

President's Column: *Continued from Page 1*
It worked, and I had to paint my garage so I could use the drop cloth. **Lessons: Panties are good & friends are smart!**
The swing: I built a play set for my daughter. It is made of 4x6 boards planted in concrete 36 inches below the ground. I used a 4x4 board across the top to fasten all of the equipment to. There is a swing, disc swing, cargo net, monkey bars, trapeze, and a slide. It has a 4 foot by 6 foot platform with a rail on one side. I put her sandbox underneath it to keep all her yard toys together. There are 4 inches of mulch all the way around it. Best of all I can observe her from the hammock I put up earlier in the summer. It would keep her outside and busy for hours, at least, I thought. She is outside,

and busy, but guess who gets to push her on the swing? The guy who used to be in the hammock. Who does she get when she wants to go across the monkey bars? The napping guy in the hammock!

Lesson: Enjoy your children, they are only young once, and you aren't getting any younger!

Getting a drink: My wife was gone and I was working on union stuff, when my 3 year old brought me a cup of tea (water) to share with her. We both drank from the cup and she went off to play. Soon she came back with another cup of water to share with her dad. We both drank from the cup. When my wife came home, she asked what we had done while she was gone. My 3 year old told her she had been drinking tea with dad. My

wife asked her to share where she got the water. She took my wife into the bathroom and scooped some water from the toilet and said "This is where I got the tea water from." **Lesson: Always flush the toilet & ask where everything comes from!**

Rules of your age: When I give my 3 year old some cookies, she wants 3 because she is 3 years old. Pretzels, she wants 3 because she is 3 years old.

Lesson: Use your age for the criteria of giving. Let's all give our age to FCPE this year.

I wish you all a great year and if I can do anything to assist you please call me at 419-564-4867.

Live well, Laugh often, Love much!

Impressions from two new NCOEA Delegates: Sue Jarvis from Galion and Lisa Cohen from Ashland

NEA Representative Assembly 2009

Delegates at the NEA RA in San Diego, California, July 2 – 6, 2009, raised over 1.6 million dollars for the FCPE (Fund for Children and Public Education), and dealt with 87 new business items.

As newbies to the NEA Convention experience, we did not know exactly what to expect; however, both of us have already decided to make a concerted effort to return each year. First of all, it was quite surprising how many official business items were dealt with on a daily basis in both the state caucus meetings and the representative assembly. Admittedly, it is worth noting that we did not understand every single issue brought to the floor, but learned a great deal in the process. Not only did we attend the required sessions, but had the option to participate in special interest caucuses of personal choice. The opportunity was also made available to listen to various prominent speakers, such as U.S. Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan and Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize winner of *The Washington Post*.

Prior to the first day of assembly, we were able to peruse the exhibits, which included caucus groups, educational vendors providing opportunities to enter drawings, and meet face-to-face with the NEA executive committee candidates. However, nothing will surpass the feeling we both had upon entering the San Diego Convention Center for the first time. A variety of musical selections were playing, state delegates were cheering and dancing, and over 15,000 educators were in attendance for one major cause: because they joined hands to care about what is best for schools, teachers and students. The issues discussed



Thirteen delegates from NCOEA attended the 2009 NEA RA in San Diego. In front: Patti Dice, Mt. Vernon. 2nd row from left: Perry Brokaw, Mansfield; Joyce Skocic, Mt. Vernon; Judy Novak, Mansfield; Sue Jarvis, Galion; Cynthia Dahler, Mt. Vernon. Back row from left: Rick Willoughby, Willard; Becky Mayer, Ashland; Rob Fetters, Mt. Vernon; Lisa Cohen, Ashland; Paul Kauffman, Independent; Tina Adams, Mansfield; Chris Swank, Retired.

were relevant, important and certainly impact everyone.

In conclusion, we would like to thank our mentors, the other NCOEA delegates and those who helped us along the way. From the social networking aspect, we made numerous friends from the Ohio delegation as well as other states. Until next summer, we hope everyone has a great 2009-2010 school year!

Chalkdust Facelift Continued from Page 1

Applause! Applause! Know a local, member or educator who has done something that should be recognized? Let us know and they might be honored in an upcoming edition! This section can be used to recognize those special people among our members who would otherwise go unnoticed. Do you know someone who you can nominate? Email Chris Swank at cswank@embarqmail.com with a brief description of why this person should be applauded. Be sure to include their name, place of employment, a paragraph about them, and their photo. Then watch for your nomination in an upcoming edition.

Our Mission Statement and Core Values will be included in each edition starting in January. This summer we, as executive leaders of NCOEA, reviewed and then updated our goals. They are still in the process of being finalized and voted upon by the NCOEA Executive Committee.

We hope that you enjoy these new additions to our newsletter. We want to do our best to serve your needs. Our hope is to make the Chalkdust meaningful yet fun while outsourcing as much information as possible. We look forward to communicating with you this '09-'10 school year. We wish you the best.

Pamela A. Taylor. Communications Committee Member