

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

Welcome to 2017

Wow, it is hard to believe we have entered 2017 already. I'd like to say, "Isn't it great to be back?", but with this wacky weather I don't feel like we have really been back yet.

The snow is beautiful but challenging. Thank you for all of your determination and flexibility in trying to get 2017 started successfully for your students and colleagues. Please know we are working on figuring out how to make up the inclement weather days without having to go to school way beyond the currently posted end date.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 18th to come up with a plan for making up the days. I appreciate all of you who have emailed your ideas to me. I have forwarded your thinking to Larry D and John Ogden and will continue to share your input as we go forward. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

There is a lot happening this year that you will need to help your OCEA team navigate. Two specific biggies are the full opening of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and the setting of the OCSD calendar for the next couple of years. Please remember to read your emails and attend staff meetings to hear OCEA updates from your Building Reps.

Thank you for all you do, I hope you stay healthy and warm and remember to take care of yourself as you serve our students and community.

-Cindy Williams

Important Dates

January

Inclement Weather Meeting- Jan 18

Budget & School Board Work Session- Jan 23 @ 6:30pm;
Jackson Campus – Brd Rm

ESSA Forum- Jan 23 @ 6:30pm; Woodburn High School

CMC Meeting- Jan 25

Financial Fitness- Wkshp for early career educators (loan forgiveness)- Jan 26 @ 4pm; Rm A104, Jackson Campus
RSVP to [Cindy Williams](#)

OEA Training- Jan 28

Bond Renewal Work Session- Jan 30

February

OCEA Executive Board Meeting- Feb 7 @ 4pm

School Board Mtg- Feb 13 @ 7pm; Jackson Campus –
Brd Rm

OCEA Rep Council Meeting- Feb 14 @ 4pm
Rm B100, Jackson Campus

Input for Contract Maintenance & Upcoming Spring Bargaining

We have a few main ways used to share and gather member input; building visits, Building Reps, emails, phone calls, the OCEA website, and the newsletter. Please be open and share your true thoughts when you are asked "How are things going?" We generally ask these important questions:

- What is going well?
- What are some of the challenges you are facing?
- What professional development support do you need?
- Who is your "go to" person, someone you trust and respect in your building other than your Building Rep?
- What improvements can be made for improved teaching and learning conditions?
- What are your bargaining priorities?
- What do you need from your OCEA?

Remember: We can't help if we don't know about your concerns and suggestions for solutions. We look forward to visiting with you and listening to your ideas.

KUDOS: OCEA Members are amazing!

Jody Bean will be traveling to London to attend and present at the BETT conference. Congratulations, Jody!

Julie Voorhies and the OCHS Choir were selected as the winners of Specialty Heating and Cooling's Jingle contest! Yay, Julie!

Dana Henson and the OCHS Band took a trip to Hawaii to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Woo hoo, Dana!

NEA Representative Assembly

Cindy Williams will be on the OEA state ballot as a candidate for one of the OEA Region I positions. This position is supported by OEA and is a 3-year term. You will probably receive your OEA ballot in the mail sometime in late February. Make sure you vote & send your ballot in. How exciting would it be to have Cindy representing OCEA/OEA at the NEA RA!

Want to make an impact?

OEA Rep Assembly Delegates Needed!

Nominations for delegates to the Oregon Education Association Representative Assemblies will open Feb. 7th. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague. **We need at least 5 nominees.**

The following is a brief description of this event

The OEA Representative Assembly is the yearly meeting in which elected delegates debate and vote on governing documents and new business items, which will guide the direction of our state organization. OCEA has a great history of involvement, resulting in positive changes at the state level and benefits to our members.

The OEA RA will be April 21 – April 22 @ the Red Lion – Jantzen Beach. Nomination window is Feb 1-7. We will post the nominee names from Feb 7-13. The election will be Feb 13-18. Please let your Building Rep or someone on the leadership team know you want to be nominated. We need you and this is a fun way to help your colleagues.

If you wish to run for OEA/RA or have questions, please contact Brent Leong @ OCHS or Brenda Roland @ Redland.

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Natalia Quezada. She was the first member to respond with an accurate answer for December!

How many days does a standard contract year for teachers consist of?

Be the first to email [Cindy Williams](#) with the correct answer and win a prize!

Professional Development Fund (PDF)

Interested in taking advantage of the Professional Development Fund?

There are some important criteria that you need to be aware of.

Click [here](#) for more information

Barb Drennan Promising Practices Grants:

Do have a plan that could enhance your classroom skills or boost student achievement but need some funding to see if it works? Do you have an idea for a site-based professional development activity that could build partnerships but need some financing to get it going? If so, you need to apply for the **BARB DRENNAN PROMISING PRACTICES GRANTS!**

The Calendar?

Creation of the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 calendars is currently happening. There are new minimum academic minutes requirements which will make setting the calendar more difficult. Please send any thoughts you have about the calendar to Cindy Williams. We will not vote on the calendar, but we do have an opportunity for input per our Collective Bargaining agreement.

ESSA – We need your voice

ODE wants you to share your input on Oregon's State Plan to improve student learning in our state. For more information on feedback sessions, click [here](#). For more information on how ESSA impacts teachers, click [here](#).

TSPC License Renewal Transitions to Online System

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