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GJEA

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160 South
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February 2018

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The Advocate

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Insurance Committee Update

The District's Insurance Committee met again on Wednesday, February 14th to discuss the insurance issues affecting the district. The committee is working together to come to a common-sense resolution to the financial issues our self-funded insurance plan is facing. These issues are real and the committee is committed to solving them.

If you have questions, please reach out to your GJEA officers (Jenny, Dwayne, Paige or Joan) or a member of the insurance committee. (Jenny, Dwayne, Rod Calloway or Ed Thomas) In the meantime, please be assured that you continue to have insurance coverage. We will update you as soon as a plan is in place and give you all of the facts that are needed. Please continue to support GJEA and our efforts to support our members.

Help Us Support the GJEA Student Scholarship Fund

Every year, GJEA gives 4 scholarships to students either going into the field of education or whose parent is a member of the association.

fundraisers to
scholarships.
fundraisers
with Chipotle.
from 4-8pm, if
from the
Hamilton



they will give 50% to our scholarship fund. You will just need to bring the flier with you, which will be provided with The Advocate. Please marked this date on your calendar (March 5; 4pm-8pm) and help us raise money for scholarships and make dinner easier for one night.

Every year we rely on
fund these

This year one of the
will be co-sponsored
On March 5, 2018
you purchase food
Chipotle on 95 North
Road (Clark Hall),

Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

GJEA Officers

Membership Chair
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2018 Tax Deductions



You are permitted to deduct a portion of your dues from taxes.

Please consult the tax laws and/or your financial advisor for proper application.

Full Time - \$833.26

Half Time - \$398.10



Mark Your Calendar:

February 24 – Worker’s Rights Rally – 10am

February 24 – Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation Gala

March 8 – School Board Meeting

March 11 – Daylight Savings Time Start

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

OEA Lobby Day

On January 31st, OEA sponsored “Lobby Day” at the Ohio State House. This program gives teachers an opportunity to speak with State Representatives or their aid face to face. These meetings allow teachers to speak about educational issues using personal stories on how the laws that are passed by our Ohio Congress are affecting both students and teachers in the classroom.

Lobby Day events have a history of working. In the past, they have made effective changes with RESA and a reduction on our state testing. It has also helped to make successful changes with our teacher evaluation. Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Jenny Palguta (MSS), and Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS) represented GJEA and were joined by over 100 teachers and administrators from all over the state to meet with our representatives at the statehouse. They were able to have meetings with State Senator Charleta Tavares, State Senator Kevin Bacon’s aid, State Representative Adam Miller’s aid and State Senator Ann Gonzales’s aid.

The topic of the day was about the pressure that teachers feel with student growth measures (SGM) counting 50% of a teacher’s evaluation. The legislators heard stories about how testing students who can come to school with a variety of outside influences and how those could affect their performance on a test and then, holding their teachers responsible is just wrong. Stories were told about students who didn’t even try to do their best on the test because it may not affect them and about how the pressure that is placed on students is too much. These evaluations cause the importance of testing to outweigh anything else that is being taught in our classrooms. OEA has hired lobbyist who do valuable work on our behalf to push educational issues with our legislators. In some cases, it takes personal stories from those in the trenches to make it real to our legislators. In the future, GJEA hopes you are willing to participate and go tell your stories because you can and will make a difference.

Working People's "Day of Action"

Trying to duplicate the "Women's March", unions representing working people are holding a rally in 10 cities including Columbus on Saturday, February 24th. As you know, unions are under attack by organized anti-union groups. Their goal is to have a "Right to Work" nation which will promote lower pay and limit the rights of workers. If you want evidence, look at Right to Work states and you will find that teachers have less pay and most important, no rights to advocate for their students. Regardless of the Supreme Court ruling, we can win this fight but we need to be proactive because being reactive will be too late. Please consider joining us with fellow OEA members across the state on the 24th downtown.

Here is some of the information:

*NEA (OEA) is one of the 4 major unions helping to support this event nationwide

*Ohio is 1 of 10 cities hosting this event on the same day to highlight the importance of unions (nationally and here in Ohio)

*OEA has committed to having 1,200 members in attendance

*Registration will take place at OEA Headquarters at 10:30am, Rally will begin 11:30-noon (possibly ending 1:00-1:30pm). OEA items, posters, and talking points will be provided.

*Members need to RSVP using the link on the bottom of the flier

LABOR UNIONS:
THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND.
CHILD LABOR LAWS, OVERTIME,
MINIMUM WAGE, INJURY PROTECTION,
WORKMENS COMPENSATION INSURANCE,
PENSION SECURITY, RIGHT TO ORGANIZE . ETC.

Senate Bill 240

Was introduced by Republican Peggy Lehner and will restructure OTES so our evaluations are Teacher-Driven and student focused. The OTES reform will do the following:

- Support teacher improvement with more specific, useful, and relevant feedback that is focused on student learning.
- Increase the value of classroom walkthroughs, formal observations and conferences by placing greater emphasis on identified areas for improvement.
- Refocus the use of student growth measures (SGMs) as a tool for helping students. Student growth data will finally be linked with improving instruction, as opposed to a separate evaluation factor linked to weighted percentages.
- By "embedding" the use of student growth data into the evaluation rubric, teachers will be evaluated on their ability to use this data to improve teaching skills that are assessed throughout an evaluation.
- As a result, the bill would eliminate the stand-alone 50% student growth factor in teacher evaluation ratings.
- This bill eliminates the need and use of SLOs.
- This bill does NOT eliminate student growth measures just how they are used to evaluate teachers.
- This bill does not reduce any current testing for students. Note: This is something that OEA continues to stress with the State Superintendent and Legislators.



THE ADVOCATE IS A PUBLICATION INTENDED SOLELY FOR GJEA MEMBERS

OEA Collective Bargaining Conference by Dawn Stanforth -LE site manager

On February 1 through 3, I was able to attend the OEA Advocacy and Organizing Institute in downtown Columbus. The conference consisted of many breakout sessions to choose from; 37 to be exact! Topics ranged from The State of Ohio Schools, Bargaining (in many forms), OTES, Retirement, Moving Members to Action, and there were many others.

Thursday evening's welcome dinner and Becky Higgins, who "We will not give up!" unions in Janus V. by the United States speaker, Stephen how education remembered a not-made a huge impact considering WHY we individual, such as



festivities kicked off with a speech by our President, could be heard chanting in reference to the attack on AFSCME a case being heard Supreme Court. Our guest Shedletzky, gave insight on shaped him as he fondly so-favorite teacher who on his life. He had us teach; it's to focus on the himself.

I attended many sessions on bargaining, OTES, and membership. I learned overwhelming ideas from the OEA LRCs who led the sessions that we should always bargain the hard stuff first. If not, then what have we got to bargain? While there is legislation regarding changes to OTES, all of us in attendance could agree on several factors, but one that came up as an issue over and over again was consistency in evaluations. In light of an upcoming decision on Janus, it is clear that we ALL need to be involved in getting our voices heard and not letting others carry the weight. Our union is not only here to bargain for us, but they uphold what we all work hard for daily. I mean would you want administration deciding the fate of your license upon renewal? Would you want your teaching neighbor to have a different pay and compensation package than you? This is why we have unions, they protect us in many ways. As a member, it is during these tough times that we need to stay strong!

Remind for the Gahanna Levy

Join GJEA with all of the information you need about the upcoming Levy in Gahanna. In your text box put 81010 and in the message box put @gahlevy to get the information you need to be active and get our levy passed.