 Board of Directors calendar.
- Approve the joint project on school board candidate recruitment and election with Progressive Majority.
- Approve the appointment of Linda Thomas, representing WOE, effective immediately, to the Professional Efficacy Core Function Committee with a term ending August 31, 2009 (filling the vacancy left upon the retirement of Gary Kline).

In other action, the Board acted to

- Accept the financial reports for January 31, 2009.
- Approve the stipends for the 2009 NEA Representative Assembly as follows: State At-Large-\$1,530; Retired-\$2,230; Student-\$2,330.
- Approve the recommendation of the Executive Director to restructure the Assistant Executive Director position for Member Services.
- Approve OEA Award winners as follows:

**Blue Ribbon Association—
Newcomerstown Teachers
Association and
Newcomerstown Classified
Personnel Association**

Holloways/Human and Civil Rights—

John E. Grossman (posthumously), Columbus Education Association

Jean Kershaw Scholarship—

Leah Kasmenn, Kent Student Education Association

John F. Kennedy Scholarship—

Kristy Haynes, Swanton Education Association

Marilyn Cross Scholarship—

Kenneth Holdt, Sycamore Education Association

- Accept the report of the Higher Education Task Force (A Response to the Chancellor's Strategic Plan for Higher Education, 2008-2017).
- Elect the following Board members to the PSU ad hoc Bargaining Committee: David Augusta, Mary Binegar, Michael Jordan, Gretchen Washington, Emily Osterling (alternate), Arnette Collins (alternate), Susan Stuckey (alternate).

Register now for Getting Ready for Tomorrow:

BUILDING 21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS TO CLOSE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS CONFERENCE
On **April 3 and 4**, the OEA will host **Getting Ready for Tomorrow: Building 21st Century Learning Skills to Close Achievement Gaps Conference** at the Crowne Plaza in Dublin, OH. This conference is designed to help participants understand 21st Century learning skills necessary to succeed in our exponentially changing environment and to help participants develop the leadership capacity to positively transform schools.

Conference sessions will include such topics as:

- Sixteen Trends and Their Profound Impact on Our Future
- Innovative Strategies for Teaching Reading
- Innovative Strategies for Teaching Math
- 21st Century Learning and Technology
- C.A.R.E Strategies for Closing Achievement Gaps
- Addressing Culture, Language & Economic Differences
- Change Management
- Transformational Leadership
- Keynote Speaker Gary Marx, Education Futurist and President of the Center for Public Outreach

You are invited to attend as an individual or to bring a team of up to 5 administrators or community members from your school district. Teams will have an opportunity to debrief and to plan the next steps for closing achievement gaps at their school(s).

Space is limited. Please complete and submit a registration form to OEA by March 23. Registration form is available on the OEA web site.

Registration Fees

1 Participant	\$15	3 Participants	\$35	5 Participants	\$55
2 Participants	\$25	4 Participants	\$45		

For more information contact Demetrice Davis, OEA Education Reform Consultant, at 1 800 282 1500 or davidsem@ohea.org.



OEA District RA and Delegate Briefing Schedule Spring 2008

Date	District	Delegate Briefing	Location	Event Times
3/28	NEOEA	During RA	Mayfield High School 6116 Wilson Mills Rd. Mayfield Village	9:00 am Registration 10:00 am RA
4/2	NWOEA	During RA	Findlay High School 1200 Broad Ave. Findlay	5:00 pm Dinner and Registration 5:45 pm RA
4/22	WOEa	During RA	Vandalia Butler High School 600 S. Dixie Dr. Vandalia	4:00 pm Registration Dinner 4:30-5:15 pm Reservations required 5:30 pm RA
4/23	EOEA	Precedes RA	Undo's 51130 National Rd. E St. Clairsville	5:00 pm Registration 5:30 pm Briefing 6:00 pm RA and Dinner Reservations required
4/25	ECOEA	During RA	Canton Prof. E.A. Office 1327 Market Ave. N Canton	7:45 am Registration 8:30 am RA Continental breakfast provided
4/25	SWOEA	During RA	Receptions 5975 Boymel Dr. Fairfield	8:00 am Registration 8:30 am RA
4/25	CENTRAL	During RA	Worthington Kilbourne HS 1499 Hard Rd. Columbus	8:00 am Registration 9:00 pm RA Breakfast and lunch will be served.
4/27	NCOEA	Follows RA	Mansfield Senior High School 124 N. Linden Rd. Mansfield	5:00 pm Registration 5:30 pm RA Dinner will be served. Reservations required
4/28	SEOEA	Follows RA	Westview Elementary 16349 Beaver Pike Jackson	5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 pm RA RA Follows dinner
4/28	CAPITAL	During RA	State Teachers Retirement Building 275 E. Broad St.—7th floor Columbus	5:00 pm Registration/ Refreshments 5:30 pm RA



2009 Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (RA)

THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRATIC, DELIBERATIVE BODY

Delegates will gather **July 1-6** in **San Diego, CA** for the National Education Association's 147th Annual Meeting and 88th Representative Assembly.

