



[http://www](http://www.gahannajeffersonea.com)

[gahannajeffersonea.com](http://gahannajeffersonea.com)

[centraloeanea.org](http://centraloeanea.org)

[ohea.org](http://ohea.org)

[nea.org](http://nea.org)

**GJEA**

160 South  
Hamilton Road

May 2017

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# The Advocate

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## Prescription Insurance Change Coming July 1

The Insurance Committee met May 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the renewal rate for United Health Care. As we all know, there is a rising cost for prescription drugs no matter what you are taking. By limiting pharmacies it will help us save about \$84,000 for this coming year. The committee voted to drop Walgreens along with a list of others as a place to fill prescriptions. If you currently get your prescription filled at Walgreens, you will want to move to a new pharmacy by July 1, 2017. There are many other options that will



accept United Health Care. We know this is upsetting to some but it is easy to transfer a prescription and please keep in mind this decision is to save us from a raise in our insurance costs. Please look for communication from Central Office for pharmacies that are no longer in our network and those that are remaining. There will also be suggestions on how to transfer your prescriptions.

## Job Postings

There is another reason to check out the *New* GJEA Website. Starting soon, **Job Postings** will not only be emailed to you but will be placed on the GJEA website. Check it out for current and past Advocates, current contract, seniority list, as well as other important information.



Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

### GJEA Officers

Membership Chair  
Lindsay Dexter, LE  
[lb Dexter@gmail.com](mailto:lb Dexter@gmail.com)

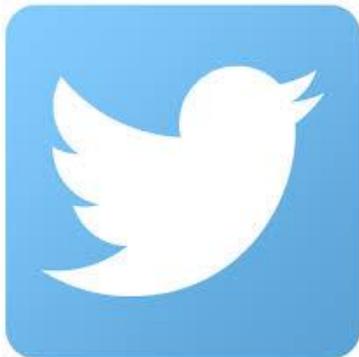
Fund for Children and Public  
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Webmaster  
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Negotiations Chair  
Dwayne Marshall-LHS  
[marshall.133@me.com](mailto:marshall.133@me.com)

### **Website and Twitter**

Check out the new GJEA website at [GahannaJeffersonEA.com](http://GahannaJeffersonEA.com). Need to keep up with what's going on then follow GJEA on Twitter @GJEAtweets



## **Mark Your Calendar:**

**May 11- School Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Clark Hall**

**May 11 & 12 OEA Representative Assembly**

**May 25 - Last Day of School for Students**

**May 26 - Last Day of School for Teachers**

**May 27 - Graduation - Schottenstein Center - 9am**

### **Grassroots Award Winner**



Grassroots Activist Award Winners

It was announced at the Central OEA RA that Wendy Roberts- Middle School West and Bobby Swartzentruber of LHS were winners of the Grassroots Activist Award. This award recognizes the contributions of individuals who have

demonstrated exemplary service to the Association and fellow members at the building or site level and are not a local officer. Wendy was nominated because of her service to GJEA for the past 8 years. She has been a building representative as well as a member of the evaluation committee. Wendy does an exceptional job of keeping her school informed on important educational issues. Congratulations, Wendy, we truly appreciate your work. Bobby Swartzentruber has been with us a short time but has already made an impact as a building representative. Bobby has set up both the Twitter and Facebook accounts that serve as a way to communicate educational issues to the membership as well as the community. He served on the Negotiations Team for our most recent contract. Congratulations, Bobby, we truly appreciate your work. We are so blessed to have both of you as a part of our team.



## Other Honors at the Retirement Banquet

The banquet not only honors our retirees but also awards those who have been an inspiration to educators. Phil Peters will be placed in the GJEA Hall of Fame for his many years of dedication to the Association. Phil Peters served and represented the teacher's interest on the insurance committee. When Mark Meuser retired, Jenny went to Phil with many questions during negotiations and advice on the workings of this committee. She truly appreciated his expertise and confidentiality as she was learning her role as GJEA President. Phil is very deserving to be a GJEA Hall of Fame recipient and will receive this award with our thanks for serving.

The Friend of Education will be awarded to Dr. Allan Berger. Dr. Berger spends several days a week at Blacklick Elementary reading with students. He has given so much of his time to our students since his retirement. He is truly a Friend of Education and the Gahanna Schools appreciate his service.

Scholarships will also be awarded to the following students who either plan on or are majoring in education in college. The John Allen Memorial winner is Kathleen McGuff who is graduating from Gahanna this year and will attend Wittenberg University and will major in Early Childhood Education. This scholarship goes to a student who is a graduating senior from Gahanna and is going into education. The GJEA College winner is Matthew Gregory who is a 2015 graduate of Gahanna and is majoring in Music Education at The Ohio State University. This scholarship goes to a graduate of Gahanna that is currently enrolled in a college of education. The R. Burton Reed winner is Tiffany Palguta who is a 2015 graduate from Gahanna and is majoring in Early Childhood Education at Otterbein University. This scholarship goes to a student who is either graduating from HS or is already in college and majoring in education and has a parent who is a member of GJEA. Congrats to all of our winners!



