

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

This has been an interesting beginning to the 2016-2017 school year. Many of us are coping with various challenges already – insurance enrollment, Synergy, class sizes, new curriculum, and new assignments or room (building) changes to name a few. I know it has been a stressful start for many of you, as members have been calling and emailing to share their challenges with us. These challenges tend to affect people in unexpected ways with frustration, anger, fear, sadness, the desire to throw in the towel, and sometimes renewed energy, and a desire to conquer whatever challenge has been thrown at them. In spite of all of these swirling emotions, we are expected to pull it together and do what we're here to do—educate the children under our charge, regardless of how we feel on the inside and do such with a smile and enthusiasm.

It may sound like I'm putting more on your plate, but I ask you to welcome your new colleagues graciously to your team. Some of them may be starting their first teaching assignment and/or be in new and challenging assignments. I also ask you to remember change can be difficult, but it can also be an opportunity to create something new and maybe even something better and forge wonderful new relationships with colleagues. I urge all of us to work toward making lemonade out of lemons. We must remember to be patient, and take care of each other and ourselves during this stressful time of year.

-Cindy Williams

Important Dates

Oct. 10 School Board Mtg 7:00pm, Jcksn Cmps – Brd Rm
(We will reimburse your dinner expense up to \$10.00 with a detailed receipt if you attend a School Board Meeting)

Oct. 11 OCEA Building Rep. Council Mtg. 4:00-5:45,
Rm B100, Jcksn Cmps

Phone Banking for Measure 97 – various dates for buildings

Check Your Paycheck

Your contracts should be coming by the end of September for you to sign. Please look at the years you have worked in Oregon City to make sure they are correct. They may not match the step you think you are on because we have had a few contract concessions over the years that may have affected your steps. Here is a [link](#) that explains what has happened over the years.

Please wait until after Oct. 5 to contact Julie Yoder in HR if you still have questions and want her to look into your file. We are still hiring for some positions and she has been swamped since mid August. She is doing her best to address our needs, but she is just as overworked as the rest of us, so please be patient.

TA and Dues Increase

Thank you to everyone who worked diligently to help us secure our 2016-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement. It was a pleasure working with your Negotiations team, Karen Jenkins – Chair, Allan Brown, Brent Leong, Dillon Daniel-Hoffman, Elizabeth Mathiot, Julie Lee-Barr, Lindy Flood, and Karen Spies, OEA Uniserve consultant. The many people who helped at OCHS during the voting and counting process are greatly appreciated. The voter turnout was amazing. The voting for our 2016 - 2017 contract was ratified by our membership with a vote of 306 yes and 2 no.

The vote to increase OCEA dues from \$120.00 per year (Sept. & Oct. pay checks) to \$132.00 was ratified by yes votes of 295 and no votes of 13. Thank you to all members who took the time to participate and vote.

Freedom Foundation moves into Oregon

Freedom Foundation is an anti-union organization that has started going door-to-door to educators' home to try and convince them to drop their union membership. The Freedom Foundation's mission is to weaken us, divide us, and limit our ability to advocate for our students and public education.

We know that we are stronger together, and our collective voice is a powerful force for our students and public schools.

For more information, [click here](#).

Membership Forms

HAVE YOU SIGNED AND RETURNED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM?

If you were employed with OCSD last year, you should have received a membership form with your name, address, etc. from your Building Rep. Please update your personal info, sign it, and return it to Brent Leong, OCHS.

If you are unsure if you are a member, please sign up again.

If you are a new employee in OCSD, you need to sign a new membership application. Many of you signed up at the new teacher orientation meeting.

We still need to hear from several of you so please let your Building Rep. know if you have not updated your info yet.

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Michelle Blanchard of Redland. She was the first member to respond with an accurate answer for Sept!

After how many years does a full time teacher forfeit the option to return to full time status when job-sharing?

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

Important Tidbits

AESOP NEWS:

AESOP – please be aware

You need to double check to confirm your sub has accepted the job. If your plans change, please make sure you cancel the sub.

Right now only your personal days show on the AESOP info page because it needs approval. Your sick days are automatically loaded by contract. You don't have to worry at this point when you go in to ask for a sub. Your hours are there, you just can't see them. They will be pulled from your sick time.

Look at your pay stubs like usual.

This system will eventually allow you to go through a portal and see everything but it isn't there yet.

Please be patient and kind when dealing with Dawn, Christina, or Kay who are also new to this system.

Extra Duty stipends for September will be paid in a separate check run on Sept. 30th .

Have you registered to vote?

To exercise your right to vote and sign petitions in Oregon, you must first register to vote. If you have changed addresses since the last election, you need to register again!

Registration is easy, and can even be done [online](#).

Find OCEA on Social Media



Thoughts, Questions, Concerns?

Contact [Cindy Williams](#) or [Jamie Voelker](#)