



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

Tip-Off

May 10, 2022

Dear OEA Colleagues,

As this school year comes to a close, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your work and thank you for allowing me to serve as your OEA President.

The past four and half years have been filled with the ABC's of association work: Advocacy, Bargaining and Commitment. It has been a privilege to serve in this leadership role. I have been active in our association since my first day as a student member and I have been fortunate to have observed and learned from some outstanding leaders. In fact, I am still learning.

As I reflect on my time as president, I believe there are three important keys to ensuring the OEA continues to move in a positive direction. We must be committed to maintaining our professionalism, to being involved in our association, and to collaboration.

No one person is the OEA. The OEA is a collective group of individuals, each with a unique viewpoint on how to address the many issues facing education – from public and district policy to building struggles. OEA functions for members and by members. Each of you are the OEA, and OEA's future is in your hands.

OEA is an organization of professionals, and it is essential we reflect that in our interactions – not only with our students but also with our colleagues. Our work must continue in a positive and professional manner with all stakeholders to accomplish the mission of the OEA: "To advance the professional interests of our members in order to make public education the best it can be for students, staff, and our community." Only by respecting each other can we ensure the dialogue necessary to make positive change happen for the betterment of the membership and students.

Becoming involved in the association is essential to our individual and collective future as educators. Only with member involvement can we find and enact solutions to the issues we face in this profession. Constructive criticism involves stepping up working together, discussing and collaborating to develop and enact solutions to issues. There are many voices in the OEA and every one of them brings a new perspective. No one solution will necessarily make everyone happy. It is a process and being a part of that process allows a better understanding of the full picture. I urge you to find a committee that interests you, attend the monthly meeting, participate, and use your voice. Be the solution!

Equally important is collaboration. We often note the importance of collaborating to accomplish our goals. We seek collaboration with the district – in fact, OEA values collaboration so much that we worked to include it in the master agreement. We must also remember the importance of collaborating within the OEA. Creating silos within our association does not benefit the collective group.

I have learned from the many challenges we've faced these past four years. I've worked with many of you to address the concerns brought to our attention. And I have valued that work, I've learned lessons, and I've recognized the importance of finding common ground.

As this chapter closes, much appreciation goes out to our two OEA Vice Presidents, the Board of Directors, our OEA and NSEA staff, and most importantly you – our OEA members. You are the reason the work matters so much. I wish you all the best.

Thank you for your membership, your work, your support and your friendship.

"Moving on, is a simple thing, what it leaves behind is hard."

Respectfully,

Robert Miller, OEA President



Early Enrollment



- Early enrollment has begun and will run through August 31st.
- No Cost between April 1 and August 31, 2022.
- Potential members can enroll now with limited benefits.
- Potential members who have been a student association member (Aspiring Educators) in the past, but are not yet an active member, are eligible for early enrollment membership.
- You will receive liability insurance from the date of signing. They will have access to member-only professional development opportunities offered by NSEA from the date of signing.
- You will have access to the services of NSEA staff to answer your questions. Full services begin when your contract for the 2022-2023 school year begins.
- Access to an attorney is NOT part of Early Enrollment benefits. Early Enrollment signees may have access to an attorney for incident that occurs when their contract for the 2022-2023 school year begins.

Reach out to your fellow colleagues who have been considering joining, those who are student teaching or even the new hires that have been identified. They will pay NOTHING until October 2022!

Visit the OEA webpage at <https://omahaoea.org/> and click the banner 'Become a Member NOW.'

License Plate Pre-Orders



Thank you to a fellow NSEA member who asked for a specialty plate for educators. This was done through a new business item (NBI) at the 2021 Delegate Assembly. The process is completed, we just need 250 pre-orders to make this happen. The picture of the plate is above. The cost of the plate is \$70. To pre-order, complete the Application at <https://www.nsea.org/LicensePlate> and send it to the NSEA

2021/2022

Committee Meetings

All meetings @ 4:45pm

Unless otherwise noted.

Meetings will be held IN PERSON.

A reminder will still 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.

Visit the website for further committee information.
(Omahaoea.org)

5/12 Governance

5/17 PACE

5/18 Membership

5/19 Comp/Benefits

5/24 PCR

5/25 Retirement

5/26 EMAC

5/26 NewGEN

OEA AR's are AMAZING

To all the members serving as your building AR's THANK YOU! Typically, you all would be celebrated at our last AR meeting, but sadly we did not meet once in person this year. OEA could not do the work without each of you. You provide answers to our members and assistance when needed, your service only makes the OEA stronger.



AR Training

If you know or think you might be an AR for your building in the fall, please plan on attending a training. Even if you have attended in the past, we ask that everyone attend yearly as there are always updates and changes and we want everyone to be on the same page when we start school in the fall.

