



gahannajeffersonea.com

centraloeane.org

ohea.org

nea.org

160 South
Hamilton Road

February 2020

...

The Advocate

President

Jenny Palguta, MSS
GJEAE Cell – 614-562-3416
palgutaj@hotmail.com

Vice President

Dwayne Marshall, LHS
marshall.133@me.com

Secretary

Paige Harding, MSE
Paige.K1@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Joan Miller- GATE ELA
jkrsak@yahoo.com

Successful Bundt Cake Fundraiser

GJEAE wants to thank all of you who bought a bundtlet during our "Nothing Bundt Cake" fundraiser which raised \$1200 for our scholarship fund. Way to go "Teachers" and a special thanks to all the Building Site Managers who promoted the sale and collected the money to help make this fund raiser possible. We already have one of our 3 scholarships paid for at this time.

Scholarships Available

GJEAE awards 3 scholarships each year worth up to \$2,000 for students who are majoring in education. The donations we receive from the fund raisers we are holding throughout the year will drive how much each scholarship will be worth. There are 3 scholarships available: 1) GJEAE College Scholarship- Criteria: Graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School and presently enrolled in a College of Education 2) John Allen Memorial Scholarship- Criteria: Graduating senior at Lincoln High School planning on attaining a degree in Education 3) The R. Burton Reed Memorial Scholarship- Criteria: Graduating senior planning to major in Education OR presently a college student majoring in Education AND his/her parent is a member of GJEAE. The Deadline for all applications is March 13, 2020. Applications can be found on the GJEAE website <https://www.gahannajeffersonea.com/local> or secured from the guidance office at the HS.



Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

GJEA Officers

Membership Chair
Lindsay Dexter, LE
lb Dexter@gmail.com

Fund for Children and Public
Education Chair (FCPE)
Bobby Swartzentruber -LHS
bswartz95@gmail.com

Webmaster
Doug Parker, MSS
douglasparkerii@gmail.com

Negotiations Chair
Bobby Swartzentruber -LHS
bswartz95@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar:

February 20– School Board Meeting, Clark Hall 6:30

February 24 – Professional Day

February 29 - Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation Gala

February 29 – Power Up Conference at Clark Hall

March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Start

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Tuition Reimbursement

Did you know that Gahanna teachers are eligible for tuition reimbursement? This year, over \$100,000 will be distributed to teachers who have spent money on their continuing education from May 2, 2019 through May 1, 2020. In past years, teachers have been reimbursed for as much as one half of their tuition expenses.

Please complete the tuition reimbursement form that has been sent to you by email from Lynn Guthrie in HR. Make sure that you provide proof of payment AND proof of grade or completion from your professor. This is for tuition expenses ONLY. Associated expenses, such as travel, parking, lab fees, or insurance, are not reimbursable. Also, you must fill out the form completely, including monetary totals.

The completed form with all documents must be returned to the Human Resource office no later than May 1, 2020 at 4:00 PM. No forms will be accepted past the deadline. Please be aware that if you do not correctly follow the procedure the committee has laid out, you unfortunately will not be included in this year's allotment. If you take a course in April and are unable to procure the documentations by May 1, you may submit it next year for reimbursement.

2019 Tax Deductions

Due to the new tax law that was passed by the US Congress starting with the 2018 calendar year, you are NOT permitted to deduct a portion of your NEA/OEA/GJEA dues from your income taxes as before. GJEA is sorry about this change for our members. Remember that because of Senator Brown and NEA, you are still able to deduct \$250 for teacher classroom expenses.



NEA Directors Lobby in DC

by Dwayne Marshall

As a newly elected NEA Director, I attend what is known as “NEA Super Week” for training, lobbying and the NEA Board of Directors meeting. These super weeks are held about 3 times a year in Washington D.C. at NEA’s Headquarters. As one of 8 NEA Directors representing Ohio, one of the most rewarding parts of the job is to visit Capitol Hill and speak with our elected Representatives, both Democrats and Republicans, on a variety of topics that relate to Public Education. One of the issues discussed on my most recent trip was “Ending Social Security Penalties GPO/WEP” which penalizes public employees (teachers included) who started working in the private sector before becoming a public employee. Because teachers collect a pension, your social security will be either eliminated or heavily reduced. If you paid into Social Security with a certain number of years, then you should be eligible to collect Social Security.

For example: Early in your marriage you decide to leave teaching because of childcare while your spouse works in the private industry. Then, you decide to return to work after your children are old enough. The unfortunate happens and you lose your spouse. You want to retire but can’t because your spouse’s Social Security won’t cover you because you are eligible for STRS. OEA and NEA are lobbying for an end to this unfairness.

Another topic we spoke with legislators about is “School Modernization/Rebuild America’s Schools Act” which encourages the Federal Government to take notice and help public schools replace or renovate buildings. The average school building is 50 years or older and many of them are unhealthy for our students and teachers. The infrastructure of schools nationwide are in poor shape and in Ohio, we fit the trend. We placed copies of pictures from buildings with the awful conditions that our students and teachers are in every day (Gahanna included) in the hands of each Congress person we talked to.

Being a NEA Director, I am able to bring our local issues directly to Washington D.C. and I am proud and honored to represent Gahanna and Ohio so I can place our issues on the forefront. Our next “NEA Super Week” will be in April.

Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation Gala

The Gala is around the corner and GJEA will once again sponsor a “Corporate Table”. There are a few seats left at GJEA’s table and are available for \$50 per ticket instead of \$75. If you would like to join GJEA at the Gala on the evening of Saturday, February 29th at COSI, please email Jenny as it will be first come/first serve.

Social Media

Please remember that your social media posts celebrating or complaining about snow days, delays or the lack thereof are NOT advised. It is important that the community perceives us in a positive light. Please watch what you post as you are a public employee and can be held accountable for your online activity.

Power Up Conference

Central OEA/NEA and GJEA will be hosting a Power UP and Diversity Conference on February 29, 2020 at Clark Hall (Gahanna Lincoln High School). Members can choose to attend either the Power Up! Professional Development Conference or the Diversity Conference. During the conferences, there will also be an Engagement Fair. This conference like all of Central's conferences, are free for all Central OEA members (members of GJEA are members of Central). You can earn CEU's which can be used toward license renewal, networking with colleagues, and Power Up with relevant, timely PD. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Conference Agendas

8:45 Registration

9:30 – 2:00 Sessions

11:30-12:30 Lunch & Engagement Fair

2:15 Closing & evaluations

2:45 (approximately) Networking at Rusty Bucket

Power Up

There are 7 tracks at the Power Up conference to choose from.

Diversity

The theme of this year's Diversity conference is Valuing Minority Voices: The need to recruit and support minority educators

You are required to register. Please use the following link to do so:

<https://qr.go.page.link/Rpujp>

NEW GJEA Remind

If you have not signed up for the NEW GJEA Remind account to receive a quick text from Jenny about negotiations or GJEA happenings. See your site manager as they have the information you need to sign up- each building has a different code now.



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: 2/18, 3/20 3/30, 4/9, 4/13, 5/22, 5/26 and 5/28. Compensation Days are paid days as we do evening Parent/Teacher Conferences to receive this day off, therefore using a personal day before and after a Comp Day will not result in a 2 for 1 Personal Day.