

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

The beginning of this school year has been very affirming for me. My travels throughout the buildings allow me to see staff in various situations and environments. I am proud to say, "I work with amazing people." A new school year brings joys and challenges. Many of us have workload issues, assignment changes, high class sizes, student deaths, health issues, and every day life going on which can test one's fortitude and attitude. Our colleagues have been dealing with all of these important life adventures gracefully and professionally. You are wonderful educators, compassionate supporters of our students, community members, and each other. Please know you are appreciated and what you do is not going un-noticed! Contact your Building Rep or OCEA Exec team know if you need any support or have questions. You ROCK!

-Cindy Williams

KUDOS!

Congratulations to Chris Heeden for winning the Al Gallagher Award of Professional Development!

Also a huge KUDOS to all new Oregon City certified staff members; way to jump in and start the year with a bang!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER?

The Oregon Education Association offers several ways to help teachers become National Board Certified. The first step is helping you decide if National Board Certification is right for you at this time.

Dues Increase

Thank you to all members who voted on our OCEA Dues increase. The results are as follows:

YES = 250
NO = 43

The dues for 2017 - 2018 for OCEA will be \$135.00 (1.0 FTE) which will be taken out in the September and October paychecks. The NEA and OEA dues will come out of November through June paychecks.

Important Dates

Check out the OCEA website for important upcoming dates!

Organizing Committee

As you get settled into this school year, think about helping us create an ongoing Organizing Team. We are looking for educators from OCEA who would like to help us get more “organized”. Organizing isn’t just for crises and strikes; it’s important to reach out and participate in organizing activities year-round. Your building reps will be checking with you soon to help us better serve you as members and focus on areas of interest as we begin to build a broader organizing unit. We have recently seen how important organizing is for us as an association. We realize that organizing beyond what typical teachers associations do is important. We want to be able to connect with other unions, community members, parents, students, local businesses, and social justice organizations in new ways. OCEA sees the potential to continue building our connections and energy to better advocate for our students, their families, the broader union movement, and our profession. Please feel free to talk with your Building Rep. if you are interested in helping with the Organizing Team effort.

Statewide Advocacy Conference

Oct 6-7; sign up deadline TUESDAY

Join us as we work to build the schools our children deserve!

OEA Foundation Grants

The OEA Foundation provides educators with up to \$100 grants to help students meet basic, urgent and immediate needs so they can succeed in school. Cash grants from the Foundation fill needs unmet by any other source. Learn more about the OEA Foundation and apply for a grant to help a student in need.

OEA Barb Drennan Promising Practices Grant Program

Have a plan that could enhance your classroom skills or boost student achievement? An idea for a site-based professional development activity that could build partnerships? OEA’s Center for Great Public Schools awards Promising Practice

Grants to individual OEA members through local UniServ councils around the state. The opportunity of the Promising Practices grants is in recognition of the leadership and support from Barbara Drennan, long-time leader in her local association, Willamette Falls UniServ Council and as an OEA Board member. Through her leadership and advocacy, the Promising Practices Grants continue to provide student learning and professional development for OEA members across Oregon. Please check your email for the application information.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out the OCEA
[Facebook](#) page!



CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to **Karen Hankins** of Gaffney Lane for correctly answering August’s Contract Trivia question

Question: How many years of employment are required by the district to qualify for retirement?

Email [Cindy Williams](#) or [Jamie Voelker](#) with your response.