

Bottom Line!!! MEMBERS ARE THE NEA, OEA, NCOEA and the LOCAL GOVERNING YOUR ASSOCIATION: The Role of Representative Assemblies

Make sure that your voice is heard at all levels!!!

At the national, state, and district levels, the Association (NEA, OEA, and NCOEA) is governed by Representative Assemblies. These meetings of local delegates elect officers, adopt budgets, approve governing documents, and set the policies that determine the direction of the Association. If your local association doesn't send delegates to the Representative Assemblies, then you are forfeiting the rights you have as a member of a democratic organization. Here's how your local association can make sure you keep those rights.

First: elect OEA Delegates. Just as NCOEA is governed by its Representative Assembly (RA), so is OEA, and delegates to OEA's RA are also seated as NCOEA delegates. OEA delegates are allocated according to a fairly simple formula: one delegate for every 50 members or major fraction thereof. The delegate election deadline is October 10.

Second: elect NCOEA Delegates. In

addition to its OEA delegates, each local is entitled to delegates who attend only the NCOEA RA. The formula is one delegate for every 50 members or *any* fraction thereof. (A local with 51 members gets 1 delegate to the OEA RA, but to the NCOEA RA they get that OEA delegate and 1 additional NCOEA only delegate.) The delegate election deadline is October 10.

Third: elect NEA Delegates. Local NEA Delegates are separate from the OEA and NCOEA delegates. Locals with 76 or more members will elect delegates locally in the spring and locals with 75 and fewer members will be represented by cluster delegates that are elected by all NCOEA members in the spring.

Fourth: certify your delegates. NEA, OEA and NCOEA have procedures for certifying delegates. **Each organization keeps its own delegate records.** For both OEA and NCOEA the delegate election certification deadline is October 15. The

NEA delegate election certification deadline is April 10.

Fifth: make sure your delegates attend. NEA, OEA and NCOEA permit you to elect alternates for delegates; a delegate's absence doesn't mean you lose your representation, as long as you send an alternate.

Watch your mail. This article isn't the whole story: it's just intended as an overview. Each local president will receive delegate certification materials from NEA, OEA and NCOEA, with far more detail than this article provides. What's the bottom line? If you expect good decisions, make sure your local is represented. If your local is one of the many which did not send delegates to last year's RAs, talk with your local leadership about changing that practice. It may be the most important decision your local association can make. (This article was adapted from *News & Views*, September 2006, the NCOEA newsletter.)

NCOEA Treasurers Workshop Successful

Mansfield Senior High School Site of August 16th Workshop

On August 16, 2006, NCOEA sponsored a local Treasurers Workshop. 21 NCOEA members attended representing 12 out of 37 locals in NCOEA. In addition we had 3 members from other districts in attendance: Central, North East and North West. Bill Leibensperger, then Secretary-Treasurer of OEA, assisted by Jim Timlin the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer of OEA conducted the treasurers' part of the workshop.

This year an additional element was added to the day long workshop. After lunch, Tim Myers, OEA Executive Committee member from North West presented training in the use of *Quicken 2007* for local treasurers. 14 local treasurers stayed for this training, and received a copy of the program for use in their district. The training was well received by the attendees. The only negative was that we needed more "Tims" to go around and help everyone. We will consider cloning him for next year's training. All kidding aside, hopefully we can get some assistants to help Tim and get more of our locals to participate in years to come.

Jim Martin, OEA Assistant Executive Director – Business Services was also present to observe the workshop.



NCOEA Local treasurers listen intently to the presenters at the August 16th Workshop



Sponsored by the OAESP Department

The theme of the conference is:

"YOU AND OEA – WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?"

1. Structure of the OEA
2. Politically
3. Role in Public Education
4. SERS – "Getting Out"

First Annual State ESP Conference

When: November 18, 2006, 9:15 a.m.

Where: Mansfield Senior High School
124 North Linden Avenue,
Mansfield, OH 44906.

Cost: \$10.00 includes meal

Registration Deadline: October 26, 2006

The registration forms will be sent out to local presidents or one may be requested from Della at djs563@hotmail.com.
Send to: Della Sampsel, 39 Penn Avenue,
Mansfield, OH 44903.

Checks should be payable to OAESP.

