



Omaha Education Association

402-346-0400 • 4202 So. 57th St. • Omaha, NE 68117 • omahaoea.org

Tip Off

May 2024 • Issue 8

Grading Window

If you have been asked to complete your grades and turn them in before May 17th at 5 p.m., please contact your Organizational Specialists Kathie Garabrandt or Judy Roach so we can get that extended until May 20th at 8 a.m.

Tornado Pay

If you were required to stay and supervise students during the tornado warnings, you can put in for supervision pay at \$20 per hour. Just let your principal know.

Surveys from Survey Monkey

In the coming weeks, OEA will be sending out two surveys to get your input on. One will be about the Bylaw changes that you will need to vote on and the other will be about AR meetings. Please take the time to respond to them.

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.

New Agreement, Petition Drive

As we wind down to the end of the school year, take the time to celebrate all your accomplishments this year. The student who started off the year with many behaviors that will be ending the year a little less volatile. Another student who hated math or science, but now has less anxiety about it. The student who couldn't read is now making progress. Sometimes these signs are just small steps but will be much bigger steps toward future success for the student.



Kathy Poehling

OEA President

kathy.poehling@nsea.org

At OEA, we look back at the year and can't believe all the progress we have made. We have a new agreement to celebrate for those of you with a master's degree. We will continue to work on the salary schedule for BA and BA18 over the summer. If you are interested in working on this, please let President Kathy Poehling know by emailing her - kathy.poehling@nsea.org.

We have also started a new petition drive in Nebraska to repeal section 1 of LB1402. You can get more information at supportourschoolsnebraska.org. Find an event to volunteer at or sign the petition.

OEA President Kathy Poehling and our Organizational Specialists Kathie Garabrandt and Judy Roach continue to go to schools providing breakfast or lunch to the staff at different buildings/programs. In April and May, we went to: South High School, Kellom Elementary, Fontenelle Elementary, Druid Hill, Norris Middle School, JP Lord, and Omaha Virtual School. We have met so many people this year and are encouraged by all of the things happening in your buildings. Next year, we will continue visiting schools and plan to make it to every school or program in the district between the 23/24 and 24/25 school years.

Over the summer, spend time with your family or just relax and recuperate. Enjoy your summer and we will see you in the fall.

Omaha Performing Arts Teacher Appreciation Night

Omaha Performing Arts will celebrate the end of the school year with a Teacher Appreciation Night on Tuesday, June 4th before the 7:30 p.m. performance of [Moulin Rouge: The Musical](#).

We're hosting a pre-show reception at [The Peregrine Hotel](#) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for educators and their friends and family, featuring drink specials inspired by the show and free appetizers. The Peregrine Hotel also has a full dinner menu and a rooftop bar that will be open (weather permitting).

Mix and mingle with your fellow educators and then head over to The Orpheum Theater (a short walk from The Peregrine) to catch [Moulin Rouge: The Musical](#)!

We have a Nebraska Teacher promo code - NEBTEACHER2324 - that you can use to purchase discounted tickets on ticketomaha.com to that evening's performance. That promo code gives a 10% discount on price level 2 and 3 seats plus reduced handling fees on all price levels.



At the annual Laurels Night Banquet, the Omaha Education Association honors OEA members who are retiring from their career as public educators or who have served public education for 25 years. This is our opportunity to honor those individuals for their selfless contributions to the students at the Omaha Public Schools.

In addition to honoring retirees and 25-year educators, other individuals and groups making special contributions to public education are eligible to receive recognition awards. The Omaha Education Association believes in the promotion of school-community partnerships where educators and citizens share in the responsibility to create quality teaching and learning for all students. To recognize contributions made to that end, the following awards are also presented at Laurels Night: Spirit of Collaboration and Rookie of the Year.

What does the laurel symbolize? A laurel is a shrub that was traditionally used to weave wreaths and crowns that were symbols of victory in the sporting events of ancient Greece. Today, laurel is synonymous with achievement and a laureate is one who an award or achievement is bestowed upon.