June 20th @ 4:30 via ZOOM

July 20th @ 4:30 @ the OEA

July 30th @ 9:30 @ the OEA

August 24th @ 4:45 @ the OEA

Scan the QR Code to register...



Finders Keepers

OEA and other Metro District locals will be hosting 'Finders Keepers' for the new hires on June 15th. We would like to offer them the opportunity collect items to be used in their first classrooms. If you have classroom materials that are gently used, please consider donating them to the event. We will begin collecting them here at the OEA and organizing them for our event. We all know that at the end of the year a table appears in the staff lounge with unwanted items for the taking. Why not share those items with first year teachers? Gently loved materials are happily accepted. Share the LOVE to our new hires.

OEA has drop off days identified for Saturday May 21st from 9-11, Wednesday, June 1st and Friday, June 3rd.



For new educators in: Bellevue • Millard • Omaha • Papillion La Vista • Ralston • Westside

NEW HIRES:
Shop for
FREE STUFF
to prepare
your new
classroom!

EDUCATORS:
Donate
materials
and help new
teachers
get ready!

SCAN TO SIGN UP!
WWW.NSEA.ORG/FINDERS-KEEPERS

What can I shop for? / What can I donate?



Yes - new school supplies, games, furniture, posters, toys, and more



No - professional books, 3 ring binders, district purchased materials/textbooks, and other items

For a more detailed list, scan the QR code above.

To sign up for a volunteer shift, or if you have questions, contact Becky Scherbring:
email: becky.scherbring@nsea.org or call 402.731.0800

2022 Laurels Night

Retirees

Kevin Barratt
Jeffery Brandt
Shelly Bednar
Cindy Bengs
Darlene Bowman
Sandra Bowzer
Barbara Brimmerman
Patricia Brizendine
Constance Carruthers
Ann Catania
Martha Chevalier
Cindy Christensen
Mary Clemens
Penny Coonce
Robert Cote

Susan Davis
Barbara Derby
Shari Didulo
Ebi Ekpere
Kathy Erickson
Cynthia Farrell
Rebecca Fendrick
John Flemming
Mary Garey
Rene Gochenour
Amy Hansen
Renee Hernandez
Linda Hiegel
Natalie Highman
Sonja Horton

Lori Hulsebus
Lora Irvine
Ann Jelinek
Kelly Jones
Lisa Kafka
Beckie Kalina
Robin Knudtson
Linlee Langston
James Mayberger
Susan Meschede
Kathryn Milone
Ronald Moore, Jr.
Sheila Mullen
Veronica Nepper
Rebecca Noble

Linda O'Connor
Timothy Peterson
Jill Richmond
Karen Riewaldt
Christie Ringo
Anna Rivedal
Elizabeth Roetman
Lawrence Shearer
Michael Vipond
Lorene Walker
Teresa Tracy Weatherly
Paula Wenberg
Kimberly Winkelbauer
Kimberly Wyllie
John Young



2022 Retirees- Back Row: Darlene Bowman, Sandra Bowzer, Ann Catania, Cindy Christensen, Penny Coonce, Renee Hernandez, Natalie Highman, James Mayberger, Susan Meschede, Sonja Horton **Front Row:** Kathryn Milone, Veronica Nepper, Timothy Peterson, Jill Richmond, Christie Ringo, Anna Rivedal, Tracy Weatherly

25 Year Honorees

Maria Bang
Kelly Bergin
Stephanie Carlson-Pruch
Michele Corrado
Pamela Crawford
Jimmie Foster
Patrick Fullenkamp

Angela Grenawalt
Ryan Hoy
Elizabeth Ingram
Kristi Kerwin
Judi Little
Kristin Longacre
Jennifer Magnuson-Stessman

Elizabeth Matson
Sheila McCauley
Jennifer Mikkelsen
Jennifer Moyer
Suzanne Muehlbauer
Donna Murphy
Kristy Nixon

Timothy Peterson
Lisa Price
Michelle Royal
Nina Sitting Eagle
Kara Swartz
Debra Vojchehoske
Scott Wilson



25 Year Honorees - Elizabeth Matson, Sheila McCauley, Kristy Nixon, Timothy Petersen, Scott Wilson

2022 Laurels Night

continued

2022 Award Winners

Rookie of the Year Award - Lindsey Reed, RM Marrs Middle and
Andrew Scheneman, Benson West Elementary

Media Award - 91.5 KIOS-FM

Human Relations Award - Latino Center of the Midlands

John E. Jensen Memorial Award - Project Harmony

Distinguished Educator - Tracy Weatherly, Joslyn Elementary



**Rookie of the Year,
Andrew Scheneman
Benson West**



**Media Award Winner,
Ken Dudzick**



**John E. Jensen Award,
Project Harmony**



**Distinguished Educator,
Tracy Weatherly**



**Human Relations Award,
Latino Center of the Midlands,
Board President, Dulce Sherman**



OEA Tip-Off

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

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