The NEA Representative Assembly (RA) is NEA's highest decision-making body. With over 9,000 delegates, it is also the world's largest democratic, deliberative body.

The RA is convened every July during the Annual Meeting. The first two days are devoted to discussions, conferences, and exhibits, but the

highlight is the Representative Assembly itself. During this important event, delegates debate issues that affect American public education, elect top officers, and set policy for the 3.2 million-member Association. If you wish to be a candidate for an NEA Representative Assembly delegate position, you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the OEA Secretary-Treasurer. Elections will be conducted by the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

NEA LOCAL ASSOCIATION DELEGATE

This category includes locals with 76 or more members. Forms will be mailed from NEA to local presidents in early February for completion and returned to OEA for processing, no later than **April 10**. *Note: Elections to be conducted by local association.*

Contact Becky Slaughter at 800 282 1500 to request a form. Send completed forms to Becky Slaughter c/o Ohio Education Association, Box 2550, Columbus OH 43216.

New Social Security Fairness Act introduced in Congress

Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Buck McKeon (R-CA) have reintroduced the Social Security Fairness Act to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The new bill number is H.R. 235. The previous bill, which had over 300 cosponsors, expired at the end of the last Congress. The bill was introduced with over 80 cosponsors and that has grown to well over 100.

Both the GPO and WEP unfairly penalize public servants by reducing Social Security benefits earned by themselves or a spouse if they also collect a public pension from states where public employees do not contribute to Social Security. OEA fully supports the repeal of the GPO and WEP and urges members to contact their members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 235. More information is available at www.nea.org.

STRS suspends bonuses for investment staff

During its January 2009 Board meeting, the STRS Board voted to suspend the bonus program for investment staff. The change took effect on February 1. With this suspension, bonuses earned during the current fiscal year will be based upon the performance results for the first seven months of the fiscal year (July 1, 2008–January 31, 2009) and reduced on a prorated basis. The Board also voted to implement a revised bonus program for the 2010 fiscal year. The new program will call for sharp reductions in bonuses paid if the total fund posts negative investment returns. The policy will also provide enhanced bonuses when the total fund return exceeds 8.5% and relative returns exceed their benchmarks by greater than 0.6%. As a point of comparison, investment returns of 0.6% would add over \$300 million in assets to the fund. Additionally, the policy will place a cap on investment staff compensation and reduce the number of staff eligible for performance bonuses.



Fifteenth Annual OEA Awards Banquet

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009

6:30 p.m. Reception prior to the dinner

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Location: Doubletree Hotel-Columbus/Worthington
175 Hutchinson Ave.
Worthington, OH 43235

Cost: \$40 per ticket or
\$320 tables of eight

Awards to be presented:

Jean Kershaw Scholarship
John F. Kennedy Scholarship
Marilyn Cross Scholarship
Education Support Professional Award
Blue Ribbon Award
Human & Civil Rights Award

Fifteenth Annual OEA Awards Banquet (Please type or print):

Name of person making reservation: _____

Local Association: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Number of tickets: _____ Amount enclosed: _____ Table for eight (\$320): _____

Please indicate meal preference for each ticket: (Check meal choice/note number of each on blank line following.)

☐ Peppered Sirloin Strip Steak _____ ☐ Grilled Chicken Breast w/orange, cranberry & apple relish _____
☐ Salmon w/Lemon Dijon Sauce _____ (Vegetarian meal available upon request.)

Names of attendees (Please type or print): _____

Please indicate with whom you wish to be seated, if you have a preference. Every effort will be made to accomodate your request: _____

Registration deadline is April 24. Tickets will be held at the door.

Send registration and checks to Randy Flora, 225 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

Federal Income Tax Deductible/Non-Deductible portion of dues for calendar year 2008

If you itemize, you should be aware that the amount of your Association membership dues spent on lobbying is not deductible on your federal tax return. For your reference the deductible portion is listed below.

			Total Dues	Non-Deductible Dues	Deductible Dues
Educator:	Full-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$634.00	\$39.49	\$594.51
Educator:	Half-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$359.50	\$22.82	\$336.68
Educator:	Quarter-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$222.00	\$14.45	\$207.55
ESP:	Full-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$365.50	\$22.82	\$342.68
ESP:	Half-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$225.00	\$14.45	\$210.55
ESP:	Quarter-Time	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$154.75	\$10.26	\$144.49
Student:		OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$ 34.00	\$ 1.56	\$ 32.44
Retired Annual:		OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$ 40.00	\$ 1.23	\$ 38.77
Retired Life (Initial Year):		OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$300.00	\$ 8.21	\$291.79

If you plan to take a deduction for your District and Local Association dues, you will need to get that figure from your District and Local Association President or Treasurer before filing your 2008 tax return. This would not be necessary for Students or Retired members.

