



## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: GETTING OUR BARGAIN BACK

Local contract negotiations necessarily took a back seat during the all-out fight against the union-busting, public-employee scapegoating law known as SB 5. That law has been struck down. Bargaining over salary and health insurance was stymied following the release of HB 153, a state budget that slashed school funding. That two-year budget is coming to an end. Many school officials assert that they have no duty to bargain the implementation of legislative changes concerning the way educators are evaluated and how reductions in force are implemented. These officials are dead wrong!

Reports of the demise of collective bargaining are premature. OEA's Collective Bargaining Conference, scheduled for February 1-2, 2013 at the Hilton Downtown Columbus, intends to bring that point home.

**Getting Our Bargain Back** is more than just a theme; it is a call to action. It is a reminder that collective bargaining is a hard-fought right that we must never take for granted, and that we must continue to exercise with vigor and determination.



The Collective Bargaining Conference annually brings together more than 300 local leaders, bargaining teams/committees and staff from across the state. It is an opportunity for OEA members to learn and develop skills that are essential to their success at the bargaining table. Whether it is your first time on a bargaining team or your tenth, the conference offers content and covers topics that will be relevant to individual needs, interests and experiences.

When signing up for the conference, registrants will elect one of eight different courses for concentrated training. These courses will include: Fundamentals of Collective Bargaining (strongly recommended for new bargainers), Negotiations Prep, Compensation (Salary and Health Insurance), Alternative Compensation, Member Rights, Teaching Conditions, Crisis Management and Public Policy.

Each course will be comprised of three sessions that will delve into topics that are specific to that course. You need not worry if there is a topic that is of particular interest to you that is not part of your course. Many of the topics will be repeated during an elective session. For the final session of the conference, all attendees will come together to hear from a panel of experts about how we have used the collective bargaining process to take control of education reform initiatives that often seem to be done *to* us rather than developed *with* us.

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 5th Annual Collective Bargaining Conference is scheduled for February 1-2, 2013, at its new location: **the Hilton Columbus Downtown**, 401 North High Street, in Columbus. The conference begins at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 1, and runs through noon on Saturday, February 2.

Online conference registration will begin on **November 8, 2012**. A link will be provided on the OEA website, [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org). Be sure to look for additional conference details in the November issue of *Ohio Schools* and coming soon on OEA's website.

When registering for the conference, please make sure you have your OEA Member ID number available, as you will need this for the registration process.