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160 South
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October 2018

The Advocate

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Sub Shortage

We are all aware there is a serious sub shortage in this and many other districts due to the low pay and low nationwide unemployment. Please be aware that you should follow the contract about covering classes and that includes requesting payment. You can do this by completing a time sheet that can be found on GJEA website. GJEA suggests that you develop a list of teachers who are willing to give up their planning time to receive the hourly pay and when they are available. Then, the principal or their secretary know who to ask to cover during each period during the day. This list should be the first thing the principals are using not the last.

The contract states that teachers are paid the hourly wage for covering a class during their planning time for an absent teacher. Make sure that after you cover a class, you fill out a time sheet and turn it into your school's front office within 14 days. If you do not, you will NOT get paid. Again, the hourly pay form is on the GJEA website for you to download.

Negotiations

This is a negotiations year and we need your help to shape the upcoming contract. Thanks to every member who attended our last meeting on October 1st. We had a good turn out with different levels/departments represented. We can always use more as we work toward our goal to receive an even stronger contract. We will meet again on Thursday, October 25 at 4 pm at Clark Hall. We will finalize the survey and move into teams to serve on Language and Finance. If you want to learn more about this process, please come to our next meeting on Thursday, October 25th. If you would like to be involved but cannot attend on October 25th, email Dwayne Marshall to get the information about future meetings.

Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

GJEA Officers

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Website and Twitter

Check out the GJEA website at GahannaJeffersonEA.com. Need to keep up with what's going on then follow GJEA on Twitter @GJEAtweets



OEA Board Endorses State Issue 1

The OEA Board of Directors **unanimously** voted to endorse State Issue One, the Ohio Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation Amendment. Issue 1 seeks to reduce the prison population in Ohio by reducing low level felony drug possession charges to misdemeanors. Those charged with 1st, 2nd or 3rd degree felony drug charges could still face prison time.

Issue 1 also seeks to eliminate prison sentences for probation violations if they aren't new crimes. It would reduce prisoners' sentences by up to 25% for completing work, education and rehabilitative programs while incarcerated. Finally, Issue 1 proposes to divert the money saved from reducing the prison population toward drug treatment, trauma care for crime survivors and local governments. Other key points are that Issue 1 is a choice to build new prisons, spending billions or try something new to deal with the addiction crisis. Ohio prisons are at 138% capacity and 14 Ohioans are overdosing every day.

Issue 1 does **not** eliminate prison for drug trafficking and individuals caught with larger amounts of drugs like fentanyl and could still be charged with trafficking and face prison.

"We believe that Issue 1 helps to address the urgent need to fix Ohio's broken and overcrowded prison system that puts in jail non-violent offenders at the expense of adequately funding prevention and treatment programs," said OEA President Becky Higgins. "As educators, we see the terrible impact of the opioid epidemic on our communities and the families of our students. We are there to help our students when tragedy strikes. But too often the resources for treatment are not there. Passing Issue 1 will save money that's currently misspent to lock up people with addiction problems who would be better served by getting treatment."

Mark Your Calendar:

October 22- Comp Day - Teachers (No School)

October 31 - Halloween

November 4 - Set Your Clocks Back

November 6 - Election Day (General Election)

November 8 - Board of Education Meeting, Clark Hall, 6:30

OEA/NEA Delegate Elections Results

Following the recent voting opportunity within our buildings, GJEA has elected our 2018-2019 OEA and NEA delegates to the representative assemblies.

Based on our total membership, GJEA is allocated eleven delegates for the OEA RA in December and May. Thank you to the following for representing our association in this very important manner: OEA RA reps: Ray Adams (LHS), Rachel Bauman (HP), Sarah Hanson (LE), Paige Harding (MSE), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Joan Miller (ELA GATE), Dave Palguta (MSE), Jenny Palguta (MSS), Dawn Stanforth (LE) and Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS).

GJEA will send at least four delegates to the NEA RA next July in Houston including: Paige Harding (MSE), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Jenny Palguta (MSS) & Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS). Alternates: Sarah Hanson (LE), Dave Palguta (MSE) & Dawn Stanforth (LE).

We plan to run candidates on the state delegate ballot in March so that we can, hopefully, send some or all of our alternates.

Thanks to all of our members who voted in this important election. Also, thanks to our election co-chairs Maggie Wright and Shanna Mann (RM), as well as our site managers who helped run a successful election.

Emerging Leaders Programs

Looking for a way to get more involved with The Association but don't where to start? Central OEA/NEA offers interested members an Emerging Leaders Program to get you on your way. Come and learn about your leadership style, issues you will encounter as an Association Leader, NEA/OEA organizational layers and much more. This group also gets a private tour with the OEA President, Becky Higgins, of the OEA building downtown. As a bonus, you will also receive free contact hours upon completion of the program. Interested in learning more about the program, drop in and speak with our own co-chair Jenny Palguta or email emrging.leaders@centraloeane.org. Meeting dates are Nov 29, Jan. 24, Feb 21, March 7 and April 18 at 6pm and Dinner is provided.

What is a Flexible Spending Account? (FSA)

Be aware that a FSA is an insurance program that allows you to put money into an account tax free to pay for a number of items. The program allows you to pay for such things as child-care, prescriptions, doctor visit co-pays, dental procedures and your deductible for health insurance. Please pay attention to your pay stub for information because the deadline is the end of December for the FSA beginning every January. Those of you who have had it before will need to renew as well. There is also a chance that Gahanna will contract a new insurance company to handle our FSA. Please pay close attention to future Advocates and if you have questions, please contact Kay Melaragno in Central Office.

License Renewal – LPDC

Welcome back from your LPDC committee. Many of you may have licenses expiring this year or questions about your IPDP or our renewal process. We wanted to let you know, don't hesitate to reach out. Last year we started an LPDC email to ask any questions, or get information. You can email lpdc@gips.org or any of our LPDC members. Please note, this is for questions not submissions.

At this time we would like to welcome Jason Bates, Academic Officer to our committee. He will be replacing Matt this year. He will be a great addition and resource to our committee.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Central Office, from 3:00-6:00 pm. You can send your updated IPDP and CEU requests to LPDC at CO in office mail. Please remember that our handbook and all of our LPDC forms that you may need are found on the GJPS Curriculum site under [Licensure](#). Our meeting dates are as follows:

October 9
November 13
December 11
January 8
February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14

We look forward to working with you, Your LPDC Members

Teachers:

Sandy Nicholson, Vice Chair – Blacklick Elementary at nicholsons@gips.org

Angela Potts, Chair – Lincoln High School at pottsa@gips.org

Rhonda Wamsley, Secretary – Middle School South at wamsleyr@gips.org

Administration:

Erin Schmidt, Academic Officer & Jason Bates, Academic Officer

Wellness Dollars at Work



Did you know that our wellness dollars pay your co-pay for a flu shot? If you missed the opportunity on October 9, it is not too late.

You have other opportunities to get that important flu shot at no out of pocket cost to you. Places like Walgreens and Kroger are just a few places you can go to receive a free flu shot.

Personal Days

Personal Days used before and after a holiday will be deducted as two Personal Days. The 2 for 1 days will be the following dates: 11/20, 11/26, 12/21, 1/7, 1/18, 1/22, 2/19, 3/22, 4/1, 4/18, 4/22, 5/24, 5/28 and 5/30. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving was a Compensation Day last year but this year it is a Holiday. If you choose to take the Tuesday before or the Monday after Thanksgiving, you will be charged two Personal Days.