

Important Dates

* **Early Release**

Feb. 10

* **President's Day**

Feb. 21

* **OEA Winter Leadership Conference**

Mar. 5

* **Read Across America**
March 2

WEA Officers:

President

Chris Williams

Vice President

Rhonda Gilpin

Treasurer

Amanda Koenig

Secretary

Lynn Yoho

Fac Rep At

Large

Sam Liebfreund

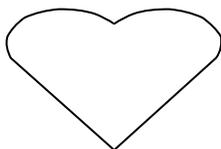
Jordi Vilanova

Candy Peak

Tom Peet

Todd Ebbrecht

Bev Koenig



The President's Corner

From a communication from OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks:

Last week, John Kasich became Ohio's Governor. As he begins his term, the Ohio Education Association and other public employee unions are preparing for one of the most perilous times in our history. Comments from Gov. Kasich and other leaders now in control of state government (Senate President Tom Niehaus and Speaker of the House William Batchelder) give us clues about what they're thinking about:

- A 15-20% reduction of state funding for public schools
- Dramatically curtailing collective bargaining rights
- Restructuring public pensions
- Fewer sick and personal leave days
- Eliminating seniority rights for teachers
- Firing public employees who go on strike

The New York Times said, "Of all the new governors, John Kasich, Republican of Ohio, appears to be planning the most comprehensive assault against unions. He is proposing to take away the right of 14,000 state-financed child care and home care workers to unionize. He also wants to ban strikes by teachers, much the way some states bar strikes by the police and firefighters." See <http://ow.ly/3B129> . Or take a quick look at the Ed Show report on what host Ed Schultz called a "war on American wage earners." See <http://ow.ly/3B132> . New Jersey is not Ohio, but Schultz outlines the dangerous potential for Ohio educators to face proposals similar to those of Governor Chris Christie of that state. In responding to these comments on education funding and other issues, we have critical duties -- not just your state leaders, but you as board members and leaders of local and district associations:

- We need to remain calm and not answer threats and bluster with angry communications and responses.
 - We must provide professional expertise to separate fact from fiction.
 - We must keep our members informed of the chief threats to their economic security.
- We must provide the best channels possible for members to influence political decisions.

At the local level, you need to start preparing now. Here's how you can help:

- Get everybody on board, regardless of party affiliation, to urge our elected leaders to do the right thing for schools.
- [Download and print your commitment cards by clicking here](#), and get people involved -- now! It will be too late if we wait until the state budget is drafted or harmful legislation is on the way to passage.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL LEADERS

Winter Leadership Conference

March 5, 2011

There are a number of sessions that might interest you. They range from Special Education updates to New Teacher/Early Career Forum to Health Care and Wellness. There is something for everyone. There is no charge for WEA members who register and attend the conference. Registration is available on Central's Website at www.centraloecnea.org

Go for it , register today!

BECAUSE WE CARE

Births

Brian Barber (Walnut Springs) -boy

Condolences

Judith Strain (Whittier) -mother

Jill Shaffer (Walnut Springs) -mother

Be a delegate to the NEA Rep Assembly!

This year the NEA RA is being held June 30 through July 5 in Chicago, Illinois. If you are interested in running for this worthwhile and educational position, please let Ruth McDermott know by Feb. 25 to get your name on the local ballot.

Allowable WEA deductions for 2010 taxes

Full Time : \$733.25

Half Time: \$474.48

Quarter Time: \$345.80

Calamity Days

When a session is cancelled, for example afternoon kindergarten, the teacher has NO contractual obligation to come into work (AM cancelations) nor to stay longer (PM cancelations). They may be asked to volunteer their time but they are not required to do so, it is strictly VOLUNTARY.

CHANGE IN PERSONAL DAY

With this last round of bargaining we are now able to use ONE of our personal days for any reason. However, there are still the backed up to a holiday and Fridays in May limitations.

Basically what one personal day can be used **for** changed but the when you can take the day hasn't changed .

EDUCATIONAL ATTACKS GETTING YOU DOWN? NOW THERE ARE TALKING POINTS FOR YOU TO USE WHEN YOU HEAR ALL THE NEGATIVE RHETORIC. GO TO www.Dublinea.org/rr

LICENSE RENEWAL

The second renewal of a 5 year license requires a master's degree or 30 semester hours of graduate credit, UNLESS you initially held a provisional or professional teaching certificate. Those who started with a certificate and then renewed into the licensure program are not subject to the master's degree or 30 semester hour requirement. In this case, the educator must complete 6 semester hours of graduate credit or 18 CEUs, to renew.

Did you know?

If an administrator asks you to cover classes for another teacher, you should get paid for doing so.