



[http://www](http://www.gahannajeffersoneducation.org)

**GJEA**

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

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

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

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

160 South  
Hamilton Road

## NEA - RA

*August 2015*

# The Advocate

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The National Education Association Representative Assembly took place from July 1 - 6 in Orlando, Florida. Jenny Palguta (MSS), Paige Harding (MSE), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Dave Palguta (MSE) Josh Goody (MSE) and Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS) represented Gahanna joining more than 10,000 teachers and ESPs representing all 50 states. It is the largest democratic meeting in the world. Each year, the main purpose is to give NEA leadership an agenda and direction that best represents our profession. We discussed, debated and voted on over 120 business items, amendments and bylaws. The ethic from the delegates was to continue to push legislators at both the national and state levels to use assessments in a meaningful way that truly helps both teaching and learning, to stop using assessments as a high-pressure tool against students and teachers and to continue the fight for social justice. By fighting for social justice, we can create a school environment where all students are welcome and then able to learn.

## Relay for Life

The American Relay For Life is the and most impactful event to end communities to celebrate people cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Today, with the support of thousands of volunteers like you, the **American Cancer Society** is helping save more than 400 lives a day. We raised \$809 for team GJEA this year. Thanks for all of your efforts and support.



Cancer Society world's largest fundraising cancer. It unites across the globe who have battled

Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

### GJEA Officers

Membership Chair  
Lindsay Dexter, LE  
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Negotiations Chair  
Dwayne Marshall-LHS  
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## **Mark Your Calendar:**

**August 4 – New Teacher Orientation and Luncheon**

**August 6 – GJEA Board of Directors Retreat**

**August 10 – First Day of School – Teachers**

**August 12 – First Day of School – Students**

**September 7- Labor Day- No School**

## **Breakfast**

As we are all aware, the beginning of the new school year is approaching! Your GJEA officers sincerely hope that this summer has been one of rejuvenation and you will be ready to return to your classroom to welcome new students as we begin another school year. In fact, prior to welcoming our new students we will first be welcoming our new teachers in early August.



The first official day back for returning teachers will be Monday, August 10th with the annual district assembly in the Gahanna Lincoln High School auditorium. Just prior to that meeting, GJEA will host a “light breakfast” get-together in the high school cafeteria beginning at 7:30 AM.

Plan now to attend this event to enjoy social time with friends and colleagues from throughout the district. This is an excellent way to kick off the 2015-2016 school year. Have an enjoyable rest of the summer until we all head back to school on Monday, August 10. We hope to see you at breakfast!

to pay their membership dues. Your site managers will have sign-up information available on the first day of school if you are interested in participating for the 2015-2016 school year. You can go to [ohea.org](http://ohea.org) and follow the directions on their website as well.

## **eDues**

During the 2012-2013 school year, a group of GJEA members chose to participate in an “eDues” pilot program through OEA. Instead of using payroll deduction, members paid their monthly association dues through either electronic withdrawal from a personal checking account, savings account or credit card. One benefit for those using a credit card is that you can collect the rewards offered by your credit card provider.

Because the program worked very smoothly, OEA is seeking more volunteers to use this alternative payment program

# GJEA Retreat

The GJEA Board of Directors will hold its annual retreat on Thursday, August 6th at the Airport Marriott from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served. The morning session will include the August business meeting and Site Manager training. After lunch, we will receive an update from our OEA Labor Relations Consultant, **Diana Watson**. She has been asked to discuss the grievance and negotiation process to all in attendance so we can prepare for the upcoming school year.

If you are interested in learning about how you can become more involved with your association, please contact **GJEA President Jenny Palguta**. Also, you are welcome to attend the August retreat to find out more of the importance of association work. If you are interested in joining us for the retreat, **please RSVP to Secretary, Paige Harding**. All members are welcome to attend!

Each officer's contact information (including a personal e-mail address) is printed on the front page of each month's *Advocate*. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us whenever you have a question, concern, comment, or suggestion. Text, e-mail (personal email only) or call and we will get back to you!

## Delegate Elections Notice

During the last week of September, GJEA will hold elections for delegates to the 2015-2016 OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. OEA delegates will represent our local membership at the December 5 and May 13-14 Representative Assemblies along with the Central OEA/NEA District RA that will be held in late April.

Our NEA delegates will represent the GJEA membership at the annual RA of the National Education Association. The NEA RA always takes place during the first week of July and will be held in Washington D.C. next summer.

We are anticipating that we will need at least ten OEA delegates and three or four NEA delegates. If you are interested in being placed on the ballot, please contact **GJEA President Jenny Palguta** no later than September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Also, in March of 2016, we will hold our GJEA officer & Site Manager elections for new two-year terms. Persons interested in running should keep this in mind.

