



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

GJEA

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160 South
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August 2016

The Advocate

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NEA-RA

The National Education Association's Representative Assembly was held this past July in Washington D.C. More than 8,000 delegates representing every state including teachers and support staff from military schools located in different parts of the world attended the RA. Gahanna membership elected six teachers who were elected: Sarah Hanson (LE), Paige Harding (MSE), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Dave Palguta (MSE), Jenny Palguta (MSS) and Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS). The purpose of the RA is to inform the leadership of the NEA what course they are expected to follow. This is the largest democratic assembly in the United States. Some of the highlights of the meeting were visits by Hillary Clinton who is running for President and officially endorsed by NEA, Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander (R) and Washington Senator Patty Murray (D) who both praised NEA for helping to push for "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) replacing the failed policies from "No Child Left Behind". Both senators asked teachers and the NEA to push for implementation of ESSA and to hold both state and local government officials accountable. The most moving speech came from Jahana Hayes, National Teacher of the Year, who reminded us "Teachers are not visitors in the lives of students. You are somebody's hero, and you don't even know it. Don't take that responsibility lightly. We often hear that teachers reserve their best lessons for when they are being observed. Remember that everyday your students are observing you."

Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

GJEA Officers

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Mark Your Calendar:

August 2 – New Teacher Orientation and Luncheon

August 11 – GJEA Board of Directors Retreat –Marriott Airport

August 15 – First Day of School – Teachers

August 17 – First Day of School – Students

September 5- Labor Day- No School



New Contract

For the first time in many years, we will start the new school year with an official contract. The three-year contract was ratified by the membership on May 25th with a 401 – 2 vote and the GJ Board of Education on June 2nd with a 4-0 vote. This contract can be opened after the second year with limited topics including financials. Your team is spending the time in July to make sure all the language is written correctly. Once the contract is signed, limited numbers will be available for print but will be online at the GJEA website. This process will take some time, so please be patient. We are hoping to have it ready by the start of school. The Negotiations Team would like to thank the membership for your support and encouraging words before, during and after negotiations. It is very important to the team that your voices were heard at the table and we are representing you.



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 that you will be charged up and ready to return to your classroom to welcome new groups of students as we begin another school year. Prior to welcoming our new students, we will first be welcoming our new teachers and superintendent in early August.

The first official day back for returning teachers will be Monday, August 15th 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 welcome new staff members, greet friends and colleagues from throughout the district. This is an excellent way to kick off the 2016-2017 school year. Have an enjoyable rest of the summer and we hope to see you at breakfast!

Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE)

What exactly does “FCPE” mean? FCPE is the acronym for OEA’s ***Fund for Children and Public Education*** and **Diane Ballard** (MSE) is GJEA’s FCPE chair.

Why should we support FCPE? FCPE allows us to have political involvement through the OEA that we would not have otherwise. Contributions to FCPE help us continue the fight for fairly funded educational opportunities for all children, help us to defend our own collective bargaining rights, and help us protect our retirement benefits. We get a reimbursement from this fund to promote local board of education candidates, which will be vital in Gahanna. Please give or increase your giving during this year’s fund drive!

Remember it is illegal for your regular dues to be used to endorse or promote political issues or candidates, which is why it is so important to donate to this fund. We would like to honor those teachers who were recognized by OEA for their exemplary giving; Abigail Murry, Mary Powell and Joan Miller.

Legal Program

Did you know that one of the benefits you receive for being an OEA member is the OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program? Association members (and their spouses) who work in Franklin County may access the program through Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn LLP. This firm has done so much work for OEA that their office is in the OEA building in downtown Columbus.

Benefits include: up to four free 30-minute consultation sessions per year; free notary public service; free durable power of attorney for health care and a living will; reduced hourly rates for all types of personal legal work; and reduced contingent fees.

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, savings account or credit card. One benefit for those using a credit card 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 for 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 2016-2017 school year. You can go to ohea.org and follow the directions on their website as well.



Delegate Elections Notice

During the last week of September, GJEA will hold elections for delegates to the 2016-2017 OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. OEA delegates will represent our local membership at the December and May Representative Assemblies along with the Central OEA/NEA District RA, which will be held in April.



Our NEA delegates will represent 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 Boston 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 21th.

Any questions you may have about the upcoming RA delegate election need to be directed to any of your officers or elections chair, Jeanette Frioni- MSW.

GJEA Retreat

The GJEA Board of Directors will hold its annual retreat on Thursday, August 11th 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 items that affect GJEA as we move forward with our new contract 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 about the importance of association work. If you are interested in joining us at the retreat, **please RSVP to Secretary, Paige Harding**.

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!

THANK YOUS

Dear Jenny,

Thank you so much for planning my wonderful day in Gahanna. Everywhere you took me, I saw engaged educators and students. I am so proud of everything you do as a leader and know great things will continue to occur.

Take Care

From Becky Higgins, OEA President

Dear GJEA,

Thank you very much for the lovely evening. I enjoyed celebrating with the scholarship winners, retirees, staff, Board of Directors, friends and families. I am proud that I had the privilege to serve in this prestigious professional organization. I respect the work that GJEA does to protect and promote our schools and teachers. Therefore, I am honored to have accepted the Hall of Fame Award. I appreciate your generosity and kindness.

Sincerely,

Fran Flowers

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your continued support and generous donation to the Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation.

Your support enables us to continue to enrich our programs and to "Promote Excellence" throughout the schools. This year we raised over \$130,000, which will be available to the staff members via a competitive grant process.

Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Sharon Tomko and Tricia Twigg

Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation

President





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