

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and Women's Leadership Training Philadelphia, January 2006

By Donna Christman President, Cardington-Lincoln Faculty Association

As a fairly new teacher (8 years) and OEA member, I am always amazed at the number of leadership training opportunities there are available through OEA and NEA. Two of the most recent trainings I was fortunate enough to attend took place in Philadelphia in January.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference is a yearly conference hosted in a home state of the states belonging to the Mid-Atlantic Region (we don't often think of Ohio as a Mid-Atlantic state but we are in this region). This year, the conference was hosted by the Federal Education Association (FEA) – which is comprised of the schools on military bases in a number of Eastern U.S. states as well as countries in Europe and Asia. Since this association is so geographically diverse, FEA chose to host the conference in Philadelphia this year. Topics of the conference included: Read Across America,

Fixing and Funding No Child Left Behind, Public Education Under Siege, Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention, Closing the Achievement Gap, and Effective Classroom Technology for Students with Special Needs. There were great opportunities to learn as well as meet colleagues from other states.

The other conference I attended in Philadelphia was the Women's Leadership Training Program (WLTP). There are five components to NEA's WLTP. This component was the Organizational Analysis Skills Program. Participants were given training in a variety of leadership skills including budget analysis, decision making, and organizational structure review as well as how to chart their own leadership development. Collegial relationships and real friendships were formed over the three day conference. I met five wonderful women from OEA that I may not have had the opportunity to

meet had I not attended this training. This workshop is a wonderful tool for participants looking to expand their role in their associations.

The training is out there if you want it. If you are interested in expanding your role in either your own local, your district association, or in OEA, you don't need to leave the state of Ohio to receive wonderful leadership training. The OEA Summer Leadership Academy is July 31 – August 2, 2006. The OEA Women's Caucus has acquired a grant to sponsor another component of the NEA's Women's Leadership Training Program this summer (June 23 – 25, 2006). Check your *Ohio Schools* magazine as well as your *Chalkdust* newsletter for information on future trainings. If you are interested in the Women's Leadership Training this summer, feel free to contact me for more information (christman\_d@earthlink.net).



Donna Christman



*Left to right: Some of the Ohio attendees at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Conference pose in front of the Liberty Bell: Homer Adams, NEOEA; Jerry Oberhaus and Tim Myers, NWOEA; Patti Dice, NCOEA; Kelli Crowder, NEOEA; Becky Mayer, Donna Christman, and Cathy Aleshire NCOEA.*

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