

Hello OEA Members,

As you know, we are in the last year of our 2015-2018 Negotiated Agreement. The Compensation and Benefits Committee has been meeting regularly for over a year now. Every member in the district received communications to their home email accounts inviting them to Comp and Benefits Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Just a reminder, we only send emails to home emails. NSEA had their annual Advocacy Conference on the evening of Friday, 9/29/17 and Saturday, 9/30/17. The Negotiating Team was there in force as well as some members from the Comp and Benefits Committee. I am so impressed with our Negotiating Team's hard work and commitment!

Association Members have been busy working on different Teams and Committees. Regularly scheduled meetings are published in the TipOff and all meetings are on the calendar on the OEA Website ([omahaoea.org](http://omahaoea.org)). A team that has generated a great deal of interest is the Joint OPS & OEA Committee on the Code of Conduct. Lisa Utterback, Executive Director School Support and Supervision and I have built a wide ranging team to look at next steps with the Code of Conduct. Our initial meeting where we agreed to co-chair this effort was positive and encouraging. I expect this committee will be dynamic and action oriented. The teachers and educators on this committee were nominated by their colleagues to represent them on issues concerning the Code of Conduct.

In addition, we are ready to move forward with the school board contact team. The members of this team pair up with an OPS School Board member and discuss pressing issues with them. Participation of this team is a great method of keeping OPS Board members apprised of what is happening every day in the classrooms across the district. Marlene Wehrbein, our NSEA Organizing Specialist, and OEA Board Member Vincent Gregario will provide training on this process. If you are interested in being a contact for an OPS School Board Member, contact Marlene at [Marlene.Wehrbein@nsea.org](mailto:Marlene.Wehrbein@nsea.org) and let her know.

There will be many pressing issues coming before the state legislature during the 2017-18 school year. There are two proposals, LB118 and LB295 that would impact you as a public school educator. According to NSEA, State analysts estimate the deductions allowed by LB118 would cost the **state \$8 million in revenue** the first year, *and more every year after that*. The credits allowed by LB295 are estimated to cost the state **\$10 million annually** in the first year, *increasing each year thereafter*.

OEA PACE is the committee that will address the Association's priorities when addressing school board and legislative issues and actions. If you are interested in curriculum and educational environment we have a team to address those issues, Instructional Advocacy. Meeting dates for PACE and Advocacy are on the calendar at [omahaoea.org](http://omahaoea.org). For PACE contact KATHERINE POEHLING at [kathyap@cox.net](mailto:kathyap@cox.net) for advocacy contact JUSTIN POTTS at [potts.justin@gmail.com](mailto:potts.justin@gmail.com)

In addition, membership enrollment has been extended to October 31<sup>st</sup>! Do you know someone who is not a member? Sit down and talk to them about your experience in OEA, be sure and invite them to join. Contact EDWARD VENTURA at [venturaomaha@gmail.com](mailto:venturaomaha@gmail.com)

**I always** enjoy visiting our schools. If you would like me to visit your school, email me [bridget.donovan@nsea.org](mailto:bridget.donovan@nsea.org) with date and time suggestions. There will also be a sign- up sheet at AR. It seems as though there aren't many meetings scheduled on Fridays, so I have reserved Fridays for visiting schools. Let me know your preferred date and time range.

OEA Members, **YOU** are making a difference. **YOU are the voice of teachers in Omaha Public Schools.**