



SWOEA

OEA FCPE State Council Endorses Ed FitzGerald

For Governor in 2014

The OEA FCPE State Council announced its endorsement of Ed FitzGerald for governor. They are comprised of elected OEA members who carefully screen candidates based on voting records, stated support of public education and OEA's priority issues.

"Ed FitzGerald has demonstrated a thorough and impressive command of the issues and challenges that face Ohio's public schools and their students," said OEA President Higgins. "If elected we believe he has the vision and the leadership needed to make our public schools, our system of higher education and our programs for the developmentally disabled in Ohio that much better... As governor he would take



the state in a new more promising direction- away from the current trend to privatize public education- and toward more equitable and sustained state support of local public education."

He has selected Sharen Neuhardt as his running mate. FitzGerald explains, "It's through Sharen's life experiences that she shares my commitment to bolstering the middle class and restoring economic security to Ohio's families- and my impatience with our state's lackluster recovery... Together Sharen and I will continue to fight for all families and help restore the infrastructure for Ohioans to improve their lives. We must create an environment for both businesses and people to thrive, and one where hard work is rewarded and individual freedom is protected."

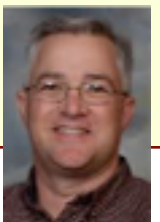
President's Message

As winter has turned the temperature gauge to cold, the political season is heating up in a big way. I know all of you understand the need to elect a pro-public education governor, but I need to stress the importance of doing so this upcoming November. The current governor has failed educators over and over. It is time for a change! I promised the SWOEA Representative Assembly three and a half years ago that I would work to make our current governor a one term governor.

Please do the smart thing this November 2014 learn about the candidates and the choice will be clear. FitzGerald is the right choice to make. With the organization, dedication and commitment like we had in our fight to repeal SB5 in 2011, we will be able to elect Ed FitzGerald as Governor for Ohio and help us move our profession forward.

Stay warm!

-Richard Packert





SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RECIPIENTS

Thanks to the following members of the Scholarship Committee: Dennis Beck, Jeff Bourne, Becky Brown, Barb Calton, Laura Condo, Mike Fortman, Steve Jones, Ann Kelley, Mary McGriff and Kim Reese. Each year they award \$1000 scholarships. In the fall it is to SWOEA members continuing their education; in the spring to students planning to major in education in college.

Congratulations to the SWOEA member recipients, Stacy Recker and Jennifer Reeder! Stacy is a social studies teacher at Amelia High School, her local Association Representative and FCPE Chair. In addition, she serves on the State Legislative Committee, is an SWOEA delegate, and past OEA and NEA delegates. She volunteers for Save The Animal Foundation. Jennifer is a music teacher in Kings School District, serves as her local treasurer and former Crisis Committee member. She helps with Cub Scouts and enjoys gardening and doing crafts with her children.



WEST CLERMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT FACES NEW TEA PARTY BOARD MEMBERS

“Tea-party backed candidates took control of the school board in the November election. But that’s not going over well with a new citizens group which thinks the new board will be bad for the district. That group is holding a rally before Monday night’s board meeting. (One)...board member say it’s necessary to, ‘Slay the dragon that is public education in West Clermont.’ New board member, Jim Lewis, said, ‘There’s a monster we’re facing. We have the government, the teachers, the administrators on one side saying give us more money. And we’ve got the taxpayers saying we’re not going to give you any money and the taxpayers have been left out of everything.’ But language like that scares a group of taxpayers who have founded a group called West Clermont United. Nancy Jennings, A West Clermont United member, said, ‘Absolutely it bothers us. We are very concerned about any type of school board that would try to deconstruct and tear down the district rather than bring it up.’ The differences are philosophical and financial. Jim Lewis is one of three board members endorsed by the Clermont Liberty Pac, a tea party group. In an email to supporters, Lewis said the future of our nation depends on turning back the hands of time and teaching our children instead of propagandizing them. Lewis...opposes a new curriculum Ohio and many other states are implementing called The Common Core. ‘That will be one thing we will be