Questions about the RA delegate election or our local officer election process may be directed to any of the GJEA officers.



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# Scholarships Awarded

The banquet last spring not only honored our retirees but also awarded scholarships to students planning on majoring in education. The John Allen Memorial winner was Matthew Gregory who will attend OSU this Fall, the R. Burton Reed Memorial winner was Katie Conklin who will attend BGSU this Fall and the GJEA College winner was Alli Palguta who attends BGSU.

## Remind

Join Remind and you will be able to receive immediate negotiation updates along with other important information. GJEA officers value your time and will use Remind indiscriminately. If you would like to join the GJEA Remind for information, please follow these directions: For a text= To: 81010 Message: @gjeaupdate For an email= To: [gjeaupdate@mail.remind.com](mailto:gjeaupdate@mail.remind.com) Subject: (leave this blank)

## Negotiations

As we begin the new school year, please keep in mind that our contract runs out June 30, 2016. We are planning to negotiate a new contract in the spring of 2016. In order for your team to represent you well, there are a few things that you can do to help. Consider joining one of our negotiation committees of either Finance or Language that do their work in the Fall and Winter to get the team ready. These committees, along with surveys, help drive discussions for your team to produce a package that best

represents  
at the first  
the Board  
We will  
meeting on  
September  
the HS  
would like



the teachers  
session with  
of Education.  
have an initial  
Wednesday,  
23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm in  
library. If you  
to learn more

about how you can become involved with negotiations, please attend this meeting to see what it's all about. If you choose to join a committee, you may make that decision during this meeting. Each committee will decide the schedule that works for its members as we move forward. We will be producing a survey for GJEA members to complete sometime in the fall. Please make every effort to complete the survey as it is sent to you. It is the backbone of how your team will make decisions.

Once negotiations begin, there will be a number of ways you may stay informed. We will be sending out "The Negotiator" which is the newsletter dedicated to contract negotiations and periodically we will send out updates using the *Remind App*. (to sign up= see the above article)

# Thank you,

Dear GJEA,

Thank you for a lovely evening at the Hilton last week. Willie and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves! It was nice to spend time with friends and fellow retirees and hear all of the funny and touching reflections. Thank you for the gift card and all of the countless hours you all give in helping to support our teachers. We are blessed to have such a strong leadership team! **Sincere Thanks, Debbie Zamora**



Thank you so much for the lovely dinner yesterday evening. It was fun to see and hear from all the dedicated people who have made GJPS their second home for so long - well over 600 years of experience in that room. Thank you also for everything you've done to stick up for us over the years - it has gone unnoticed and it most certainly is deeply appreciated. Have a great summer! **Sincerely , Kate (Lewicki)**

Many thanks for the wonderful evening at the GJEA banquet on May 5! The food was wonderful, Karie did an amazing job as our MC, it was great to see so many colleagues and share retirement plans. Thank you also for the gift card. It was such a memorable evening! **Sincerely, Sherryl Bourgeois**

Thank you so much for the lovely retirement dinner. It was a very special evening and such a joy to travel down memory lane with fellow retirees. I wish you well and thank you for all you do for teachers and students in the Gahanna Jefferson Schools. **Fondly, Susan Siegel** P.S. Thank you for the gift card, as well.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for honoring me and my fellow retirees at the lovely reception and dinner last week at the Hilton at Easton. The event was well planned and well attended and provided opportunities to share memories and make new ones. Thank you, too, for the Easton gift card! I promise to spend it wisely! I am profoundly grateful for the time I've had in Gahanna teaching the greatest kids and working with the greatest teachers and staff a girl could hope for! Thank you, again, for the recognition and of an amazing career! **Sincerely, Mary Ann Handley**

Thank you for the lovely dinner and gift card. Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated. It is admirable that our professional organization honors the retirees and encourages and supports the next generation of teachers. It has been a pleasure being part of GJEA and its mission. **Thanks again, Kathy Cox**

Thank you so much for the wonderful Retirement Banquet. It was a delightful evening seeing colleagues that began their teaching career 30 years ago, reminiscing about teaching stories, and looking forward to the next adventures that await us. The dinner was delicious. Thank you, too, for the gift card to Easton. I look forward to having time to shop. **Sincerely, Michele Disbro**

I was honored to accept the Friend of Education award recently at the Recognition Dinner at the Easton Hilton. I have had a long connection with Gahanna Schools. (60 years) and I am thrilled to be able to continue as a volunteer at the one-room schoolhouse. Thank you so much for the award and the dinner. **Sharon Cremean**

Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner and honor you bestowed in me as a "Friend of Education." And thank you for all your contributions to our students and your fellow staff members! **Yours in Gahanna-Jefferson, Windy (McKenna)**

# GJE



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