

Continued from Page 2

After our Board of Directors meeting on Friday, we attended the NIFI Awards Gala at the Wardman Park Hotel, where we stayed two years ago for NEA. President Clinton was one of the honorees. At my level of involvement in both the State and National levels, I at times feel "beaten up" as a public educator with all of the information, and often bad news for our public schools, I must process. But after President Clinton gave his speech, it reminded me why I am a teacher and why I am involved in my association..... For my students and my members!



YES.... I was able to shake the hand of President Clinton after his acceptance speech!

I was also privileged to have Judi Malinowski and Michael Jordan visit DC with me. It was exciting to watch them experience the activities at NEA and see their enthusiasm and support for us as Directors.

The most exciting benefit I have found as a new NEA Director is meeting the Directors from across the nation. I now consider so many of them my friends. Our freshman class has bonded very closely. I have made two close friends, one from Colorado and one from North Carolina, as well as many others. The value and deeper understanding of our profession I have gained from all of the Directors will be a treasure to me the rest of my career.

As I close this journal entry, I again **thank you** for the honor and privilege you have given me to serve you, THE OEA, as your new NEA Director. I would not be where I am in my professional growth or position without your support, encouragement and trust.

Please feel free to contact me or any of your NEA Directors at any time.

Yours in Public Education,

Becky

NCOEA Members Recognized at Fall OEA Representative Assembly

The Fall RA is the kickoff for the Fund for Children and Public Education. Delegates generously contributed \$29,884. Awards were presented to several individuals from NCOEA who have reached the various contribution levels: Executive Club Award (\$500.00 over a period of five years) – Kenneth Conaway from the Fredericktown Education Association; Presidents Club Award (\$1000.00 over a period of eight years) – Mary Crumm from the Mount Vernon Education Association; Lifetime Achievement Award (\$3000.00 total contribution) – Mary Jane Schlairet from the Fredericktown Education Association and Wilbur Vickery from

the Chillicothe Education Association (formerly from New London Education Association and past Vice-President of NCOEA); and Hall of Fame Club Award (\$6000.00 total contribution) – Cathy Aleshire from the Bucyrus Education Association and President of NCOEA.

UniServ Council and District Awards will be presented at the local level. North Central Lexington A Service Council (Jeff Kestner, Labor Relations Consultant) will receive the award for the Highest 2004-2005 Service Council Contributions. The Fredericktown Education Association will receive the award for the Highest 2004-2005 OEA-NEA FCPE

Contributions for Category 1 (for local associations with 5-75 members). The Mount Vernon Education Association will receive the award for the Highest 2004-2005 OEA-NEA FCPE Contributions for Category 3 (for local associations with 201-400 members).

The Fund for Children and Public Education money is used to help elect education friendly politicians at the state and national level. All OEA members are encouraged to contribute what they can to the Fund. If your local has not had a Fund drive check with your local president, or better yet volunteer to head the drive. Contact your Labor Relations consultant for help.

OEA Educator Lobby Days

The Ohio Education Association maintains a Governmental Services staff, which meets with legislators to inform them of our members' concerns. Legislators tell us, however that although they rely on the knowledge and skills of our lobbyists, the people they really want to talk with are their constituents, particularly our members who do the work of educating.

OEA's Governmental Services Department has scheduled Educator Lobby Days on Tuesdays of three successive months: **March 28, April 25, and May 23**. Each day begins with a briefing at the OEA building at 9:00 a.m., just down the street from the Statehouse; following the briefing, members go to their appointments with legislators.

Please think about attending one of these Educator Lobby Days. In the

near future, NCOEA will announce which day will be chosen as the NCOEA Lobby Day. The goal is to get many members and hopefully some administrators to attend and meet with our legislators. There will be educators who have attended lobby days in the past available to help set up appointments and to attend the meetings with you. We need you to attend to help promote our educational agenda to our legislators.