rid of come hell or high water.’ But West Clermont United says dropping Common Core could hurt students who will be tested on it anyway. The group also says future school levies are needed to bring back music, art, and gym in elementary schools and the school board needs to support that. Jennings said, ‘When I talk with other parents as to why they are leaving, they don’t see any benefit for staying. They want their children to have these specials and they can find them in other places.’ Lewis says he’d like to bring back music, but, ‘The people in the community are not willing to pay more taxes.’ Lewis says he’s speaking only as one board member but he’d like to see West Clermont drop out of the Ohio School Boards Association and save the dues money. He also says it might be possible to cut some positions and perhaps even close a school in order to save money, maybe for elementary school music. There may be a lot of battles between the board and the teachers union over money as well. Lewis has suggested teachers are making too much money while other district residents are hurting. Although a state audit says West Clermont teachers make less than teachers do in other similar districts, from FOX 19 NEWS.”



CALENDAR EVENT DETAILS

January 23rd, 2014

PEACE AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The PCR Committee is sponsoring following workshop: Help Keep Students and Schools Safe: Identifying and Responding to At Risk Youth. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the threat assessment in schools, discuss the myths about school shootings and the dangers of student profiling, and provide useful information that addresses concerns regarding student and school safety. The presenter has over 15 years of experience working with clients on a variety of issues and has extensive experience working with children and adolescents suffering with emotional and behavioral problems.

Pre-registration is required; email Veria. Light refreshments at 5:00pm; workshop from 5:30-7:00pm at SWOEA Office. SWOEA members are free; guest \$15. CEU's available; raffle at the conclusion.

February 27th, 2014

DEADLINE FOR MLK ESSAY CONTEST

The SWOEA Peace and Civil Rights Committee invites you to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King and those he has inspired. This year's entries focus on his proclamation "Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy" and how a person can live its message.

Entries may be any of the following forms: collage, personal essay or letter, photography, podcast, poetry, Power Point, sculpture, video, or visual/graphic art. Biographies are not appropriate. Levels are K-3, 4-8, and 9-12.

There will be 6 student winners along with submitting teachers. Grand prize is an e-reader; other prizes \$25 gift cards. Each entry must be clearly marked with all of the following: student's name, home address, telephone number, grade level & age, as well as, name & address of district, superintendent's name, student's school, and teacher's name.

Schools are invited to submit the 3 best projects. They must be postmarked by February 27th or brought to SWOEA Office by the 28th. Winners will be displayed on April 12th at the SWOEA RA and can be picked up after.

Calendar

January 15th, 2014

Committee of Organizational Development

January 16th, 2014

Committee Chairs

January 21st, 2014

Officers Meeting

January 23rd, 2014

Peace and Civil Rights Workshop

January 27th, 2014

Executive Committee

January 29th, 2014

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

February 11th, 2014

Professional Development Workshop

February 18th, 2014

Professional Development Workshop

February 21st, 2014

District Leaders Council

February 22nd, 2014

OEA Board of Directors

February 24th, 2014

OEA Board of Directors

February 27th, 2014

Executive Committee



FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CONTACTS

National Education Association (NEA)

www.nea.org

202.833.4000

NEA Member Benefits

www.neamb.com

1.800.637.4637

Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

www.ode.state.oh.us

General Information 877.644.6338

Licensure Information 614.466.3593

Ohio Education Association (OEA)

www.ohea.org

1.800.282.1500

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS)

www.strsoh.org

1.888.227.7877

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

www.ohsers.org

866.280.7377

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

www.opers.org

1.800.222.7377

Ohio Board of Regents

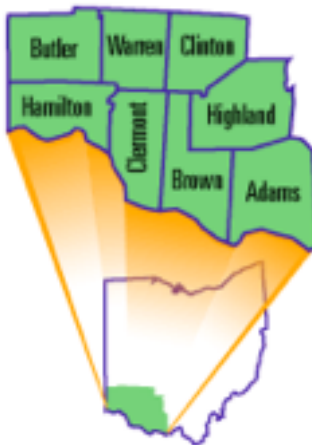
www.ohiohighered.org/board

614.466.6000

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us>

1.800.617-6733



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