



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

September 17, 2021

## Welcome Back!



Welcome back to the 2021/2022 school year! The year is off to another interesting start. Your students are now in a routine, you have worked hard to get them ready for all the learning that will take place this year. You have done all the preparations that are needed to make your environment welcoming, friendly and conducive for the A+ learning to take place.

The OEA is strong because of the members. We have over 2700 members working together to reach our mission of “Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.” It doesn’t take one person to reach that goal but the collective group. YOU are the OEA and we are stronger because of you.

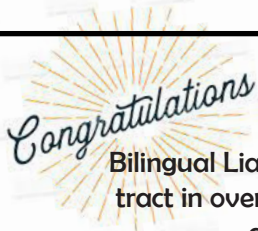
There are many things that OEA will be active in this year. The Board of Directors meet monthly to address issues or concerns that impact our Association, the Association Representatives (AR) meet monthly and discuss issues that are affecting the classrooms at the building levels, the various committees are tasked with charges that strengthen our mission, but without YOU this work can’t happen. A list of committees is listed with a small description of what their focus will be on. The OEA provides many opportunities to lead, one just needs to be willing. So, my ask of you is simple, will you join a committee to make the association stronger?

There is no rest for the OEA. We are full steam ahead as the new year kicks off. We have been addressing the concerns that are voiced by you, our members. Since we are once again faced with many safety measures in place, it does come with additional concerns by many. OEA shares these concerns and possible solutions to address them with the district. We understand there are many variables to consider, but the safety of both students and staff must be at the center of any decisions. Finally, I want to “thank you” for being a member of the OEA! Without you we wouldn’t be as strong. It is important now more than ever that we continue to stand together. Teaching is not an easy job it is hard. You make a difference and the OEA is here to assist you whenever needed.

Best of luck this year and I look forward to working with you.

*Robert Miller*

*President, Omaha Education Association*



### ESP Corner

Bilingual Liaisons who negotiated their first contract in over a decade. Thanks to all those who contributed to this effort.  
**JOB WELL DONE!**

Bilingual Liaisons have open BCBS enrollment in November. More details to come.

### Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving break is from November 22-26. Staff are not responsible for any activity that is being offered during that week. If your building is offering services to students and families, you are not obligated to participate. If you choose to participate, compensation must be offered at the rate of \$28.50. If events/sessions are being held, the week may look different at each building. You should not feel pressured to participating.

# 2021/2022 OEA Committees:

Meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice. Your Committee Chairs will have the link, please reach out to them to receive the link and additional information from the committee. All links will be sent out the day before the meeting to those who are on the email list from last year and those who have contacted the office to let us know what committee they are interested in.



- **Instructional Advocacy** - Meets 1st Tuesday of the Month

The committee will work to improve the instructional environment for all students and teachers in a proactive and advocating manner. They will work with the ProCom to address concerns that are brought forward from both the District and OEA.

Contact: Meeghan Hartfield- [ma\\_hartfield@yahoo.com](mailto:ma_hartfield@yahoo.com)

- **Governance** - Meets 2nd Thursday of the Month

This committee is responsible for the governing functions of the OEA, takes action to amend bylaws and policies of the board and association; is responsible for the administration of elections.

Contact: Shannon Heng- [Shannon.heng@outlook.com](mailto:Shannon.heng@outlook.com)

- **Political Action Committee for Education (PACE)** - Meets 3rd Tuesday of the Month

The PACE Committee will develop, train and implement Legislative and School Board Contact Teams, handle interviews for area districts and make recommendations. Attend appropriate functions with state senators and school board members.

Contact: Marianne Dysart- [mariannedysart@gmail.com](mailto:mariannedysart@gmail.com)

- **Membership** - Meets 3rd Wednesday of the Month

This committee will develop, promote and conduct the membership drives and New Teacher activities to increase and maintain active membership in the OEA.

Contact: Megan Moderow- [mmoderow@gmail.com](mailto:mmoderow@gmail.com)

- **Compensation and Benefits** - Meets 3rd Thursday of the Month

This committee will coordinate and promote member education and communication regarding bargaining, train and develop negotiation team, conduct bargaining research and provide a regular report of progress towards accomplishing the goals to the OEA Board of Directors.

