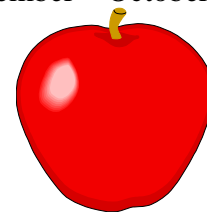


CHALKDUST



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

August 15, 2007	Treasurers' Workshop, Mansfield Sr. H. S. 4:00 pm
September 6	*NCOEA Exec. Com.
September 20	Local Presidents' Mtg. Crawford & Huron Bakers, Bucyrus, 5:30 pm
October 4	*NCOEA Exec. Com.
October 9	NCOEA Fall Workshop Mansfield Sr. H. S. 5:00 pm
October 20	Local Presidents' Mtg. Ashland & Richland Buehler's, Ashland, 5:30pm
November 1	*NCOEA Executive Com.
November 10	NCOEA Fall RA, Brown Derby RoadHouse, Ontario, Registration 8:00 am
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.
February 7	*NCOEA Executive Com.
March 6	*NCOEA Executive Com.
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 8	*NCOEA Executive Com.
June 7	NEA Delegate Briefing
June 13-14	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 What a Week in Philly!

I saw the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Betsy Ross's House, Museums, Monuments, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator John Edwards, Senator Barack Obama, Representative Dennis Kucinich, Governor Bill Richardson, Senator Joe Biden, Former Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator Chris Dodd, and Actor Richard Dreyfuss. I had the opportunity to discuss 98 new business items on the floor of the Representative Assembly, and deal with NEA's Resolutions, Legislative Policies, and Constitution & by-laws. Most importantly I got to eat some great Philly cheese steaks. That is just a glimpse of what happened in Philadelphia during the 2007 NEA Representative Assembly.

I was impressed and proud to serve NCOEA and the Mansfield School Employees Association. Listening to potential Presidential candidates was a great opportunity. Usually I only get bits and pieces of their educational policy. This year I feel comfortable that I know where many candidates stand and will be able to make an informed decision. Let me share with you some of their positions:

Senator Clinton stressed the need for universal, high-quality pre-K education to improve crumbling public schools, and to fight vouchers. Professional pay must be realized for teachers and educational support professionals, she said adding that when she's asked by others why there's a teacher shortage, she responds, "Because we have a respect shortage."

Senator Edwards called for an expansion of early childhood education, investment in - not punishment of - underperforming schools, new incentives to recruit quality teachers in high-poverty rural and urban areas, and higher

pay for teachers and educational support professionals.

Senator Dodd said schools that are in trouble need help, not punishment. As President he would "fully, fully fund No Child Left Behind." He promised to make preschool available to all 4 year olds, and he is "vehemently" opposed to vouchers.

Representative Kucinich said he would double the funding for No Child Left Behind and provide free preschool for three and four years olds and make public colleges free if elected President. To do this he would cut the "bloated" defense budget 15% using that \$75 billion for education. "The money's there, we just have to shift our priorities."

Governor Richardson said he would name a teacher to be Secretary of Education. He said cutting arts and physical education programs to accommodate NCLB demands must end. "Our nation's schools look more like reform schools with all the mindless testing and bureaucratic rules" he said. Included in his education platform is money to improve children's health, fighting vouchers, and funding for parental involvement programs.

(Continued on Page 2)



Brad Strong, NCOEA President