



Tip Off

Omaha Education Association

November 2023 • Issue 3

Join OEA online at
nsea.org/JoinNow



**On October 10, 2023,
the AR's elected the following:**

Middle School Representative (2-year term)
Lori Krebs
McMillan Middle School

Elementary Representative (3-year term)
Jana Deaver
Lothrop Elementary

OEA Bylaws Article II Section 17 (g) Vacancies on the OEA Board, other than President, shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Representative Assembly. That person shall take office immediately and hold office for the remainder of the term.

OEA Bylaws Article III Section 1 (a) The Representative Assembly shall consist off the voting members of the Board of Directors and one or more representatives elected by OEA members from each school or building.

OMAHA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
4202 So. 57th St.
402-346-0600
omahaoea.org
kathy.poehling@nsea.org

OEA Committees

*all meetings are at the OEA
from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.*

- Tuesday, Nov. 14 – **Governance**
- Tuesday, Nov. 14 – **AR Meeting**
- Wednesday, Nov. 15 – **Membership Committee**
- Wednesday, Nov. 22 – **Comps & Benefits**
- Thursday, Nov. 23 – **EMAC**
- Tuesday, Dec. 5 – **Instructional Advocacy**
- Thursday, Dec. 7 – **Ad Hoc Special Ed.**
- Thursday, Dec. 7 – **PCR**
- Tuesday, Dec. 12 – **AR Meeting**
- Tuesday, Dec. 12 – **Governance**

Great things happening in member classrooms

I read this quote the other day and imagined the period it would have been written in and what life during that time would have been like. Robert Frost lived in a time when disease was rampant, wars were taking place, and many lives were lost.

However, educators were a vital part of society. We are living through a time, not unlike Robert Frost's time, but it seems that educators are not as valued today as in the past. It is becoming harder and harder to do our job and listen to everything around us without losing our temper or self-confidence.

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence.”

-- Robert Frost

More and more educators are expected to perform miracles but not speak out or stand up for ourselves. Just a few years ago during the pandemic, we were heroes and being celebrated for all our work.



Kathy Poehling

OEA President
kathy.poehling@nsea.org

Now just a few years later, we seem to be under attack. But not all is lost. During the petition drive, we heard stories of how the community supports us, believes in us, and finds inspiration because of something we did. We see our students making progress every day and we work hard to see that every student can thrive in school. I have been out to many classrooms and talked to hundreds of educators so far this year and I have seen all the great things you are all doing for your students.

While people outside of education don't always see it, you see it in your colleagues in your building and at other buildings. The educators of Omaha Public Schools are the best teachers in the nation, and we make our district shine. Remember to take care of yourself over the holidays and forget about work for a while. Step out of your comfort zone and do something you have always wanted to do or just have fun.

In Solidarity,
Kathy Poehling

Retirement Seminars

Please join us to learn more about retirement!
• Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 am via Zoom
• Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 pm via Zoom
• Saturday, April 6 at 9 am at OEA.
Scan the QR Code to Register!



Is it time to...

RETIRE?

Register to attend a...

RETIREMENT SEMINAR

to help determine when it is time.



Saturday Dec. 16 9 a.m. via Zoom	Tuesday Jan. 23 6 p.m. via Zoom	Saturday April 6 9 a.m. at OEA
---	--	---

RSVP

Visit us at omahaoea.org

Like us on



OEA 2023-2024 Board of Directors



School Assignments

OEA is a member-directed professional association. Leadership in the OEA is determined through one-person one-vote elections. The Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing all activities of the Association. The Board of Directors is a policy setting group that meets monthly.

All members are invited to attend these meetings:

December 6, 2023 **January 10, 2024** **February 7, 2024,**
March 6, 2024 **April 3, 2024** **May 1, 2024**

Elementary

Jana Deaver from Lothrop	
Home email	ddeaver@cox.net

Bancroft	Conestoga	Lothrop
Benson West	Gomez Heritage	Pine
Castelar	Liberty	Springville

Diana Casey from Kellom	
Home email	dpowerwoman@hotmail.com

Central Park	Hartman	Pinewood
Early Childhood at Yates	Kellom	Ponca
Florence	Mount View	Skinner
		Wakonda

Amanda Kloke from Gateway	
Home email	crazy4butterflies@gmail.com

Fontenelle	Joslyn	Saddlebrook
Gateway	Masters	Sunny Slope
Indian Hill	Miller Park	Western Hills

Anne King from Belvedere	
Home email	anniesbar@cox.net

Adams	Edison	King
Belvedere	Franklin	Minne Lusa
Druid Hill	Kennedy	Walnut Hill

Dawn Crump from Pawnee	
Home email	Dmctlc19@gmail.com

Beals	Dundee	Jefferson
Boyd	Gifford Park	Pawnee
Dodge	Jackson	Sherman
		Washington

Edward Ventura from Forest Station	
Home email	venturaomaha@gmail.com

Catlin	Crestridge	Harrison
Chandler View	Forest Station	Oak Valley
Columbian	Fullerton	Picotte
		Rose Hill

Josh McDougall from Pawnee	
Home email	jwmcDougall1@gmail.com

Ashland	Field Club	Prairie Wind
Park/Robbins	Gilder	Spring Lake
Belle Ryan	Highland	Standing Bear
		Wilson

A member must memorize the OEA phone number: 402-346-0400. Encourage members with questions or concerns to call the OEA or contact your elected leaders.

