



Omaha Education Association

Tip

Off

December 2023 • Issue 3

OEA Accomplishments for Fall 2023



Kathy Poehling

OEA President

kathy.poehling@nsea.org

It is now the final push to Winter Break and much needed time off. Winter break is a time when all of us need to stay healthy, enjoy our families, and get some rest. When we get back after the first of the year, we begin the long stretch through the end of the year and all the testing that comes with it. It is also the time for cold and flu season. OEA had a discussion with the district about when a student could come back to school after being sick. HR said educators can have a conversation with their building administrator about sending the CDC guidelines out to families, so they are not sending their child back to school too soon. Please have that discussion with your principal.

I am proud of all the work that the OEA committees have been doing this year. The membership committee has been working on many fun events and new ways to engage current members and recruit new members. In January

and February, we will be having just one campaign where we will be asking each member to try to recruit just one new member. The prizes have not yet been finalized, but we are planning on visiting a few schools during that time.

When I am talking to potential members, I am always asked the same question, "Why should I become a member?" You are probably being asked the same question when talking to others. Here is a list of things that OEA has accomplished in just the last five months so that you can share these with others:

- Thousands of signatures notarized to get LB753 on the ballot.
- The OEA President has visited 29 OPS schools.
- Lesson plan document emphasizing the use of bullet points and page numbers.
- Negotiated the agreement for Sign Language Interpreters and Bilingual Liaisons.
- Met with the district to work on legislation for 2024.
- Convinced the district to send Lee Perez (2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year) to colleges to recruit teachers for OPS.
- OEA is working with a team from OPS to redesign the way professional learning is rolled out and the content of the professional learning for the coming years.
- The Board of Directors gave feedback to OPS regarding the calendar.
- OEA is working on getting the district to design a teacher retention plan.
- Collaborated with the district on Inclement Weather Days.
- Worked with a few groups on grievances so that our educators are treated with respect and get paid what they deserve.
- OEA Bingo Night and Smash Pots Event.
- Working on updating our website – www.omahaoea.org
- Hosting of Retirement Seminars.

I want to thank those of you who have sent me encouragement and words of wisdom over the last few months. I want to encourage all of you to take time for yourself over the break. Many things have happened this year in regard to education and the attacks continue. We need to be in support of each other and stand together in solidarity.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NewGen Karaoke Night

Thursday, Dec. 21 from 5 pm to 8 pm
for anyone in their first 7 years of teaching



Retirement Seminar

Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 am via Zoom
Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 pm via Zoom



OEA Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 5 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 5 pm



Phone Bank Recruitment

Saturday, Jan. 13
from 10 am to 1 pm



Board Game Night & Chili Cook Off
Friday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm



Music Bingo

Friday, Feb. 23 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm

For more information contact OEA.

OEA

Committees

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

Tuesday, December 12

- AR Meeting
- Governance

Wednesday, December 13

- NewGen

Thursday, December 14

- Ad Hoc Sped
- PCR
- Retirement

Friday, December 22, 2023 –

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

OEA Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

- AR Meeting
- Governance

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

- NewGen

Thursday, January 11, 2024

- Ad Hoc Sped
- Retirement

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

- Membership Committee

Thursday, January 18, 2024

- PACE

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

- Comps & Ben.

Thursday, January 25, 2024

- EMAC

UNO Men's Basketball

Two Free Ticket Night

Sunday, Dec 17

Promo Code: TEACHCOMP

Buy One Get One Free Night

Thursday, Dec 29 & Saturday, Jan. 20

Promo Code: TEACH23

Visit [TicketMaster](#)



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

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

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



Amy Page recognized as Award of Excellence recipient

OEA member Amy Page, a Forest Station Elementary kindergarten teacher, and Shelly Mowinkel of Milford High School were recognized by the Nebraska State Board of Education as Award of Excellence recipients this evening.

The Nebraska Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, skilled, and who have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Scott Phillips, a 7th grade math teacher at Aurora Middle School as the 2024 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

We are proud of Amy Page in how she embodies the OEA mission of making public education the best it can be for students, staff, and our community.

Thank you for this amazing award. It is a great honor to receive the award for excellence of teaching, something I never imagined receiving.

For the past 9 years I have built a foundation that I continue to grow my classroom family on. Students, colleagues, mentors and my family have shaped my classroom and have helped it to continue to grow and flourish each year. Each student and family become my children and an extension of my own family. I dedicate my whole self to my students and invest my thoughts, time, and heart into ensuring my children receive the best each and every day.

Everyone here knows that the job of a teacher isn't done when the bell rings. Our minds do not just turn off and forget what happened among the four walls we spend much of our lives. We review lessons in our head, focus on who got the lesson and who will need a one-on-one tomorrow. We think about what we did right and what needs to be changed.

We worry about those students who came in wearing the same clothes as the day before, fell asleep in class, aren't feeling well, or who got removed from their family the night before. This isn't just my job; those are my children. From the beginning of my teaching career, I realized that my consistent presence and my unwavering advocacy can help change these students lives. I can make a difference on how they view school, adults, and even life. Their outcomes start in kindergarten, with me and that is a great responsibility to hold. I have the opportunity to grow a love for learning and school from the beginning and to make a difference be in their lives every single day. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity I get to teach and advocate for each student that enters my classroom.

It is truly amazing to be recognized for all the time, effort, and heart that I continue to put into each of my students lives. Thank you for this great honor!

Amy Page M.S. Ed.

