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education includes:

- Proposing a zero to five plan having students ready for Kindergarten
- Quadrupling Early Head Start and increasing Head Start funding.

His plan for K-12 education includes:

- Fixing funding for NCLB
- Believing the NCLB has drained the creativity of Americas children (we are spending more time training students to fill in bubble sheets and not teaching creative thinking)
- Supporting schools that need improvement rather than punishing them
- Improving the assessments used as standardized tests
- Closing low-performing charter schools
- Making math and science education a national priority
- Providing funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies to reduce the dropout crisis

- Expanding high-quality after school opportunities to serve 1 million more students
 - Supporting a minimum starting salary of \$40,000 for teachers and a living wage for ESP staff.
 - Repealing GPO/WEP that punishes public educators who pay into or are eligible for Social Security
 - Opposing private school vouchers and private charter schools
 - Supporting legislation to reduce class size
 - Supporting collective bargaining rights
 - Investing in education to remain competitive in the knowledge-based economy
 - Increasing federal funding for public education
 - Calling for parental responsibility and involvement in the education of their children both at school and home.
- His plan for higher education includes:
- Increasing student aid for low income students

- Streamlining the financial aid process by eliminating the current federal aid application and having a family check a box on their tax return to calculate financial aid.

After reviewing this list, I thought I was at an OEA Legislative policy meeting. These are our ideas; we have a lot to be proud of turning Ohio from red to blue.

History was made and history is going to be made by changing Ohio from red to blue. Today public education and public educators have the *audacity* to hope for great public schools once again. We have the belief that the promise of great public schools will be fully funded and that NCLB will be reauthorized in a way that makes sense. We can feel the change in public education and educators are starting to feel they can return to greatness.

Changing Ohio from red to blue has only made sense for ME and YOU! (This is the speech Brad made at the Fall NCOEA RA.)

NCOEA Members Are Big “Winners” at OEA RA

NCOEA had three different types of “winners” at the Fall OEA Representative Assembly in December.

The first type of winners were the individuals who were recognized for reaching new levels of giving for the FCPE (Fund for Children and Public Education). Patty Levingston, Madison Local EA, reached the Executive Club Level by giving \$500.00 over 5 years. Lynn Apple, Mt, Vernon EA, Jennifer Lepard and Judy Novak, Mansfield Schools Employees Association, reached the Presidential Club Level by giving \$1,000 over 8 years.

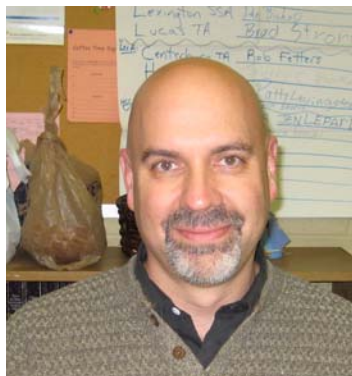
Galion City EA and Lexington School Support Association were recognized for reaching goals set for them by the Drive to Thrive Program of FCPE.

BUT, the big winner of the weekend was Kevin Fourman of the Bucyrus Education Association, who won the \$1,400 giveaway from the FCPE.

Congratulations from NCOEA to all our winners, but a special congratulation goes to Kevin!!! We all hope you had some fun with your winnings.



Left to right: Lynn Apple, Mt. Vernon EA; Patty Levingston, Madison Local EA; Jen Lepard, Mansfield Schools Employees Association; Sue Jarvis, Galion EA (accepting award for Galion City); and Judy Novak, Mansfield School Employees Association.



Kevin Fourman, Bucyrus EA

Ashland City TA and Mt. Vernon EA Locals to Hold Elections

Ashland City TA will hold an election for delegates to the 2009 NEA Representative Assembly on Monday, March 16, 2009.

Mt. Vernon EA will hold elections the week of March 9, 2009. The elections will include local officers, a negotiator, delegates for the NCOEA/OEA Representative Assemblies for the 2009-10 school year, and delegates to the 2009 NEA Representative Assembly.

Those members interested should contact their local officers to get their names on the ballots.