The mission of the Omaha Education Association is 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.

Middle School

Lori Krebs from McMillan	
Home email	lorikrebs84@gmail.com

Beveridge	Hale
Davis	King Science

Stacie Stevens from McMillan	
Home email	Stacie.nicole.stevens@gmail.com

Lewis & Clark	McMillan
Monroe	Norris

Amy Smith from Marris	
Home email	amy.smithoea@gmail.com

Bryan Middle	Marris
Buffett	Morton
Bluestem	

Alternative/TAC

Shannon Heng from Transition		
Home email		
Shannon.heng@outlook.com		

Alternative Program	ILP/JP Lord Parrish	Career Center Virtual School
ECSE	Transition Programs	SSP
Blackburn		EDN Birth-3
Accelere	TAC	

Senior High

James Goetz from South	
Home email	jeg1126@gmail.com

Buena Vista
Central
South

Cathie Armbeck-Hughes from Benson	
Home email	carmbeckh1@gmail.com

Benson
North
Westview

Rae Carlson from Bryan	
Home email	Racarbaugh92@gmail.com

Burke
Bryan High
Northwest

Smash Pot

The smash pot event was a smashing success! Thank you for spending your Friday night with us!

Stay tuned for our next Friday Night Fun adventure!



IT'S OFFICIAL:

We're on the ballot!

**Chip in today to help
REPEAL LB753!**



Nebraskans have a long history of defending their public schools from such voucher schemes. In fact, *Nebraskans have voted against similar legislation three times in the past* – and we're confident that we'll make it a fourth time come November 2024.

There's still a long road to Election Day, and we'll need all the help we can get to ensure that we're able to organize Nebraska taxpayers, spread the word about this critical vote, and REPEAL LB753.

Can you chip in to support our work to defend Nebraska's public schools?



We are looking for you!

OEA School Board Contact Team

It's all about communication!

OEA is looking for members eager to make a difference.

We need OEA educators to meet with individual OPS School Board Members. We want the OPS Board of Education to hear from you directly. We need people interested in problem solving, collaborating, and listening.

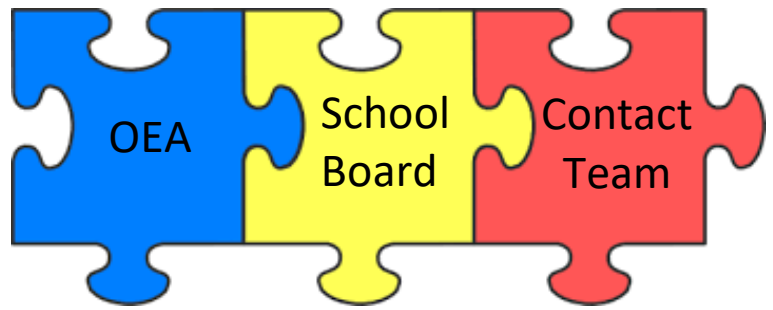
Previous Association experience is not necessary. We will train you. You'll be part of a small team that will build positive relationships and an ongoing line of communication between the OPS Board of Education members and educators in the Omaha Education Association.

Expectations

- Complete initial training. The training may be offered on two different dates.
- Represent the Association as agreed to during planning meetings.
- Possess excellent communication skills.
- Listen carefully and take notes about concerns of the OPS Board member during meetings.
- Report after every meeting to the OEA Vice President–Advocacy.
- Commit to a minimum of one year—may be ongoing into future years.
- Meet with the OPS Board member three to four times a year during the specified week.
- Meet with OEA executives and/or staff prior to the OPS Board member meetings to learn the topics to be shared with the OPS Board member.
- Teams will be comprised of three to four members.
- Individual members of teams may not meet privately with OPS Board members to discuss OEA issues.

OEA believes that meaningful communication between our educators and the OPS Board of Education will amplify all we do to get great results for our students.

If interested, contact OEA President Kathy Poehling kathy.poehling@nsea.org or call 402/346-0400.



Requirements for Contact Teams

- represent the OEA members, not individuals.
- commit to the initial training in November.
- meet with their OPS Board members within a designated week.
- meet with OEA executive team and/or staff prior to meeting with OPS Board members.



Become a
NSEA
CAPITOL
UPDATE
 Subscriber

Weekly Capitol Updates are sent to NSEA members via email during the legislative session. You'll also receive alerts during session and calls to action when we need you to contact your senator.

Having issues or concerns in your building, please email or call:



Heather Fritz
 Elementary
heather.fritz@nsea.org
 703-409-7018



Kathie Garabrandt
 Secondary & Special Programs
kathie.garabrandt@nsea.org
 402-676-3245

In addition, you can call 402/346-0400 or 800/742-0047

OEA is a local affiliate of the Nebraska State Education Association and the National Education Association, America's oldest and largest organization dedicated to advancing the cause of public education.