



# Gavel to Gavel



1100 Wayne St., Suite 2522, Troy, 45373

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

February 2011

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## President's Perspective



I wondered why the snow ball kept getting bigger. Then, it hit me.

This joke is how some members I've spoken with in the past few days have felt. One dear friend and

colleague asked, "How can this be happening?" When I told her that Kasich is simply fulfilling a campaign promise, she lowered her head. She said that she voted for Kasich because her life has been so busy that she hasn't recently taken the time to read the issues like she used to. Her son is in law enforcement. Her family will be financially devastated if SB5 passes.

*Our choices have consequences.*

Some local presidents have said that they are having trouble getting their BRs to share the information about SB5 with others. They have been told that they are trying to induce panic. If you have read any part of SB5, taking action to prevent this bill from becoming law is not about inducing panic. It's about protecting public education and our members.

*Our actions have consequences.*

We didn't start the fire, but if we don't work to put it out, our students and our families will be gravely burnt by the impact of SB5.

When I woke up today, I asked myself, "What can I do to end this crisis? My answer today was: I can write my senator. I hope you will, too.

I thank you for all you do every day in the classroom and as an Education Association Leader.

Together we can. Together we will.

**Dawn Wojcik**  
WOEA President



Visit [www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org) and click on the icons.

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### WOEA MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Association shall be to afford opportunities for its members to improve their professional knowledge, to foster sound education policies, and to promote the best interest of children.

# THE TIME FOR UNIONISM IS NOW

By Wanda Adams (Northmont Retired and WOE Past President)



When I started teaching in 1977, Ohio did not yet have a collective bargaining law, but teachers had an Association. My local school district classroom professionals had formed the Northmont District Education Association, we were affiliated with the Western Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Education Association, and the National Education Association. Some of my colleagues viewed the Association as a professional organization, some saw it as a union, I married both functions in my mind. I grew up in a blue collar family and my dad was a member of the United Rubber Workers. I knew that labor unions bargained wages, benefits, and working conditions. I've never had concerns with being a unionist. Now, as public employees are under the assault of Ohio Senate Bill 5, the importance of unionism has become more important than it ever was during my career. Now my professional organization needs to mobilize as a union and stand with the other public employee unions, or the livelihoods of all public employee families is threatened not only for now, but also in our futures.

My friend and fire Chief Gene Lutz gets it. Here is what he posted on his Facebook page;

"...the single top priority for him (Gov. Kasich) was to make sure EVERY single Ohio public employee (police, fire, teacher, street worker, trash collector, and sewer worker), every single one of them would lose their

rights to collectively bargain with their employer. AND, that he wants significant pay cuts for all employees through pensions changes, not just pension changes when they retire, wage cuts now. Did you know that there are several credible studies that show that public employees in Ohio are paid less than their private sector counterparts?

... He (Gov. Kasich) is on a mission to blame public employees for the economic crash in Ohio. It's wasn't his fault as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers ... it's not GM's fault, it's not the mortgage lenders fault, it's the policeman and fireman that come to your house and risk life and limb in a job they have loved since the day they started doing it. It's the guy who picks up your trash in zero degree weather and 105 degree heat; all of them have caused the State of Ohio to be in financial trouble.

So, why am I writing this? This is a Game changer coming. This is the first major step to turning Ohio into a state that only employees minimum wage workers. It's not just about public employees; it's about every employee in Ohio. It will change EVERYTHING in Ohio, that is what I believe."

When I think of the number of education employees in Ohio, at least 150,000, I believe we can make in impact on SB5. But if we stand with all of the other public employees in Ohio (another 150,00), our impact on this proposed legislation will be all the greater. It's time for all of us to stand together as one or all of Ohio will suffer the consequences of our inaction.

## What Has OEA Done For Us Lately?

Sometimes we ask ourselves, "What has OEA done for us lately?" As of 2/18/11, Here's a partial list of what OEA had done to mobilize members to protect their collective bargaining rights by working to defeat SB 5.

The members and staff of the OEA effectively implemented an aggressive strategy this week to oppose Senate Bill 5. Thank you to all of you for your hard work, dedication and leadership in these efforts. Some of the highlights of our work include the following activities:

- Signing up 12,000 volunteers through our commitment cards and Action Alerts
- Aggressively lobbying key Senators both in Columbus and back home
- Coordinating two successful rallies at the Statehouse on both Tuesday and Thursday with other labor organizations
- Conducting a Telephone Town Hall with 2,700 OEA activists on the call
- Sharing information about the specifics of the bill and what members and staff can do to help stop it
- Securing numerous earned media spots across the state
- Meeting daily with leaders of numerous labor and progressive organizations daily
- Testifying powerfully in the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee

# What Can I Do Today To End the SB 5 Crisis?

*These WOEA members attended rallies, mailed postcards, sent emails....you can, too! It's Not too late!*



**Keep calling and let your Senator know that we still say NO on SB5. Call 1-888-218-5931**

# Protect Our Heroes!

They Work to PROTECT You.

