

OEA Tip Off

Omaha Education Association

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Kathy Poehling

OEA President

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Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the 23/24 school year. As always, with the beginning of a new school year there are many changes happening around us. Changes to special education have caused stress for many of you but know that we are listening and working with the district to come up with sustainable solutions. Keep sending us your concerns and questions so we have the information we need to help you and our students.

We have also had many changes in the office. I started at the end of July as the new President, Kathie Garabrandt moved from being the Organizational Specialist for elementary to secondary and special programs, and Heather Fritz joined our office to become the Organizational Specialist for elementary schools. We have been visiting schools, planning events, and working with some of you on organizing projects.

I want to thank every one of you for being an advocate for your students and each other. Without members like you, we would not be the strong union that we are. Because of all of you, we can negotiate our master agreement, serve on committees, and make the changes we all want to see in our district. Educating students is not an easy job, but the OEA is here to support and assist you when needed.

Have a great school year and I look forward to working for all of you.

Kathy Poehling

From the desk of your...

Organizational Specialists

Heather Fritz was a kindergarten teacher for 22 years and then became a Uniserv Director in North Dakota. She then came to Nebraska to work for NSEA. Her most recent role was Membership Development across the state. She is now serving as Organizational Specialist for elementary and is happy to be working with OEA members.

Kathie is in her second year with NSEA as an Organizational Specialist with OEA. Her first year was spent working with elementary and this year she will be working with secondary and all special programming. Kathie is a veteran teacher who taught Spanish for 29 years in two different districts. She was a member, an NSEA Board of Director and a Board Member on the Metro District. She enjoys advocating for teachers in whatever way she can and is happy to be serving OEA members.



Heather Fritz

Elementary

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Kathie Garabrandt

Secondary & Special Programs

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B-I-N-G-O

OEA Bingo Night

September 15

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Falling for OEA

Benefit Session & Loan Forgiveness

October 21

9 a.m. to Noon

OEA Calendar

Check the website for more information on meetings & events.

Omahaoea.org

OEA Committees

Want to become more involved in the Association! Join a committee. It is a way to become connected with other members and play an active role in the organization. Through our committees our voices are heard. Check the calendar on our website for the most current dates of committee meetings.

Scan the QR Code to join an OEA committee



When to Call the OEA?

Concern, Complaint, Grievance?

This could range from placement on the salary schedule, questions about our master agreement, assignment of extra duties, or after school meetings. In all these scenarios it is best to speak to the AR at your building. If they can't answer your questions, you can contact your OS. All these questions and concerns are kept confidential.

Assaulted by a student?

Nothing is too minor. If you are scratched, kicked, bit, punched, etc., please reach out to the OEA immediately. Report to your principal and fill out a first incident report for workman's compensation. Contact workman's compensation at 1-888-354-1015 #1. Then fill out the assault form on the OEA website at www.omahaoea.org. Remember to take care of yourself and that no injury is too small to report.

Placed on administrative leave?

Call your organizational specialist as soon as possible and do not talk to anyone else about this.

Placed on an intervention plan or your principal is questioning your performance?

Reach out to your AR and your Organizational Specialist. You do NOT have to meet with an administrator immediately and you can always have an AR or your OS go with you to all meetings.

Have a conversation with an administrator that you have questions about?

Always follow up with your administrator in an email regarding any information you were given verbally, especially if you have a question or concern. If you need further assistance, check with your AR or OS.

Other questions and concerns?

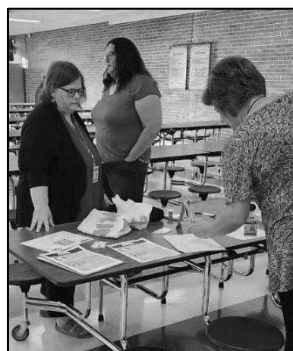
Just ask. You are a member, and we are here for you.

School Visits

We have been packing up snacks and visiting schools. We have now made it to over 15 schools with the Organizational Specialist. We have been listening to stories from the classroom and seeing what you are experiencing.

We have more scheduled and will continue visiting. Check with your administrator to see when we can visit your school. Staff meetings are filling up fast, but we can also come out for lunch or 10-minute meetings. See you soon!

Send me an email to kathy.poehling@nsea.org



Welcoming New Educators!