OEA Retirees

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|---|--|--|
|  Noreen Abrahamson |  Patricia Hastings |  Phillip Schorg |
|  Robert Bacomz |  Lauren Kotulak Bartels |  Carol Scott |
|  Heather Bryan |  Colleen Krokaugger |  Tamalee Shepard |
|  Raelynn Buffington |  William Lovgren |  Kimberly Talamantz |
|  Stephanie Carlson-Pruch |  Cherryl Merizaldz |  Connie Tefft |
|  Catherine Casszls |  Nancy Moorz |  Michele Tilson |
|  Jay Daugherty |  Ella Patkovsky |  Linda Vernon |
|  Stacia Hanglz |  Michelle Prokop |  Julienne Young |
|  Brett Hanson |  Regina Ripa |  Suzi Yoklzy-Busby |
|  Debra Harris |  Lori Schilling | |

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| <p>Having issues or concerns in your building/ program, please email or call:</p> |  | <p>Judy Roach Elementary judy.roach@nsea.org 402-660-0949</p> |  | <p>Kathie Garabrandt Secondary & Special Programs kathie.garabrandt@nsea.org 402-676-3245</p> |
| <p><i>In addition, you can call: 402/346-0400 or 800/742-0047</i></p> | | | | |



25-year Honorees

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|  Kevin Anderson |  Michael Emmer |  Denise Kole |  Jean Murray |  Deana Rainey |  John Skradski |
|  Kristina Berzina |  Meghan Fox |  Jessica Korth |  Kristine Murray |  Carol Ramsdell |  Janelle Sollenberger |
|  Charleen Bonacci |  Christine Goetzinger |  Nichole Kriegler |  Jennifer Nelson |  Lee Reimer |  Thomas Sorensen |
|  Taralyn Brown |  Meredith Gray |  Lisa Krieser |  Sam Panz |  Kathleen Renfro |  Linda Tonack |
|  Dena Chandler |  Howard Hardy |  Jacquelyn Leet |  Angela Peszek |  Heather Rowland |  Elizabeth Turner |
|  Laura Chatfield |  Ricardo Hernandez |  Jennifer Logez |  Lisa Podany |  Terri Sanchez |  Latosha Washington |
|  Antoinette Curtis |  Danette Hunter |  Renee Lopez |  Bradley Pospishil |  Lisa Schabzen |  Teri Wiszman |
|  Rommie Derry |  Matt Irvin |  Joseph Maass |  Caroline Poston |  Tim Scheidt |  Keri Witherell |
|  James Ediger |  Nicole Johnson |  Michelle Megrath |  Jennifer Pudenz |  Julia Seobey |  Elizabeth Zyla |
|  David Eikenbary |  Corrie Jungferman |  Jason Moore |  Amy Purdy |  Sarah Short | |




**Award
 Winners**
Spirit of Collaboration
 Janeen
 **Mann**
 Lothrop Elementary
Rookie of the Year
 Vivian
 **fiansen**
 Lothrop Elementary



OEA-RETIRED

Membership in OEA-Retired is available to anyone who is retired and eligible to receive retirement benefits from the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System. Pre-retired memberships are available to all OEA members.

Email retiredoea@gmail.com
Website oearetired.org



REGISTER
 BE COUNTED. VOTE!



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

#SOSNE

Nebraska

KEEP PUBLIC DOLLARS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Protecting Voters and Public Schools

For the first time in history, Nebraska lawmakers passed a bill to deny citizens their right to vote on an issue that was put on the ballot through a successful referendum petition by the people. The unprecedented move by lawmakers is of concern to all Nebraska voters. If lawmakers are unwilling to respect the referendum process when it comes to using public dollars funding private schools, it begs the question: Are we really a representative government? If elected officials aren't interested in representing Nebraskans on this issue, how will we trust them to represent constituents on other matters?

Public Dollars for Public Schools

In Nebraska, 9 in 10 students attend our public schools. Nebraskans are opposed to giving public dollars to private schools—they have voted to reject public funds for private schools at the ballot box on three separate occasions.

Where can
you sign the
Petition?



Vouchers do NOT help all children.

Receiving a voucher does not mean that the private school will accept that student. The only "choice" ultimately lies with private schools. Unlike public schools, private schools can pick and choose the students they want to enroll, and these private schools can remove students at any time without providing an alternative education option.

Private education should continue to be privately funded.

Taxpayer dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools, which are open to all children, subject to state curriculum standards, and supported by the vast majority of Nebraskans in annual polls.