## They need your help NOW!



### Things You Can Do to Save Collective Bargaining for Ohio Public Employees

- Leave a message for your Senator by calling the OEA Educator Connector at (888) 907-7309. (You'll be asked for your ZIP code and connected with your Senator's office. Be ready to tell your Senator why collective bargaining for public employees is important to you.)
- Attend an event: Check the WOEI website for information about upcoming rallies and meetings.
- Call Governor Kasich's office at (614) 466-3555 and state your opinion of Senate Bill 5.
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper near you.
- Write an email to your Senator. (List of email addresses online at [woea.org/SB5SenatorList.htm](http://woea.org/SB5SenatorList.htm).)
- Write an email to the members of the Insurance, Banking, and Commerce Committee. (List of members online at [ohiosenate.gov/committees/standing/detail/insurance-commerce-and-labor.html](http://ohiosenate.gov/committees/standing/detail/insurance-commerce-and-labor.html).)
- Mark your calendar for the March 2 OEA Lobby Day
- Visit the WOEI website ([www.woea.org](http://www.woea.org)) for the latest SB 5 Crisis updates.

## Thousands of Teachers Protest Senate Bill 5 at Statehouse

### Educators join tens of thousands of Ohio workers in opposing collective bargaining threat

COLUMBUS - February 22, 2011 — Educators from across Ohio found their way to Columbus to march on the grounds of the Ohio Statehouse to voice their concerns about the union-busting policy-making taking place in their statehouse.

More than 3,000 OEA members joined more than 15,000 other members of organized labor and other supporters to rally against Senate Bill 5 on Tuesday during committee hearings on the bill.

Continuing with a third day of testimony regarding Senate Bill 5 (SB5), lawmakers moved forward with a plan to strip out collective bargaining rights for public sector workers. Educators are concerned that the bill represents a direct attack on working families and the future of Ohio's students.

OEA has asked legislative leaders to focus on the essentials -- creating jobs and preparing students for careers through a quality public education system, from pre-K through college.

Reiterating the devastating impact SB 5 could have for her members, Ohio Education Association President Patricia Frost-Brooks said "Our members felt that it was vitally important for them to show up and make their voices heard on this stifling legislation."

"As educators, they are much more comfortable lifting their voices to teach rather than protest, but today they stand on the statehouse grounds united with their fellow public sector workers, determined to fight for what's right and in the best interest of Ohio's students," Frost-Brooks said.

Educators are concerned that the bill would harm Ohio's education system by silencing the voice of teachers and support staff who have been the strongest advocates of resources for schools, quality instruction and school

improvement strategies. Without their support and advocacy through bargaining, Ohio's middle class would receive yet another blow.

Educators at the rallies and protests throughout Ohio this week -- in Dayton, Youngstown, Canton, Toledo and elsewhere -- have said SB 5 will:

- Severely curtail a district's ability to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers for their classrooms,
- Severely damage teaching and learning conditions; leading to over-crowded classrooms and diminished resources for students,
- Remove the voice of the education professional and replace highly qualified teachers with others having no classroom experience, and
- Unjustly provide for the arbitrary removal of great teachers from the classroom; eliminating provisions for fair dismissal and protection of rights.

While some teachers elected to use personal time to attend the rally, hundreds more joined the ranks of protesters at the last minute when their schools closed due to inclement weather or following the school day.

Testimony on the bill, scheduled for the late afternoon, continued into the evening. At last report, thousands of educators continue to pour in from across the state.

To learn more about the work that the Ohio Education Association is doing defeat SB 5, visit: [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org).

## OEA Fund for Children and Public Education Award Winners 2010 Fall Representative Assembly



### NEA RA 2011

#### Executive Club (\$500 in 5 years)

Nola Brooks (Xenia E.S.P.)  
Carol DeMaio (Greenville E.A.)  
Valerie Roldan (Trotwood Madison E.A.)  
Kimberly Smith (Celina E.A.)  
Christine Wiseman (Dayton E.A.)

#### Presidents Club (\$1,000 in 8 years)

Patricia Huber (Vandalia Butler E.A.)

#### Hall of Fame (\$6,000 in Lifetime)

Patricia Lynch (Dayton E.A.)

The 2011 NEA Representative Assembly will be held at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois from June 30 - July 5, 2011. More information is available on the NEA website, [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).

## WOEA Workshops

#### Constitution & Bylaws Workshop

March 26, 2011 - 9 am - 12 pm - WOE Office  
For WOE local associations not in compliance with OEA  
*Call the WOE office to see if your local is in compliance*

#### No Cost Association Membership

April 28, 2011 - 5:30 pm - 7 pm  
By NEA Member Benefit representative Guy Kendall-Freas

#### Treasurer's Workshop

July 27, 2011 - Time and location to be announced

#### WOEA/OEA/NEA Election Workshop

August 17, 2011 - 10 am - 12 pm - WOE Office

## WOEA Scholarships

#### NEA Representative Assembly Scholarships

WOEA will award 14 scholarships to NEA delegates from WOE attending the RA this summer. Guidelines are available on the WOE website. Deadline to apply for a scholarship is May 2, 2011.

#### OEA Leadership Academy 2011 Scholarships

WOEA will award 21 scholarships to WOE members to attend the academy this summer. Guidelines are available on the WOE website. Deadline to apply for a scholarship is May 2, 2011.



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# MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Collective Bargaining Committee Meeting 5:00 pm Panera Bread on Miller Lane	3	4	5
6	7 Professional Efficacy Committee Meeting 5:00 pm WOEA Office	8 WOEA Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 pm WOEA Office	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Local Development & Training Committee Meeting - 5:00 pm Panera Bread on Miller Lane	17  Member Rights & Protection Committee Meeting - 5:00 pm WOEA Office	18	19
20 	21	22	23 Organizing Strategy Committee Meeting 5:00 pm Panera Bread by U.D.	24	25	26 Constitution & Bylaws Workshop 9-12 See WOE A website <a href="http://www.woea.org">www.woea.org</a> for more information.
27	28	29	30	31		