Contact: Diana Casey - [dpowerwoman@hotmail.com](mailto:dpowerwoman@hotmail.com) and Lee Perez - [leemartinperez@gmail.com](mailto:leemartinperez@gmail.com)

- **Professional and Community Relations (PCR)** - Meets 3rd Thursday of the Month

This committee will work to maintain community involvement and activities for the association and its members. Will work with OEA staff to develop a program for Laurel's night and seek member participation on activities.

Contact: Tracy Weatherly- [weatheta@cox.net](mailto:weatheta@cox.net)

- **Retirement** - Meets 4th Wednesday of the Month

This committee will review OSERS and monitor the transition board activities and changes, provide workshops for OEA members on retirement planning.

Contact: Faith Johnson- [faithteaches22@yahoo.com](mailto:faithteaches22@yahoo.com)

- **Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC)** - Meets 4th Thursday of the Month

This committee will develop and implement strategies to involve more minorities in the work of the OEA/NSEA/NEA. Identify, encourage and assist in the election of minority members in positions of leadership. Also anything that brings the concerns of minority teachers to light where they may be overlooked.

Contact: Terrell Matthews- [tleemattthews@gmail.com](mailto:tleemattthews@gmail.com)

- **NewGEN** - Meets 4th Thursday of the Month

If you are in the first 7 years of your teaching career, this committee is for you. This committee will plan events that are geared towards the needs of the early career educators. A place where you can share your successes and ask for advice on how to address specific things.

Contact: Christian Schuermann- [Christian.schuermann@gmail.com](mailto:Christian.schuermann@gmail.com)

**Student Debt  
Driving You**



**Need to Knock your  
Student Debt to a  
Different Multiverse?**

**You Need!**

**SUPER  
HERO**

**We Have Just the**

# **NEAMB STUDENT DEBT NAVIGATOR**

**Don't Fall Prey to  
Those Predatory  
Student  
Debt  
Companies**



**POW!**

**Tuesday  
September 21  
5:00 CT**

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**





Join the **OEA** for a...  
Omaha Education Association



## Paycheck

How to Read Your Paycheck /What to look for on your paystub



## NEA Member Benefits

Discounts, products & services to help make your life more rewarding.



## Retirement 101

How to grow your money

## Who We Are

OEA/NSEA/NEA is a 100%-member driven Union. You have an elected OEA Board who meet monthly, Building Reps (AR's) who meet monthly to bring forward topics to address with the district. An executive team who are in constant communication with each other to be well informed on issues educators are facing. I, as President of the OEA, meet with district leadership on a regular basis to share our positions, concerns, and ways that we can enhance our collaboration with one another. Locally, we have two Organizational Specialist who work on your behalf to address the issues impacting the classrooms and our members. They are always available to assist our members. At the state level you have leaders who are fierce advocates for our students and members across the state.

Your membership comes with a wealth of opportunities for you to participate. We have committees that are starting up in September. Our office and staff will continue to be available for our members and are willing to come to you but adhering to the district's building protocols. All meetings will be held virtually and you will need to let us know what committee you are interested in serving.

### **OEA Executive Team-**

Robert Miller- *President*

Tracy Hartman-Bradley-

*Vice President of Member Benefits*

Kathy Poehling-

*Vice President of Advocacy*

### **OEA Board-**

#### ***Elementary***

Octavia Butler

Terri Childers

Jaliya Dailey

Anne King

Amanda Kloke

Josh McDougall

Chris Richardson

#### ***Middle School***

Cathy Scurlock

Amy Smith

Stacie Stevens

#### ***Senior High***

Katie Cameron

Molly Davies

Michelle Settlemeier

#### ***Alternative/TAC***

Kim Gardiner

## NSEA Webinars

Professional Development sessions are being offered to our members. If you would like to get something offered, please let me know. Here is a list of the current offerings.

Go to [www.nsea.org/PDforMembers](http://www.nsea.org/PDforMembers) to register for any and more professional developments.



- **Wednesday 10/13** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Thursday 11/4** 7:30 Member Benefits -Planning the perfect Vacation
- **Tuesday 11/9** 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Student Loan Forgiveness, navigator, and budgeting
- **Monday 11/15** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Thursday 12/2** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Tuesday 12/7** 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Student Loan Forgiveness, navigator, and budgeting
- **Thursday 12/16** 7:30 DA 101

### **OEA Tip-Off**

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

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