

SPRING 2013

MEMBER LOBBY DAYS — MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

OEA members and Ohio’s public schools face critical challenges this General Assembly. The Governor recently released his biennial budget proposal, which includes a new school funding formula, the statewide expansion of vouchers and a massive income tax cut that mostly benefits wealthy Ohioans and drains \$4.3 billion from much-needed state revenue. Now more than ever you must make sure your voice is heard! Member Lobby Days provide an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key issues that impact you directly. Now more than ever you must make sure your voice is heard! Member Lobby Days provide an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key issues that impact you directly. Join your colleagues at OEA Headquarters in the Media Center, located at 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus at 9:00 a.m. Keep in mind that you need to contact your legislator to schedule a meeting prior to lobby day.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013

To RSVP for any of the lobby day dates, please email Julie Parsley at parsleyj@ohea.org. For more information, contact OEA Government Relations at 1 800 282 1500.

TEACHER TOOLS

- * www.goanimate.com— video maker
- * www.proprofs.com— web based quiz, polls, surveys, brain games, flashcards
- * Thefutureschannel.com— movies from scientists, engineers, explorers that are shaping the future.
- * Langwitches.com
- * Kerpoof.com— learning through creativity
- * Freerice.com— quiz to help world food program
- * Bookwink.com— reading books grades 3-8
- * Animoto.com/education— creating videos in the classroom

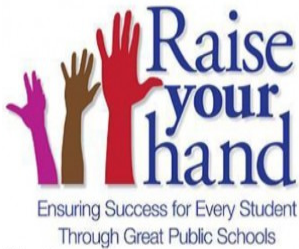
NEOEA Day Trips— Two Choices:

Come fellow educators on NEOEA weekend with your choice of two different trips:

- ◇ The New York City tour will leave on Thursday night, October 17 and includes a ticket to a Broadway show, another to the 911 Memorial Site on Ground Zero, hotel accommodations and some meals.
- ◇ Hatfield an McCoy Feud tour will leave on Friday morning, October 18, and include a tour of some of the famous “feud” sites. Hotel accommodations and some materials are included.

Visit the NEOEA website for more information!

NEA President Dennis van Roekel along with Secretary— Treasurer Becky Pringle announced an initiative called “Raise Your Hand”! They wanted to move ahead with the effort to ensure a great public school for every student, to take control of our profession, and to see public education as a social justice issue. “We have to get America back to believing that public education is the solution, not the problem.”



Continue to visit our website! It is updated often.

<http://coventryea.ohea.us>

You'll find helpful information, links, and updates on our district as well as advice, our contract, past newsletters, upcoming events, and teacher resources.



<http://neoea.org/>

A New Years Resolution in Spring?

Spring is here but if you haven't made a resolution for the New Year or you already failed on the one you made in January, here is an idea.

It seems as though when you are out socially, everyone has a comment about our profession. Often I bet you just smile politely (while wanting to scream), make a quick explanation about the real funding issues or insert any politically correct statement of the day, and move to another circle.

I say it's time to comment back— don't sit and squirm. It is time to make a New Year's resolution that each and every time our profession becomes the topic of conversation, we are the first to butt in, tell the truth, share our stories, and require the people in the circle to listen to why public education is under attack— not because of the employees— but because of the reform efforts that surround our profession and the legislative agendas that impact the districts we work in— no matter if it is urban, suburban, or rural... We are all feeling the punch! We can no longer sit back and wait for others to defend the profession though, we are the ones that must defend this institution.

We need to improve the image of our profession by bragging more. We should focus on the positives and share those stories with family and friends or in the social circles we may travel with. Let's resolve to stop nodding politely when others shake their heads sympathetically with us. Let's resolve to no longer nod our head at their patronizing quips. The people in these groups don't see into our buildings, witness the flashes of brilliance and enthusiasm that keep us going every day. Instead, they hear the stories on the news and believe them. That is not our reality, and they need to hear it from those of us in the classrooms, buildings, and workshops.

This is our story and everyone needs to hear it!

~Mary Alice Conkey, NEOEA President

SOME THOUGHTS TO LEAVE YOU WITH...

Rebels, turd-stirrers, instigators - all words used to describe unions, sometimes even ours. Our union's intention is not to pick fights or find all that is wrong with our administrators but it is meant to unify and make our members feel strong and protected. It is meant for us to have a voice. It is about being involved in our profession and the future of education.

Teaching is so different from when many of us started. New teacher evaluations, new testing, common core, new standards, SLO's, larger class size all with little to no pay raises. Did you know that in 2008 the *average* teacher raise was 6.6%? The average!! Talk about change! Yet we continue on because we love our students and want to see them succeed!

Our profession needs to become proactive instead of reactive! We cannot be reduced to a standardized test score. We need to fight for teachers to be recognized as professionals.

Don't complain in your lunches or point fingers at the union— Do something! Get involved, stand up, join, be active. Fight for what's right in our profession.