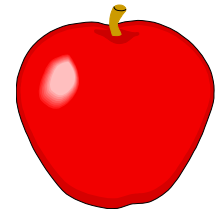


CHALKDUST



2008-2009 NCOEA Leadership Team

Brad Strong	President
Patty Levingston	Vice-President
Jen Lepard	Recording Sec.
Brad Strong	OEA Director
Becky Mayer	NEA Director
Chris Swank	Executive Secretary-Treas.

NCOEA 2008-2009 Calendar

November 1	State ESP Conference, Mansfield Sr. H.S.
November 6	*NCOEA Executive Com.
November 15	NCOEA Fall RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 8:00 am
November 16-22	American Education Week
November 19	Education Support Professionals Day
November 20	Crawford & Huron Counties Presidents Meeting, East of Chicago, Willard, 5:30 pm
December 6	OEA Fall RA, Veterans Memorial, Columbus, 9:00am
January 8, 2009	*NCOEA Executive Com.
February 5	*NCOEA Executive Com.
February 26	NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45 pm
March 2	"Read Across America"
March 5	*NCOEA Executive Com.
March 19	NCOEA Spring Workshop, Mansfield Sr. H.S. 5:00 pm
April 2	*NCOEA Executive Com.
April 27	NCOEA Spring RA, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 5:00 pm
April 30	NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45 pm
May 8-9	OEA Spring RA, Schotten- stein Center, 9:00 am
May 14	*NCOEA Executive Com.
May 18	NCOEA Awards Dinner, Troyer's Dutch Heritage, Bellville, 5:00 pm
May 21	NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45 pm
June 19-20	NCOEA Retreat, Mohican State Park
August 12	Treasurers' Workshop, Mansfield Sr. H.S.
September 17	NC Emerging Leaders, Mansfield Sr. H.S., 4:45 pm

*All NCOEA Executive Committee Meetings begin at 6:00 pm, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, at Route 42 North and Route 30 East in Mansfield. All NCOEA members are welcome to attend. Pizza, salad and snacks are served at 5:15 pm.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN –

Celebrate Success

Brad Strong

Webster's Dictionary defines Celebrate as: to observe with festive activity, to praise publicly. Success is defined as: the achievement of something desired or planned. So to celebrate success we must publicly praise in a festive activity when an achievement of something desired or planned occurs. Do we do this? When should we do this? How often should we do this? Why am I writing about celebrating success? Well, I believe when good things happen, we must take some time to celebrate our success.

We have a lot to be celebrating in public education:

We have made a difference in the political arena. With our assistance, Ohio has elected a governor who is carefully structuring a plan that will fix our number one issue in public education, funding. It may be taking a little longer than we like, but I believe his plan has involved all the stakeholders and has a strong possibility of being successful.

He has put pressure on the state Board of Education. This election is often overlooked and no one pays much attention as to who is running. However, when they voted to raise license renewal cost by over 200% people started paying attention. This election of state BOE members has not been overlooked.

On the legislative front we are a voice that is heard. We may not always like what they do, but we put pressure on them to form the policies and help structure how the legislation looks after it is passed. We have been able to change their intent by our hard work and the use of data in forming policy.

Our local associations have continued to negotiate fair contracts

for all our members, including improved working conditions, pay raises, protecting members' rights, and many other important parts of our contracts.

Our relationships and support of other districts in times of challenges has been great in the NCOEA area. Starting when our friends in Crestline faced their crisis to the recent crisis in Mansfield we rallied to support our colleagues. We showed up at events, sent cards and e-mails, and I know many prayers were spoken on their behalf.

We have a lot of success to be celebrating. Remember all our successes and to celebrate those successes we must publicly praise in a festive activity when an achievement of something desired or planned occurs.

My challenge to you this month is to celebrate success in your local. I know each local has a lot of successes to celebrate. It is very important to take the time to celebrate your successes as they happen; don't wait to do it when success occurs!!

I wish everyone Happy Holidays!!!



Brad Strong, NCOEA President