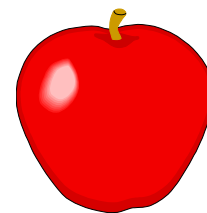


# CHALKDUST



## 2007-2008 NCOEA Leadership Team

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

## NCOEA 2007-2008 Calendar

November 1	*NCOEA Executive Com.
November 10	NCOEA Fall RA, Brown Derby RoadHouse, Ontario, Registration 8:00 am
November 11-17	American Education Week
November 14	Education Support Professionals Day
November 29	Local Presidents' Mtg. Knox & Morrow, The Alcove, Mt. Vernon, 5:30 pm
December 1	OEA Fall RA, Veterans Memorial, Columbus
January 3, 2008	*NCOEA Executive Com.
January 25-27	NEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Conference, Louisville, Kentucky
February 7	*NCOEA Executive Com.
March 3	"Read Across America"
March 6	*NCOEA Executive Com.
March 7-9	ESP Conference, Mansfield Senior High School
March 11	NCOEA Spring Workshop, Mansfield Senior H.S.
March 31	NCOEA Spring RA, PTBD Registration 5:00 pm
April 10	*NCOEA Executive Com.
April 18-19	OEA Spring RA, Columbus Convention Center
May 4-10	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6	National Teacher Day
May 8	*NCOEA Executive Com.
June 7	NEA Delegate Briefing
June 20-21	NCOEA Retreat, Mohican
July 1-6	NEA RA, Washington DC

\*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 – Brad Strong, Mansfield City Questions and Where to Get the Answers

With the constant change in educational laws, there always seems to be one more question that needs an answer. Who should you ask that question? How do you know when you get the correct answer? Are you asking the right question?

Let me begin to answer these questions for you. When you have a question, who should you ask? First, most locals have a great deal of intelligent people who may have the answer or experience to get the answer. As a union we are a unified group of people who work for a common cause. We are an educated people who read, study, and stay informed on current events. If you are not able to find someone in your local, ask an association leader outside your local. Your next stop should be your Labor Relations Consultant. He or she is well trained and kept up to date on educational law and practices. If they are not able to answer your question, they usually know where to go to get the answer.

How do you know you are asking the right question? First, think about what you want to know. Identify the problem or situation

and discover what you need to know about it. Then, phrase your question in such a way that you capture the question you need answered. Practice asking the question a few times before you call or talk to the individual you are going to ask the question.

Finally, how do you know when you get the correct answer? I would encourage you to always get a "second opinion." The more important the question or impact it would have on people you represent, the more opinions the better. I would also recommend you get opinions in writing from the person you ask. This way nothing is misunderstood or misstated when reported to a larger group.

Remember, the only constant is change, and in education we are always changing!!!!



Brad Strong, NCOEA President