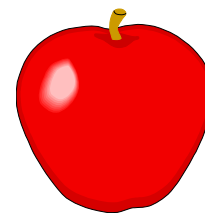


CHALKDUST



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

January 8, 2009	*NCOEA Executive Com.
January 23-25	NEA Mid-Atlantic Conf. Charlotte, NC
January 29-30	OEA Collective Bargaining Conf., Crown Plaza, Dublin
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. 4:45 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 (OSU), 9:00am
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 6	NEA Delegate Briefing PTBD, 10:00 am
June 19-20	NCOEA Retreat, Mohican State Park
July 1-6	NEA Representative Assembly, San Diego, CA
August 3-5	OEA Leadership Academy Crown Plaza, Dublin
August 12	Treasurers' Workshop, Mansfield Sr. H.S.
September 3	*NCOEA Executive Com.
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 –

FROM RED TO BLUE...

What Does That Mean for ME and YOU?

Brad Strong

With the 2008 election, history was going to be made regardless of the outcome. The United States was going to get its first female Vice-President or its first African-American President. Regardless of the outcome, history was going to be made. Just over 50 years after Brown vs. Board of Education and nearly 50 years after Dr. Martin Luther King's march on Washington and his "I Have a Dream" speech, voters from around NCOEA land, the state of Ohio and the nation showed up in record numbers to be part of this historical election. And history was made; the citizens of the United States voted for a new President based on the content of his character, not the color of his skin. **HISTORY WAS MADE.**

The question now is "Who are the big winners?" I think the economy won, the war effort won, Social Security won, health care won, but most importantly for you and me, public education won on November 4th, 2008, and it won **BIG.**

Not only did we make history by electing an education friendly President, we retained control of both the House and Senate in Washington DC. In Ohio we elected a Democratic majority to the House to assist our Governor in passing legislation, as well as an education friendly Attorney General, Richard Cordray. We elected two of the OEA endorsed State School Board candidates. This was the first time the education community was active in these elections. Additionally 138 out of 207 school levies passed for a 67% passage rate. **History was made and public education IS the big winner.**

Since 2006, we have turned Ohio from a red state to a blue state. We have begun to change the failed educational policies of Bob Taft and George W. Bush to the promise of positive change

and hope that educators will be involved in decision making with Governor Ted Strickland and President-elect Barack Obama. We have not gotten to this point overnight, and we need to remember that it will take time to undo the mess NCLB and the state legislature have done to public education. Be Patient. Change is coming and public education will be the big winner again. History is going to be made one more time.

From red to blue; what's that mean to ME and YOU? Governor Strickland and his wife Francis have very deliberately studied, asked and included all stakeholders as he develops a plan to fix public education in Ohio. The OEA has and is playing a key role in the process and is representing educators' interests well. With a Democratic majority in the Ohio House of Representatives we have positioned our Governor well to make his ideas successful.

President-elect Obama's plan for education is very promising, and with an educational friendly House and Senate we should see much of his plan come to be. Obama's plan on early childhood

Continued on Page 2



Brad Strong, NCOEA President