



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Patricia Frost-Brooks, President
William Leibensperger, Vice President
Jim Timlin, Secretary-Treasurer
Larry E. Wicks, Executive Director

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

June 2011

Dear Local Association President,

Each year in late June and early July, members of the Ohio Education Association attend the Representative Assembly of the National Education Association (NEA RA) and join with approximately 10,000 of their colleagues from around the nation to set policy and make education-related decisions designed to influence and improve our nation's system of public education.

If your local association sends delegates to the NEA RA, you are probably familiar with the NEA RA "state contact system" that operates each day on the convention floor. The state contact system was established to enhance communications and allow for the exchange of information and positions on issues between state delegations. Ohio assigns one delegate to each of the other states and caucuses to serve as the state contact.

Serving as a state contact is an important role that requires the individuals to make a tremendous time commitment to the association. On the other hand, there is an element of fun that goes along with serving as a state contact, including networking with other state contacts and learning about their jobs, their interests, and their school districts. In the past, state contacts customarily exchanged gifts in the form of "goodie bags" that were filled with promotional items from local businesses, or items that showcased the state's more famous companies or products. However, due to a New Business Item at the 2010 RA, states were encouraged to eliminate "goodie bags" and donate their funds to a charity of the host city.

Due to the current economy and respect of the New Business Item, the OEA/NEA Relations Committee has decided to eliminate the "goodie bags" for the 2011 NEA RA. If any donations have already been secured, please consider donating them to one of the various charities that are available at the Convention Center during the RA.

The Ohio State contact system will still be in use and very valuable as there will be an informational packet regarding the Buckeye State along with our current issues and any candidates we have running for an Office.

Any Ohio State Contact wishing to carry on the "goodie bag" tradition may do so on their own; with the realization that he/she may not receive anything in return.

- O V E R -

Local Association Presidents

225 East Broad St, Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43216 ■ Phone: (614) 228-4526 or 1-800-282-1500 ■ FAX: (614) 228-8771

An Affiliate of the National Education Association

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Patti Dice (pdice8@peoplepc.com) or Angela Stewart (ecoeapresident@yahoo.com). If you do not have access to e-mail, please contact Carol Price at the OEA toll-free number – 1-800-282-1500, extension 3169.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Patti Dice & Angela Stewart

Patti Dice and Angela Stewart
Ohio E.A. – NEA State Contact Co-Chairs