

PEA Thanksgiving Food Drive Needs Help to Be Successful

You may not be aware that MaryAnn Albaugh has been in charge of a huge event every year for the past several years. She is chair of the PEA Community Relations Committee. Each year, MaryAnn co-ordinates the collection and distribution of food to needy families in our district during the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Last year, over 300 boxes of food were distributed to over 80 needy families. As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking. Only four members out of 900+ available members volunteered to help last year. MaryAnn is in need of our help with this event. If you have a club or sports

team that can put in some time in helping distribute the boxes, please let MaryAnn know.

In addition, if you would like to be a part of this event, you may submit a half sheet form for release time during the school day. Under reason, check Other and write PEA business. I can help you with this form if you need direction. The critical days are Friday, November 17 to help with the collection of the food at Pleasant Valley Elementary School (5 hours) and Monday, November 20 to help with the distribution of food at Pleasant Valley Elementary School (8 hours).

You do not need to be present the entire

5 or 8 hours in order to help. MaryAnn would welcome any amount of time you can give. We are appealing to the newer teachers on the staff who may not be aware of the importance of this Food Drive. It has been PEA's way of getting involved with the community and filling a need to make Thanksgiving Day a happy occasion for those who may have financial difficulties. We also welcome veteran teachers to help out. The boxes weigh up to 45 pounds.

Let's gather together as a true family to put our stamp on this worthwhile event. Please contact MaryAnn Albaugh directly if you can help. Many thanks!

General Membership Meeting Held on Sept. 12 at PSH

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. with Maureen Neville thanking the membership for their expressions of concern. She thanked the officers and Executive Committee for their help in her absence. She then turned the meeting over to the vice-president.

Mike Jaszczak introduced the Staff Development Committee team. He explained that Waiver Days needed a signature from the PEA President. That required signature was not given by Maureen Neville as a result of the motion carried by the membership in the spring. A brief Power Point presentation followed explaining Early Release Days/Waiver Days by the DSDT.

The administration had placed Early Release Days on the calendar in place of Waiver Days for the 2006-07 school year. According to ODE, Early Release Days do not require a signature from the association. The signature was not required because early release days are approximately

1/2 hour shorter than Waiver Days. PEA quickly pointed out that contractually, due to change in the work schedule, teachers would still have to vote to approve Early Release Days. Since the administration was interested in PEA support, Mike Jaszczak was appointed to meet with the administration to discuss the issue. He was able to secure a General Membership meeting on a faculty meeting Tuesday, teacher driven professional development and a full-day teacher driven Waiver Day for next year, should the membership grant their approval.

Some suggested teacher driven topics for the early release days were: Tech Fairs, Shadow/Observe, Content Standards, Team Builders, Unit Collaboration, Assessment, New Techniques.

A motion was made by the DSDT: We move that the President sign off on the current calendar with early release days and any future waiver days that will be teacher driven.

A discussion and questions of the motion followed. A vote was taken and motion carried.

The need for volunteers for the Thanksgiving Food Drive was presented. The Staff Recognition Program was presented. Teachers were reminded of the importance of meeting deadlines for Blocks of Credit and Tenure Intentions.

Teachers were reminded to keep the Duty-Free Lunch, DUTY FREE!

Appraisal timelines have been missed by administrators in the past. As a result, they have been thrown out. It is important that this practice continue regardless of whether the appraisal is favorable or unfavorable.

The floor was opened for questions from the membership.

The meeting was adjourned.

PEA Committees and Chairpersons

Audit - Kimberly Kohut

Community Relations - Mary Ann Albaugh

Constitution Resolutions - Norm Baker

Elections - David Palmer and Jeff Wensing

Instructional and Professional Development -

Jackie Scott and Nancy Picard

Membership - Kim Porco

Negotiations Planning - Dennis Lewis

Professional Rights and Responsibilities -

Sue Messinger

Program - Connie Loescher

Teacher Welfare - Jennifer Schumacher

Nominating - Michael Jaszczak

Scholarship - Michele Bender

Ad-Hoc Committees

Newsletter - Norm Baker

Office Maintenance - Cynthia Boyd

Local Educator's Political Action -

Michael Jaszczak



President's Viewpoint

by Maureen S. Neville

Welcome Back! Recently, my son started kindergarten and shared a story with me. Apparently, his classroom suffered from an ant problem. Ants seem to plague the classroom and no matter how many times the teacher "filled out that big blue form" nothing happened. The custodian, other workers and teachers visited the classroom however, the ants still remained. One day the principal came with a group of people and informed his teacher the ant problem would be resolved. Monday morning arrived and to the delight of students and teacher the ants "had disappeared". My son commented, "I guess our principal doesn't like ants in his coffee cup!"

Sometimes, it takes the people at the top to experience what you experience to help facilitate change. Some could argue the only one who likes change is a wet baby and yet change is inevitable. A common trend we experience in education, it happens too quickly or not quickly enough. We are on the front lines daily and must participate to help facilitate the design of what change will look like for our students. We must actively work to understand the politics that drive decisions which affect what we do everyday in our classrooms. We must continue to work to recognize the beliefs, values, and behaviors which determine our teaching experiences.

As a result of negotiations, we participate on all district-wide committees to ensure teacher participation. Our association has numerous committees that afford all teachers the opportunity to become involved with their profession. Take a moment to review what you would like to do to help design the change in your classroom, building, district and profession.



