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centraloeane.org

ohea.org

nea.org

160 South
Hamilton Road

December 2019

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The Advocate

President

Jenny Palguta, MSS
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Vice President

Dwayne Marshall, LHS
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Secretary

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Treasurer

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How does the GJEa Board of Directors Work?

All site managers that represent you from your building and officers are elected by the membership every 2 years per our constitution. Your site managers bring items of importance from their building to our monthly meetings. There is always an open forum for discussion to find out if other buildings are experiencing the same situation or if it is just one building. The board may direct the president to speak with administrators or the superintendent depending on the situation. All items of importance are recommended and then voted on at each monthly meeting.

Jenny Palguta, GJEa President, organizes the agenda and chairs each meeting. She does not vote nor control any vote that is brought before the board. The board votes on the action they want taken on your behalf. If there is a certain item that you want brought to the GJEa Board of Directors, please speak with your site manager. Any member may request an action and attend any meeting but only an elected representative may vote on an issue. The entire Board of Directors is elected by you, the membership, to act as your representatives.

We have and will always encourage as many of you who would like to be involved to see how this process works by attending any of our monthly meetings throughout the school year.

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.

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

**Happy Holidays
from Your GJEA
Officers and Site
Managers**

Enjoy the Break



Mark Your Calendar:

December 23- No School - First Day of Break

December 23- Hanukah Begins at Sundown

December 25 - Merry Christmas

January 1 - Happy New Year

January 6 - Professional Development - No Students

January 7 - Students return from Break

Survey - Negotiations: Your Voice, Our Contract.

The survey for Negotiations has been sent out by email to those who have signed up to receive the Advocate. Please take the time to complete the survey because we need to hear directly from you before we can begin to put a negotiations packet together. Please make sure your voice is heard because this is your contract. The online Survey will be live until **December 20th** our last day before break. Your Voice, Our Contract.

Negotiations

This is another negotiations year and we need your help to shape the upcoming contract. Interested in working toward contract topics that are most important to our members? Please consider joining the Financial or Language Committees. They will begin their work in January until March. For more information, contact Bobby Swartzentruber by email at Bswartz95@gmail.com or Jenny Palguta at palgutaj@hotmail.com

Important Insurance Reminder

Insurance Reminder that the deductible you have already paid from July 1-Dec 31 will roll into the new calendar year. It will NOT reset to zero but continue toward the \$2,000 single or \$4,000 family for the entire 2020 calendar year. This happens only for this year. We are on an 18-month plan that will allow us to switch from July 1st deductible reset to January 1st which also places us on a calendar year to match our Flexible Spending Account (FSA) calendar.

Ohio Education Association's RA

The OEA RA was held on Saturday December 7th at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. The purpose of the RA is for delegates from each school district to come together to set policy and a legislative agenda that OEA leadership must carry forward to support public education. Gahanna delegates in attendance were Liz Jaffee (JE), Dwayne Marshall (LHS), Dave Palguta (MSE), Jenny Palguta (MSS), Mary Beth Powell (GL), Bethany Rak (HP), Dawn Stanforth (LES), Bobby Swartzentruber (LHS), Maggie Wright-Paskett (RM). Note: GJEA is allotted 11 delegates due to the size of our local.

Highlights of the RA: NEA President, Lily Eskelson-Garcia, was the keynote speaker. She strongly encouraged the need for educators to participate with the upcoming elections. Educators need to support pro-public-school candidates on all levels from school boards to the President of the United States. A high turnout of our members for this election is vital if we want to defeat the failed agenda and policies of Betsy Devos. Educators should consider joining Strongpublicschool.org and get 3 friends to take the pledge along with becoming a delegate to their Party's Convention whether you are a Democrat or Republican. Along with using this site, members and non-members can obtain information on the Presidential Candidates while watching taped interviews. The questions asked of the candidates are generated using questions submitted by our fellow colleagues across the country. If you join Strongpublicschool.org, you will have access to much information about the upcoming elections that you can share with others.

The Delegates also voted unanimously to recommend a set of comprehensive reforms to the state report card. Instead of a cookie-cutter approach, OEA envisions a system that uses performance-based evaluation and a student opportunity profile that have proven successful in other states. As OEA President, Scott DiMauro said, "Now is the time to end the destructive practice of rating schools and districts on misleading punitive A-F letter grades that shame public educators for the poverty of their students."

Other Highlights; Dwayne Marshall was officially elected to represent Ohio as a NEA Board of Director. Among his duties will be to travel to Washington D.C. to speak to both U.S Senators and House Representatives. This term is to finish a term for someone who resigned, so he will run again in the Spring for an opportunity to serve a three-year term.

Bobby Swartzentruber and Dwayne Marshall picked up awards for their contributions to the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). These funds are a nonpartisan, political action fund for candidates and ballot issues who support public education. NO dues dollars are allowed to be placed into this fund, so we rely on members to donate every year.

Holiday Pay Day

Since our normal payday is on Christmas Day, you will be paid on December 20th before the Holiday.

License Renewal – LPDC

Many of you may have licenses expiring this year or questions about your IPDP or our renewal process. We wanted to let you know, don't hesitate to reach out. Last year we started an LPDC email to ask any questions or get information. You can email lpdc@gjps.org or any of our LPDC members. Please note, this is for questions not submissions.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Central Office, from 3:00-6:00 pm. You can send your updated IPDP and CEU requests to LPDC at CO in office mail. Please remember that our handbook and all of our LPDC forms that you may need are found on the GJPS Curriculum site under [Licensure](#). Our meeting dates are as follows:

January 7
February 11
March 10
April 14
May 12

We look forward to working with you,

Your LPDC Members

Teachers:

Sandy Nicholson, Vice Chair – Blacklick Elementary at nicholsons@gjps.org

Angela Potts, Chair – Lincoln High School at pottsa@gjps.org

Rhonda Wamsley, Secretary – Middle School South at wamsleyr@gjps.org

Administration:

Erin Schmidt, Academic Officer

Jason Bates, Academic Officer

