

SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has gotten off to a great start! It has been nice to see some positive changes in our facilities this school year! Something that we have waited too long for. I'm sure the next few months will speed up as we get back in the groove of our busy routine. As you get started I want to remind you of your right to have representation. If you are going in a meeting with the principal be sure to take a union rep in with you. This does not make you look guilty of any wrong doing, but it does serve as an extra set of ears and your rep will document the conversation so that there isn't any misunderstanding. We don't want to be put in a position of "he said, she said". This is just a tool to protect yourself and your right. Administration should welcome your rep in the meeting with you. Also be careful of social media. Once you put something on the web, it's there for anyone to get it. Teachers across the state have lost their jobs over Facebook issues. Also as we begin the second year of OTES, I want you to remember that as you are meeting with your principal and discussing your report, if you feel things aren't going well, then bring in a union rep, so that again you have another set of ears and eyes to document the communication. Make sure you understand what the expectations are so that there are no surprises at the end of the year.

In the next two months we will be holding our FCPE rally. Last year we were able to reach our goal of members donating and we were recognized at an RA assembly meeting. I want to encourage you to give at least \$1.00 a pay. It's vital that we protect our profession! Please vote and educate yourself in who you are voting for. We know that Gov. Kasich has stripped millions from public education and handed it over to charter schools. We can't afford another four years of the same leadership. We know Fitzgerald can't compete monetarily with Kasich, so it's up to us to tell our friends and family the importance of this election. Please don't forget the stress of SB5 and let's get active and show our state leaders that we are aware of what they are doing and there will be consequences for those that continue to rip apart public education!

Renee Burkhart –CEA President

"I'VE LEARNED THAT PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL."

Being a positive educator not only makes you better, it makes everyone around you better! Positive educators have the power to transform lives and inspire young minds to believe they can change the world. Here are seven ways we can all choose to be a positive educator:

- Be Positively Contagious- Research shows that emotions are contagious. Sincere smiles, kind words, encouragement and positive energy infect people in a positive way. You can be a germ or a big dose of vitamin C.
- Take a Daily Thank You Walk- Simply take a walk outside, in a mall, at your school, on a treadmill or anywhere else you can think of and think about all the things big and small that you are grateful for. The research shows you can't be stressed and thankful at the same time, so when you combine gratitude with physical exercise you give yourself a double boost of positive energy.
- Celebrate Success- Instead of thinking of all the things that went wrong in one day, celebrate one thing that went right. If you do this you will look forward to creating one success tomorrow.
- Expect to make a difference- Making a difference is the very reason why we became an educator in the first place.
- Believe in your students more than they believe in themselves- The difference between success and failure is belief and so often this belief is instilled in us by someone else.
- Develop Positive Relationships- to develop positive relationships you need to enhance communication, build trust, listen to them, make time for them, recognize them, show them you care through your actions.
- Show you care- The best educators stand out by showing their students and colleagues that they care about them.

Our Website-

[http://
coventryea.ohea.us](http://coventryea.ohea.us)

◇ Thank you
**Anne Bowers
and Rebekah
Rethmel** for
taking on our
elections com-
mittee!

◇ Thank you
**Lauri Rop-
chock** for be-
coming our
FCPE Chair-
person!

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Welcome Back to the School Year!

Make this a year that's filled with promise and opportunity. Here are NEA's suggestions to have your BEST school year yet!

1. Find more Time— Make time for yourself, make time to network, make time to plan, make time for students.
2. Build Better Lessons— visit BetterLesson.com for comprehensive lessons from master teachers.
3. Create Calm in your Classroom— from the beginning let your students know what will be tolerated and what won't.
4. Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate—share unique ideas and fresh outlooks on lessons
5. Stress Less— dream, get support, exercise, hobbies, spend time with furry friends, and let negativity roll off you like water from a duck!
6. Toot your own Horn
7. Educate the Whole Child— build a foundation of values that includes respect, citizenship, and a sound work ethic
8. Stay on top of Tech
9. Advocate for Public Education— if we don't advocate for public education then those advocating against what's best for our students will win
10. Become a Lifelong Learner— continually grow and learn. Model the behavior we want to create in our students.

FCPE— CAN YOU GIVE A DOLLAR?

Maybe you're tired of hearing us ask you for more money. Maybe you don't know what FCPE is. Maybe you think you can't afford to donate.

FCPE is very important to us as a teacher's union. Your donations to FCPE are our way of supporting pro-public education candidates— regardless of party— who understand the issues and support actions that will improve our schools and help our students.

Check out this website and learn the facts on FCPE.

<http://ecoea.ohea.us/what-is-fcpe/>

Will you consider having \$1 a pay taken out towards FCPE? Let your building rep, Renee, Kim, or Lauri Ropchock know and we can get you started!