The NEA Representative Assembly - almost 9000 delegates were in attendance in Orlando Florida from June 30-July 5 2006.

PEA Sends Delegates to the NEA RA in Orlando, Florida from June 30-July 5

The NEA RA took place in Orlando FL, June 30-July 5, 2006. Sue Messinger, Dennis Lewis, Kim Porco, David Palmer, Michael Jaszczak and Maureen Neville attended as elected delegates from PEA. They joined almost 9000 other NEA delegates to discuss and vote on business brought before the RA.

Delegates start at 7:00am in state caucus meetings to get information and take positions on the resolutions and motions. The RA starts at 9:00am and runs until

business is completed. There are events planned by state and local delegations for most evenings.

At this year's RA, the delegates adopted a strategic budget that funds the previously adopted NEA strategic plan. Delegates also elected a national Secretary/Treasurer and board level officers. All this was in addition to special programs, committee reports, awards, special guest speakers and votes on over 100 pieces of new business.

OEA Endorsed Candidates for the November Election are:

Ted Strickland - Governor
Mark Dann - Attorney General
Jennifer Brunner - Secretary of State
Richard Cordray - Treasurer

Ben Espy - Ohio Supreme Court
William O'Niell - Ohio Supreme Court
Sherrod Brown - Ohio Senator

NEA MB October 2006 Web Site Giveaway: Hertz and Alamo Car Rental Certificates and Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom DVD Sets

Whether your idea of fall entertainment is a weekend excursion to see autumn colors or curling up on the sofa to watch some great "TV," NEA Member Benefits is ready to help you on your way!

NEA members can register anytime during the month of October 2006 in the Free Giveaways area of the NEA MB Web Site (www.neamb.com) for a chance to win one of:

- One (1) \$100 Hertz Car Rental Coupon
- Three (3) Alamo 3-Day Car Rental Certificates
- Three (3) Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom DVD Sets (7 DVDs per set)

Giveaway entry begins at 12:00 a.m., ET, on October 1, 2006, and ends at 11:59:59 p.m., ET, on October 31, 2006. No purchase necessary to enter.

October 2006						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 EY committee 3:30-5:00 Red Rees	3* EYT meeting 3:30-5:00 Red Rees - Topic: LPDC presented by Maureen Neville and Barb Kostya	4 OEA Elections	5 OEA Elections Building Visits Supt../PEA Pres.	6 OEA Elections all tabulations to PEA office by 4PM Building Visits 11:30-1:15	7
8	9 Executive Committee meeting PEA office 4:00-5:00	10 OEA Cuyahoga County Elec- tion Dinner 5:00-10:00	11 FORUM BOE 12:30-4:00	12 Dinner Celebration honoring 20 years or more of service - VFH 4:00-6:00	13 NEOEA day No School	14 Mentor Training Red Rees
15	16	17	18 IPDP meetings 3:30	19 LPDC Board Meeting Room 3:30	20 CBS 8:00-10:00am	21
22	23 Building Rep. meeting Church Basement 4:00-5:00	24	25 Building Visits Supt../PEA Pres. 11:30-1:15	26 Chamber of Commerce meeting 11:30	27 Building Visits Supt../PEA Pres. 11:30-1:15	28
29	30	31		* District Staff Development Committee Red Rees 3:30-5:00		

The above dates/times are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW?

The check for \$450.00 (before deductions) that PEA members received last summer was bargained by your Negotiations Team during the last round of negotiations.

To Eat or Not to Eat? In Other Words, When Do I Get My Lunch?

Our contract calls for a “duty free” lunch. What does that mean to us? Lunch is **your time**, the BOE is not paying you for the time you are at lunch. We want to ensure that you have a duty free lunch well into the future.

Some of you might recall when we were working to the contract last year, members of the community were going to BOE meetings and stating that teachers were not working through their lunch. One person said in anger, “They don’t deserve a duty-free lunch!” Perceptions such as this force us to protect our time. It is very important that you reserve your lunch for yourself. You should not be working with children during that time.

With increasingly busy schedules, sometimes it seems that lunch time the only time to tutor our students. However, we do not want to set the precedent that it is alright to work through lunch. When individuals choose to do something that is not covered by the contract it may become a “past practice.” When we file grievances, such past practices may be referenced by the administration as a reason to deny the grievance. What happens in one building certainly influences what happens in others.

Cost Breakdown for PEA Dues for 06-07

Dennis Lewis, Treasurer

The cost breakdown and payroll deduction amounts for PEA members are noted on the table below. Dues deductions will start with the last pay in October 2006 pay date and continue for 17 pays through June, 2006.

UTP Dues for 2006-2007 School Year

	FULL DUES	HALF DUES
OEA	382.00	191.00
UNISERV	70.00	70.00
NEA	145.00	76.00
NEOEA	25.00	12.50
PEA	152.00	76.00
TOTAL	774.00	425.50
<i>Payroll Deduction</i>	<i>45.53</i>	<i>25.03</i>

A continuing membership listing will be provided to the payroll department in several weeks with the specific dues deduction amount for continuing members and a copy of enrollment forms for new and cash payers will be supplied to facilitate dues deductions. Fair share fee deductions will occur after January 15, 2007 and information will be provided at a later time with specific procedures related to fee payers in accordance with BOE/PEA Article 34.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me (Dennis Lewis) at Parma Senior High School or finance@peaoffice.org



NEA Delegates attend the NEOEA Night at Medieval Times