

And the Winner Is...



Congratulations to Linda Heibel who was the winner of the \$50 Target gift card from NEA Member Benefits for completing the OEA Spring 2009 Negotiations Survey.



And thank you to over 1,000 OEA members who completed the survey! The information will help us better meet your needs.

OEA Foundation Scholarships

The OEA Foundation was established in 1964 to serve as the educational and charitable arm of the Omaha Education Association. The Foundation has, through the years, funded over 100 different scholarships annually.

Many of the scholarships are designated for specific high schools and winners are chosen by those high schools.

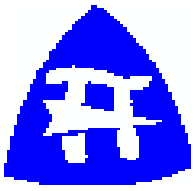
Please visit <http://www.omahaoea.org/orgs/foundation.htm> for more information.

Free Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are very important!

If you do not have a smoke detector in your home, the Omaha Fire Department will install one for free.

Download an order form and mailing address from http://omaha-fire.org/safetyinformation/files/smoke_detector_request.pdf (this is also posted on the OEA Icon on First Class).

OEA *Tip-Off* February 13, 2009



NOMINATE A STAR



Nomination forms for all Laurels Night awards have been sent to the schools or can be obtained by calling the OEA at 346-0400. All nominations must be submitted by active OEA members.

Media Award: To honor an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the students and/or teachers of OPS through the use of the local media. The award can encourage greater coverage of educational topics by the media, while honoring those who have covered an education story in the past. The award should be for a broad scope of work, rather than for a single effort.


School Bell Award: Individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to education, with the exception of active staff members of OPS, are eligible to receive this award.

Human Relations Award: Any Omaha area individual, group or organization that has made a significant contribution to human relations can be nominated.

Rookie of the Year: The Rookie of the Year Award criteria is currently being revised. All information will be distributed in the next *Tip-Off*.

The deadline for the last 3 awards is Friday, March 13, 2009.

Mark your calendar!
2009 Laurels Night
Sunday, May 3rd
More information in our next issue!



WHEN & WHERE

February 16
OEA Closed
Presidents Day Observance

February 18
Ad Hoc Finance Committee
Retirement

February 19
Members Benefits Committee

February 26
Ad Hoc Finance Committee
Compensation & Benefits Committee

All meetings begin at 4:15 p.m.
@ OEA unless otherwise noted.

OEA Tip-Off

The OEA *Tip-Off* is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

Sue Perkins,
Communications Specialist

Direct Inquiries to:
Maddie Fennell, Editor
maddie.fennell@nsea.org
402-346-0400

Eddie Ventura,
Information Coordinator
edward.ventura@ops.org

Visit us on the web at:
www.omahaoea.org

TIP-OFF CORRECTIONS

The *Retirement Notice* article stated that all paperwork for retirement must be signed by March 1st. This year March 1st is on a Sunday, so the deadline is actually **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th**. Any certificated staff member who will be at least 55 but not yet 62 years of age on August 31, 2009 and who has completed at least 18 years of certificated creditable experience with the Omaha Public Schools is eligible for the Early Leaving Incentive Program in addition to benefits from the retirement system and social security. Applications must be submitted to the Retirement Office by Friday, February 27, 2009.

The last *Tip-Off* had information on determining if you were paid incorrectly. If you think that you have a problem, please contact Human Resources, **not** Compensation and Benefits.

2008 Income Tax Deductions for Dues

The amount of OEA/NSEA/NEA dues is deductible (less \$0.22 allocated for lobbying expenses) for income taxes. 99.97 % of your Total Dues Paid in 2008 is tax deductible.

The amount for 2008 is listed under the “year-to-date” column on your December pay record. This is the amount for Association dues less any other deductions you have requested through the OEA (OEA-CAF, NEA-PAC, TAAA, American Family Intensive Care Insurance, or OEA Foundation). Multiply the amount for 2008 listed under the “year-to-date” column on your December pay record by .9997 to determine the amount of dues you may deduct.

For most OEA full time members, the dues that can be reported for deduction purposes for the 2008 tax year would be \$688.54. (\$688.76 less the \$0.22 OEA spent on lobbying expenses).



Korean Study Tour Opportunity

This article is to notify you of a professional development opportunity for U.S. educators. The Korean Studies Workshop for American Educators, sponsored by the Korea Foundation, provides U.S. social studies educators with fully-funded study tours of Korea. The workshop is designed to enhance mutual understanding between the people of Korea and the United States by inviting certain U.S. educators to visit Korea and then share their experiences with fellow Americans upon their return. In the summer of 2009, up to 60 secondary school social studies educators from the United States will be selected to travel to Korea for the 12-day workshop. The workshop will include lectures, tours to cultural and industrial sites, and a meeting with Korean educators and students.

The deadline for the 2009 Korean Studies Workshop is February 25, 2009.

Those interested should visit the website at www.iie.org/ksw to access the online application.

Promotional brochures are available by request.



Professional Development Log

February 13th is an early release day for TEAM planning at the elementary level. Have you had a collaborative discussion with your principal to plan your afternoon?

February 17th is half day of EXCELS PLUS training at the building level and half day of professional development from Curriculum and Learning. Your building level plan for that day should be written into your EXCELS PLUS plan.

ASK YOUR AR! ASK YOUR AR! ASK YOUR AR!

With the increased collaboration between building level administration and the OEA's association representatives (AR), you now have an additional resource in your building. Each month, the OEA is training the building AR's on current and timely OPS information. In order to quickly receive accurate answers to your questions, contact your AR. All OPS principals and assistant principals have an “open door policy” and your AR can assist you with clarifying building issues with your principal and assistant principals. These issues include modifications to your planning and preparation time, staff meetings, etc. Your first contact: Your building level Association Representative.

If, after contacting your AR, you still have questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your OEA UniServ Directors Dennis Gehringer or Timothy Krapp at the OEA at 346-0400.

“All of us, at certain moments of our lives, need to take advice and to receive help from other people.”—
Alexis Carrel, Reflections on Li

Horace Mann Scholarships

Horace Mann is dedicated to serving the needs of the educational community. The Horace Mann Companies is offering \$30,000 in scholarships for public and private school k-12 educators to take college courses.

In May 2009, The Horace Mann Companies will announce the recipients. One recipient will receive \$5,000 in scholarship funds payable over four years, and fifteen other recipients will receive \$1,000 each in scholarship funds payable over two years. Twenty additional recipients will each receive one-time \$500 awards.

Scholarship money will be paid directly to each recipient's college or university for tuition, fees and other educational expenses.

Scholarship applications will be judged on a written essay and school and community activities. Financial need is not a consideration, but applicants who have all educational expenses paid through other scholarships and/or grants are ineligible.

The application deadline is March 12, 2009. You can find the application and more information at <https://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx>.