



Omaha Education Association

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# Tip Off

October 2023 • Issue 2

## Standing in Solidarity

In the last few years there has been a heightened interest in attacking public education. As leaders, we believe in our organization and in making public education the best it can be for students, staff, and our community.

The OEA is the voice of education professionals in OPS. Our work is fundamental to the community, and we accept the profound trust placed in us. Our vision is a great public school for every student. Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members and the community to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.

The following principles guide our work and define our mission: equal opportunity, a just society, democracy, professionalism, partnership, and collective action.

We want everyone to know that we are looking into our bylaws and preparing changes to them. This will take some time so please be patient with us. We will be posting our By Laws on our website as soon as we can so they can be looked over and reviewed for any possible changes. If you would like to see any changes, please email me and I will pass it on to the governance committee. If you are interested in coming to the governance meetings, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

I, along with the Board of Directors, want to move this organization forward in a positive way. We know that there are many concerns and issues in the district and that is what we need to focus on. We cannot waste our time focusing on attacks against OEA and our staff or in-fighting. Instead, we need to focus on the future and our members' needs. Which is why I have started an Ad Hoc Bylaws committee.

As a union, we need to work together and build our membership so we can continue to do the great work we have done up to this point. I want everyone to know that we are a united front and stand in solidarity with all of you. We know that at times we won't always agree on everything, but even through disagreements we will continue to respect each other. We can agree to disagree and move forward for the betterment of the Association.

We will stand together to face the issues that are facing public education and work together to make all of our working conditions and our students' learning conditions what they should be. We all deserve this.



**Kathy Poehling**  
OEA President  
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*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.*

## OEA ELECTION RESULTS

**On September 12, 2023, the AR's elected the following:**

*Vice President of Advocacy (3-year term)*

**Terri Childers**  
Benson West

*Vice President of Member Benefits (1-year term)*

**Faith Johnson**  
Nathan Hale

*High School Representative (1-year term)*

**Cathie Armbeck Hughes**  
Benson High School

*Elementary Representative (2-year term)*

**Diana Casey**  
Kellom Elementary/Blackburn

*Elementary Representative (1-year term)*

**Dawn Crump**  
Pawnee 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.



## Smash Pot Event \$30 includes one large smash pot, plant and all the supplies

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 3

Canoyer Garden Center

11240 South 66th Street  
La Vista

You will get a pot to smash and then be given instructions on how to create a beautiful succulent planter for your office or classroom. Your cost is \$30 for one large smash pot and all the supplies and plants to go with it.

*You need to register to attend and anyone who registers before October 27 will be put in a drawing for their smash pot to be FREE!*

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

### Wednesday, Oct. 11 – NewGen

NewGen believes in the power of uniting and supporting early career educators in their first seven years of teaching through Association membership and engagement.

### Thursday, Oct. 12 – Retirement

Are you ready to financially enjoy your retirement? The retirement committee not only receives regular reports regarding the Omaha School Employees Retirement System (OSERS) but they also provide programs to help individuals plan for their retirement.

### Wednesday, Oct. 18 – Membership

We can't do it without you! We need creative people to help us design membership recruitment activities and welcome new educators.

### Thursday, Oct. 19 – Political Action Committee - PACE

Every decision in education is a political decision so we need to elect people who are going to support education! We need all hands-on deck to get pro-education candidates elected in November 2024.

### Wednesday, Oct. 25 – Compensation and Benefits

If you want to work on salaries, what's in the master contract, this year's negotiations, and have input into the long-term discussion on alternative compensation, you need to join the C&B Committee!

### Thursday, Oct. 26 – Ethnic Minority Affairs

We know we need more minority educators, but we also need more minority leaders in the Association! EMAC encourages ethnic minority participation in all levels of Association work, recommends honorees for the Human Relations Award, and advises OEA leadership on issues of special significance to our ethnic minority members.

### Thursday, Nov. 2 – Professional & Community Relations (PCR)

Are you a circle who loves to promote education as a great profession? Join this Committee and work on parades, Read Across America, Laurel's Night, and community service projects.

### Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Instructional Advocacy

Are you already serving on an OPS instructional committee but wanted to be an OEA voice on that committee? Do you want to help train new teachers? Do you have burning instructional issues (Class size? Curriculum?) that you feel need to be addressed.

### Tuesday, Nov. 14 – AR meeting

Association Representatives (ARs) represent the interest of the members in their buildings or department, report to their members business transacted, recruit and maintain membership, serve as an advocate, contract arbitrator, organizer, communicator and otherwise assist in the work of the Association.



## Bingo Night was a Success

On September 15, OEA had its first game night where we played bingo. This event was for members only and it was a blast. Thank you to Kathie Garabrandt our Organizational Specialist for Secondary/Special Program, who called the numbers for us all evening. We even had NSEA President Jenni Benson and NSEA Vice President Paul Schulte join us for the event. We all had a lot of fun and Jana Deaver from Lothrop Elementary won the big prize.

## Aguirre leads OEA EMAC



The EMAC chair this year is Paula Aguirre. She is an ESL teacher at Marris Middle School. The sole purpose of this committee is for our Minority Educators to be more involved

in the vision and purpose of our Association. EMAC promotes respect and understanding of minority and ethnic groups. Our next meeting will be on October 26 from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at OEA. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please email Paula at the following: [paguirre1090@yahoo.com](mailto:paguirre1090@yahoo.com).



## Pipeline

*October 6 to November 5  
Omaha Community Playhouse  
in the Howard Drew Theatre*

Where does the pipeline to prison begin? A gripping, thought provoking, harrowing drama, Pipeline is the journey of a mother and educator who tries desperately to keep both her son and her student on straight-and-narrow paths. Pipeline is an examination of the American education system and the obstacles that students, educators and parents encounter to achieve success.

Discounts are given to educators: BOGO Buy One Get One Free  
*Promo Code: OCPEDUCATE*

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



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