## Update Budget – PRESS RELEASE

### Statement from the Ohio Education Association on the House budget

“We appreciate the addition of \$90 million in education funding in the House budget given the tight revenue situation, and we are glad the House listened to the voices of educators and removed the unnecessary and unworkable teacher ‘externship’ proposal,” said OEA President Becky Higgins. “We look forward to continuing to work with members of the House and Senate to ensure equitable and adequate funding for all students, no matter their zip code or family income.”

“We also encourage the House and Senate to address Ohio’s looming graduation crisis by incorporating the recommendations of the Graduation Requirements Work Group and State Board of Education in the budget.”

## Evaluation Changes (Update)

The proposed change to the Teacher Evaluation, which includes removing the 50% Student Growth Data is now being presented to the State Legislature. Once it passes through committee, it will go through both houses of the state legislation and will require a signature from the Governor. There is renewed hope that we could see these changes by next school year. Other changes include, data being a part of the evaluation that will require a teacher to show how they are using data to determine their teaching strategies, which will be embedded within the performance rubric. When you are not being evaluated, you will have a talk with your administrator about how you are meeting your Professional Growth Plan that you are required to submit at the beginning of every school year. We can also celebrate under this new law that SLO's will be no more. There may be a time, when your voice needs to be heard to get this through the legislation. In the meantime, this is your dues dollars at work as OEA has been pushing for these changes ever since the law on Teacher Evaluation was passed.



## Personal Leave Changes

At the end of this school year, there will be some changes to Personal Leave that you need to be aware of. Two or less of your personal days will automatically roll over to the 2017-18 school year. If you have no days left, nothing will roll over and you will still receive the contractual 3 days next year. You will only receive pay for 1 day this summer if you have 3 days left and two roll into your bank for next year, which means you will have 5 at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. You **do not** have a choice on whether you want to roll over the extra days or get paid.

Other changes for the 2017-18 school year, you will **not** need permission to use a personal day before or after a holiday but you will be charged 2 days for using 1 day before or after a holiday. Personal Day usage on any other day will be 1 for 1. From now on unless the contract is changed, up to 2 days will roll over and you will get paid for what is left. You will not get paid for more than 3 days and you will not be permitted to have more than 5 days total in your bank one year.

**Note:** You are still required to give at least 3 days notice before using a personal day.

		Teacher Performance			
		4	3	2	1
Student Growth	Above	Accomplished	Accomplished	Skilled	Developing
	Expected	Skilled	Skilled	Developing	Developing
	Below	Developing	Developing	Ineffective	Ineffective

## Carol Correthers for STRS Board

OEA has endorsed **Carol Correthers** for re-election to the STRS Board. Correthers is an intervention specialist in Lorain City Schools and a current member of the STRS Board. Ballots for the upcoming STRS Board election will be mailed in early April. There are two candidates running for one seat on the Board representing contributing (active) members of STRS. STRS members eligible to vote in this election will receive ballots and voting information in early April.

Correthers has the training and experience to deal with investments, pensions and health care issues. She has been a strong and affective advocate for her fellow educators in the important role of an STRS Board member. Further, she shares OEA's views and values. The changes in pension benefits passed by the legislature in 2012 were necessary to improve the solvency of the system. However, teachers are working longer and contributing more than ever before. Therefore, she will oppose any further increase in employee contributions or reduction in pension benefits for active teachers.

Update: Each building had a voting party as a reminder to vote and was able to draw a winner for a gift card. We have a number of winners that participated.

**Julie Ingo** (LHS), **Dawn Stanforth** (LE), **Lynzee Waddle** (CE), **Rachel Mooney** (HP), **Abbi Herzberg** (JE), **Kyle Wood** (MSW), **Danielle Dominak** (MSS), **Tiffany Margolis** (MSE), **Theresa Jones** (RM), **MaryAnn Byrum** (BL) **Becca Lampe** (GL)

Thanks to all GJEA members who voted in this very important election for the well being of our retirement system.



## **I Want To Be Like You**

Thank you, teacher,  
for being my life's role model.  
When I consider all you've taught me  
and reflect on the kind of person you are,  
I want to be like you—  
smart, interesting and engaging,  
positive, confident, yet unpretentious.  
I want to be like you—  
well-informed and easy to understand,  
thinking with your heart as well as your head,  
gently nudging us to do our best,  
with sensitivity and insight.  
I want to be like you—  
giving your time, energy and talent  
to ensure the brightest possible future  
for each of us.  
Thank you, teacher  
For giving me a goal to shoot for:  
I want to be like you!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

**From your GJEA Officers - Relax, Rest, Rejuvenate, you are awesome and we look forward to serving you next year. Have a Great Summer. The next Advocate will be mailed to you in August.**