Association (Union) dues qualify as a miscellaneous deduction, the total of which must equal at least two percent (2%) of Adjusted Gross Income in order to be deductible.

ESP: Education Support Professional

*Listening,
Learning, Leading:*



OEA SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

*SAVE
THE DATE*

August 3-5, 2009

for the
**OEA Summer
Leadership
Conference 2009**

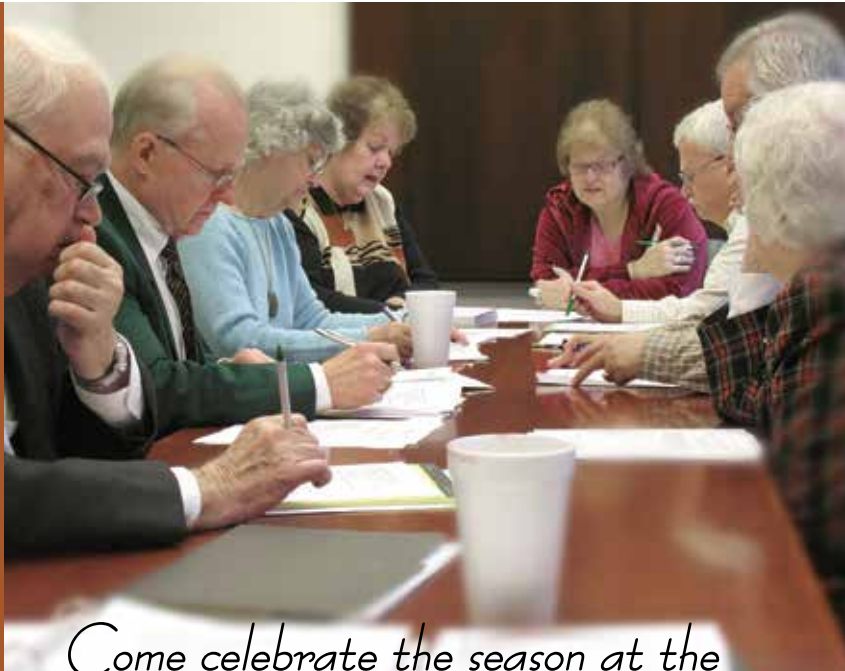
*Listening, Learning, Leading:
Keys to Empowering Members*

Register for one of the modules listed below to gain new knowledge and skills

- Association Leadership
- Collective Bargaining
- Political Advocacy

LOOK FOR registration materials
in the April Ohio Schools. You can also check out the OEA website at
www.ohea.org for the link to register online beginning April 15.

For more information: www.ohea.org



Come celebrate the season at the

2009 Spring Regional OEA Retired Conference

Wednesday, May 20
at the Rothschild Farm in Urbana, Ohio

Conference sponsored by OEA-R,
OEA Region I, Capital-Retired and
Central OEA/NEA-Retired.

Presentations by

- **David Bowen**, OEA-Retired President
- **John Hoyes**, OEA-R Vice-President
- **Patricia Frost-Books**, OEA President
- **Bill Leibensperger**, OEA Vice-President
- **Jim Timlin**, OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- **Larry E. Wicks**, OEA Executive Director
- **Laura Ecklar**, STRS
- **Guy Kendall-Freas**—"25 Financial Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make"
- **Roger Corey**—"Managing Your Money in Difficult Times"

Registration and breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m., with speakers and programs to begin at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served. A garden tour is planned after lunch. The conference will end at 3 p.m.

The registration deadline is Friday, May 8. There is a limit of 90 participants. Complete the registration form below to guarantee your spot!



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____

Garden tour Yes _____ No _____

Enclose a check for \$20.00 payable to the Ohio Education Association and mail to

Spring Statewide Conference
c/o Don Holub
Ohio Education Association
225 E. Broad Street Box 2550
Columbus, Ohio 43216

You will be notified by email or letter when your reservation is received,

For more information, call 800 356 8933 or go to www.robertrothschild.com/The Farm.

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ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
PLEASE DELIVER NO LATER THAN MARCH 20



Carol Correthers



James McGreevy



David Preslan

☒ *Vote for* **Carol Correthers,
James McGreevy and
David Preslan**
for STRS Board

Preserving our economic security starts with support for STRS Board candidates who will protect pension benefits and maintain access to affordable health care for all OEA members

- Classroom teachers with a combined 74 years of service
- Training and expertise in pension and health care issues
- Committed to secure pensions and affordable health care
- Leaders at the local and state levels
- Experienced board members
- Endorsed by the Ohio Education Association and the Ohio Federation of Teachers

**Look for your STRS ballot in early April.
Be sure to vote by May 4, 2009.**