

# The OADDP Newsline

## Lots of Info at Conference 2014

The 2014 OADDP Conference at Mohican State Park provided our members with a diverse group of speakers. Becky Higgins, OEA President, spoke to the group Friday evening and provided us with opening remarks and discussion on the importance of getting involved.

The "Friend of DD Award" was presented to Pat Frost Brooks, former OEA President and advocate for both school and county board programs. Pat was a huge supporter of the OADDP and helped us to bridge the gap between the OEA and the DD profession.

Dan Ramos, OEA Governmental Relations, started Saturday morning by providing information on the so-called "Right to Work" and the possibility of it being proposed in Ohio. One of the other significant things he talked about was the importance of getting involved with the political process in order to prevent these kinds of harmful initiatives. Dan also provided insight on who the OEA was supporting in this upcoming and important November election. These recommendations can be found in the "Campaign Kickoff" article on Page 2.



Former OEA President Pat Frost-Brooks is presented with a flower print, reflecting her love of gardening, as her award for being the 2014 "Friend of DD" by Jené Wilson, OADDP Chairperson.

Every year we have the privilege of hearing legislative updates from Melissa Clark and legal updates from Kathy McKinley, both of who shared information about what is going on around the state in both county board and school programs. Finally, Sue Nelson, Autism Specialist at the Lake County Board of DD, shared some great information on how to provide a better service to individuals diagnosed with the disorder.

On behalf of OADDP, we would like to thank those that spoke at the conference; we appreciate your dedication and hard work. We had a great turnout and so much useful information was shared with the members who had the opportunity to attend.

by Christina West



100% of the members in attendance rated the Conference as "Excellent" or "Good!"

Many noted that they particularly liked all the information they learned, as well as getting to talk to colleagues from other locals. And, of course, the food!

**CONFERENCE**

**2014**

Another Rousing  
Success!

An FCPE drive has been conducted at every Conference, with impressive results each time.

However, this year, the 47 members in attendance raised \$1310 - the most ever!

**2013-14  
OADDP  
MEETINGS**

July 12, 10:30am  
Hudson Uniserv Office

Hudson Uniserv Office  
591 Boston Mills Road,  
#100  
Hudson

**Conference  
Attendees Elect  
New Officers**

Christina West,  
Chairperson  
Portage County

[pezhead017@yahoo.com](mailto:pezhead017@yahoo.com)

Amanda Shaheen,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Stark County  
[ajmshaheen@gmail.com](mailto:ajmshaheen@gmail.com)

Tami Garner,  
Secretary  
Stark County  
[tgarner5@neo.rr.com](mailto:tgarner5@neo.rr.com)

Steve Spall,  
Treasurer  
Lake County  
[steves324@oh.rr.com](mailto:steves324@oh.rr.com)

**OEA**

**Campaign 2014 Kickoff**

OEA Campaign 2014 began at the beginning of the year with the OEA-FCPE State Council screening and endorsement of Ed Fitzgerald for Governor, David Pepper for Attorney General, Nina Turner for Secretary of State, John Patrick Carney for Auditor, and Connie Pillich for Treasurer. A successful statewide FCPE Fundraising drive was conducted, with goals set for each local association.

The State Council also approved screening and endorsement guidelines to be used by local House and Senate District screening committees this spring. The new guidelines added a friendly incumbent endorsement process. Education friendly candidates for State Board of Education have been identified and will be screened soon.

As candidate screenings and endorsements are completed, OEA members will be encouraged to volunteer directly with the campaigns of endorsed candidates in their area. FCPE contributions can be made anytime on the OEA website. When the school year begins, members will be asked to reconnect with friends and family to get our message out as we did for SB-5/Issue 2.

John Kasich has the wrong priorities when it comes to public education. After cutting more than \$500 million in state funding for public schools, Kasich gave more money to charter schools that have failed to perform well. As a result, over three-quarters of public schools have lost funding and been forced to lay off educators and reduce classes offered.

OEA members must help defeat Governor John Kasich and elect Ed Fitzgerald as the next Governor if we are to begin to save public education in Ohio. OEA will target specific races to try to secure 40 House seats for the minority party to prevent a supermajority. OEA will also try to add one education friendly seat in the Senate. Seven of the



eleven State Board of Education seats are up for election and OEA members will be asked to look all the way to the end of their ballot to vote for education friendly candidates.

Hank Haynes, OEA Legislative Committee and OEA-FCPE State Council

By now, you've heard of the 'Employment First' initiative- where CBDDs are required to provide community employment to individuals with developmental disabilities if they want to work. Ever wonder what it could "look like" at your program? Well, here are some local actions your CBDD may be taking:

- ***New enrollees go right to community placement vs a "work readiness" program in Adult Services (AS)*** - Barring any medical/severe behavior issues, transition students or new enrollees are immediately assigned to community jobsite. These individuals may have adjustment issues if CBDD job coaches, waiver or OOD/BVR services are not available to provide support during transition. This could lead to individuals not wanting to work if they are unsuccessful at these sites.
- ***Previous CBDD jobsites/workshops are now privatized and managed by an independent provider***- The operation of CBDD community jobsites may be taken over by a private employer or VRP3. Such programs may hire others to supervise the work, meaning the loss of DD jobs.
- ***Declining to accept any new AS admissions*** - This is to encourage enrollment with a private provider/VRP3 program for community employment or day habilitation. Declining enrollments mean potential loss of DD job positions.
- ***Individuals who have long been employed at the CBDD workshops are now being asked to choose a different day habilitation provider***- This move could potentially initiate the closing of CBDD workshop sites.

Be sure your association works closely with your LRC to keep them apprised of any changes in AS policies, procedures and practices. Send a representative to OADDP meetings to share your findings.



New OADDP Officers, L to R: Steve Spall, Treasurer; Tami Garner, Secretary; Christina West, Chairperson; Amanda Shaheen, Vice-Chairperson

**OADDP**

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Highland Hts., OH 44143

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Remember - check  
the website -  
oaddp.org - for your  
OEA membership  
number. Win a  
prize if it's there!



## Local Focus...Cuyahoga County

by Gloria Stansberry

### **Kids Play!**

*RePlay for Kids*, a not-for-profit volunteer agency in northeast Ohio, held its sixth Annual Adapted Toy Distribution Event last December at the Education Service Center of Cuyahoga County (ESC-CC) in Valley View, Ohio. And, for the sixth time, the Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students partnered with *RePlay for Kids* to support the event

Representatives from 24 area agencies, including northeast Ohio County Boards of DD, attended the event to choose from over 800 adapted toys for children with disabilities. All the agencies operate toy lending libraries. Toys for the event are donated by the Marines' Toys for Tots program and then are adapted by *RePlay for Kids* volunteers.

ACCESS applied for and received a \$500 Public Relations Grant from the Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals. The money was used to purchase switches, which were also given away at the event.

Although *RePlay for Kids* operates in Northeast Ohio only, any Ohio County Board of DD willing to pay shipping can contact *RePlay for Kids* to arrange to have toys repaired and adapted for free. Check out the *RePlay for Kids* website at [www.replayforkids.org](http://www.replayforkids.org) for more information.

**This event was supported with a \$500 grant from OADDP.**