



Gavel to Gavel



1100 Wayne St., Suite 2522, Troy, OH 45373

www.woea.org

APRIL 2007

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WOEA AREA 3
Jane Rahn

WOEA AREA 4
Linda Thomas

WOEA AREA 5
Cathy Lager

WOEA AREA 6
Nola Brooks

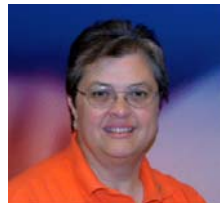
WOEA AREA 7
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Joni Watson

WOEA-R
Blanche McClain

ESP At-Large
Jimmie Tipton

WOEA At-Large
Stan Bear



The Word from Wanda

I was in attendance at the OEA Region 5 Coordinating Council meeting on March 27. Russ Harris, OEA governmental services consultant, spoke to us about collecting signatures for the public school funding ballot initiative, **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future**. Russ also talked about how the constitutional amendment will do away with the need for local levies. As Russ spoke, I was flashing back to 1987 to a WOE A sponsored public school funding forum. Russ was one of several invited panelists; others included a couple of state representatives and senators, a representative from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators and a representative from the Ohio School Boards Association. The state representatives and senators who showed up were telling the audience what a great, responsible job they were doing to fund schools in Ohio. The other panelists were telling the audience tales of woe about state laws and constitutional amendments which were hamstringing efforts to properly fund public education, and of continued local efforts to fund the public schools in communities through out the state.

Since then, the Supreme Court issued four declarations that Ohio's plan for school funding is unconstitutional and over reliant on local property tax. The state legislature responded by taking money away public schools and giving it to private and charter schools. So, here we are twenty years later, and things have gotten worse for Ohio public school funding.

Hopefully, the new governor, Ted Strickland, will be able to exert some pressure on the legislature to improve the situation. But why sit back and rely entirely on the governor when we can act now to improve the future for Ohio's public school children and Ohio's public education employees?

When I look back over a thirty year career, it has been filled with campaigns for local school levies and political activism aimed at improving public school funding. I've been attending OEA member lobby days for many years, sometimes speaking with empathetic legislators, sometimes talking to brick walls. Passage of this constitutional amendment could change everything for Ohio's future. I want to be part of that legacy. I've got my petition. Have you got yours? Do the members in your local have their petitions? Your Labor Relations Consultant has plenty of them for you and your members. Let's get them distributed. Five signatures acquired by each member will get the proposed initiative on the ballot, persuading the signatories to vote for the constitutional amendment will change the public school funding story in Ohio forever. Make sure you and your local Education Association members are part of the legacy of Great Public Schools for all of Ohio's children.

WOEA NETWORK Mark Your Calendars!!

| | |
|---------------|---|
| April 10 | WOEA Executive Committee Meeting 5 p.m. - WOEa Office |
| April 12 | Professional Efficacy Committee Meeting 5 pm - WOEa Office |
| April 20 & 21 | OEA RA—Columbus |
| April 24 | OEA Member Lobby Days—Columbus—Includes Legislative Reception |
| April 26 | LPDC Regional Support Team Meeting 4:30-7:00 Miami Co. ESC |
| April 26 | Political Action Training—6:00 pm—WOEA Office |

These dates were accurate as of press time. For the most up-to-date information, consult the calendar page at www.woea.org

WOEA SPRING RA



The WOEa Spring Representative Assembly took place Tuesday, March 20 at Vandalia-Butler High School. 108 Delegates, 5 Alternates and 31 guests attended the RA.

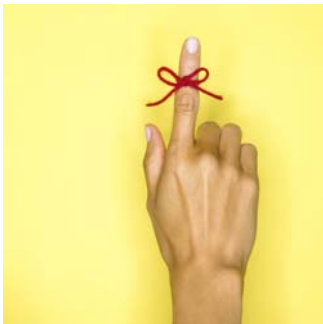
Delegates elected Dawn Wojcik (Northmont City EA) to serve as WOEa President for a 2 year term beginning September 1, 2007. Phil A. Long

(Celina EA) was elected Vice-President for the same term.

Juanita Collein (Dayton EA) was re-elected as the OEA Unit II Rep. and Rebecca Whited (Huber Heights EA) was elected to serve as OEA Unit IV Rep. They are three year terms beginning September 1, 2007. Nola Brooks (Xenia Class. EA) was re-elected to WOEa Area Six and Leslie Cunningham (Dayton EA) was elected to WOEa Area Seven. Selena Crace (Huber Heights EA) was elected as the WOEa ESP At-Large.

A new business item was approved for WOEa to form a committee to represent and address ESP concerns.

RA News You Can Use



ATTENTION OEA DELEGATES:

Don't forget to stop by the WOEa table to pick up your complimentary gift from WOEa. In order to participate in the *"Stay til' the End,"* drawing - delegates muststay until the end of the RA! See you on April 20 in Columbus!

WOEA will award 12 scholarships to attend the NEA RA in Philadelphia June 30 through July 5. Delegates (non-state) can apply for a \$500 scholarship to help cover expenses to attend the NEA RA. Receipts will be required for reimbursement and must be submitted to the WOEa office by July 31, 2007. All participants are responsible for their own RA registration, travel and hotel accommodations. For more information about the NEA RA and to register, visit the OEA website (www.ohea.org). To apply for a WOEa scholarship, complete the online application found at www.woea.org. Scholarship recipients will be notified.



Step Up to Lead
Building Leaders for the 21st Century
 2007 Leadership Conference
 Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington
 July 30, — August 1, 2007

The conference will be focused on the skills and knowledge required to be a leader in all facets of the education environment, from the bargaining table to the classroom. The conference cost to attendees is \$100, but be sure to ask your local leaders about scholarship assistance. Keynote speakers are Elaine Bernard, Executive Director, Harvard University Trade Union Program and Stephen Douglas, Psychologist.

WOEA Scholarships & Grants



WOEA will award 20 scholarships and 10 OEA Matching Grants to attend the OEA Summer Leadership Conference, *Step Up To Lead*, July 29 through August 1. First-time participants and/or those prospective and emerging leaders will be given first consideration. Scholarships are \$300 each which include the \$100 registration fee and up to \$200 in lodging expense. There is no reimbursement for mileage included in the scholarship. All participants are responsible for their own conference registration and making hotel accommodations. To apply for a OEA Summer Leadership Scholarship and additional information, complete the online application found at www.woea.org. Scholarship and grant recipients will be notified.

"CONDUCTING ELECTIONS FOR LOCALS"

SAVE THE DATE

WOEA & OEA ELECTION WORKSHOP

BEST WESTERN
TROY, OH

Wednesday,
August 15, 2007

10:30 - 2:00

RSVP 937-339-9509

WOEA Legislative Reception

March 15, 2007

WOEA-R
Treasurer, Sheila
Campbell and
Jane Rahn,
Member Rights &
Protection Chair



Sen. Tom Roberts,
District 5



Linda Fisher,
Legislative Chair and
State Board of
Education member
Lou Ann Harrold



Rep. Jim Zehringer,
District 77



Teresa Leo, Dayton
EA and Chris
Bartley, WOE
Treasurer



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