

The OASNP *Newsline*

formerly The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

Special Conference Edition



The OADDP Annual Conference was held March 2-3, 2018 at Mohican State Park Lodge. By all accounts it was another in a long line of successful conferences.

Friday night started with good food shared around lively conversation, as those in attendance caught up with old friends and made new acquaintances.

After dinner, Russ Harris, OEA Education Research Development Consultant, talked to the members about several issues of importance to our work lives. He reminded us that unions are the only force pushing back on corporations and we need to elect leaders who understand the importance of labor and collective action. To that end, he encouraged our support of Sherrod Brown, who consistently votes in the interest of education and labor. Senator Brown is being attacked by Russian bots and some independent groups have already spent \$40 million against him since 2012. Because of the gerrymandering that followed the 2012 elections, it is important to get out and vote. Russ also encouraged members to attend one of the hearings on HB 512, which seeks to restructure Ohio's education agencies and strip the State Board of Education of all powers. Dates, times, and venues for the hearings can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website.

Bob Matkowski, OEA Organizing, addressed the group on the importance of giving to the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) in order to help elect legislators who have education as a priority. Dues money CANNOT be used to support candidates, so this fund is very important. **Members raised the most ever at a conference - \$1056!!!**

On Saturday, the group heard from conference favorite, Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney. She addressed a topic of great interest to many - the fact that things you create for work, even if done at home, or purchase for use in a lesson, once it goes into the classroom, it belongs to the employer. Generally, you will be allowed to take it when you leave, if you leave a copy behind. Therefore, it is important to be clear about ownership before posting things on websites such as Teachers Pay Teachers, etc. For those of us working with people with special

BY THE NUMBERS

41 Enthusiastic

Attendees

6 Great Speakers

3 Delicious meals

1 Fun Social Hour

The 25th (at least!)
Annual OADDP
Conference



needs, Kathy reminded us that you can only keep records as long as you are working with that person. And, when the student moves to the next teacher, records cannot just be thrown away - they have to be disposed of per Ohio Historical Society standards. Even records of meetings, emails you send/receive about a particular person, or a memo about a meeting for that person, need to be retained. If your IT department asks you to clear out your email, be sure you know who is responsible for maintaining those records. Kathy provided a wealth of materials on each of these subjects, which are posted on the 2018 conference page on the OADDP.org website.

Also on Saturday, Daria De Noia, OEA Education Policy and Practice Consultant, did double duty, reporting the Legislative Update and as Keynote Speaker on “Turning Challenging Behaviors into Opportunities.” On the legislative end, Daria reminded the attendees that everything that happens at the workplace is ultimately a political decision, so paying attention to the legislature and voicing your opinion, is *extremely* important. In terms of helping staff manage the students and adults they work with, Daria talked about respect being a two-way street, trauma informed teaching, the statistics of suspension and discipline proceedings, and ways to help people with disabilities manage their behavior. She provided a packet of concrete ideas for attendees to use in their jobs, which is posted on the website.

Everyone was inspired to hear the story of Nick Maximovich, an artist who is an adult with Autism. His mother and sister relayed the story of helping him set up an Etsy site to sell his artwork. The pieces of his work that they brought with them were snapped up by the people at the conference. Check out his work at etsy.com/shop/nickmaxstudio.

Annual Membership Meeting Does Big Things

The OADDP Membership Meeting is always held at the Annual Conference. Every other year also includes elections of officers; at this conference, the current leadership team was reelected by acclamation. They are:

Chairperson: Christina West, Portage County Board of DD

Vice-Chairperson: Nikki Nadansky, Portage County Board of BDD

Treasurer: Sandy Smith-Fischer, Streetsboro Education Association

Secretary: Kathy Abrahamson, Newton Falls Association of Classified Employees

Contact information for the officers can be found on the website, oaddp.org.

Three attendees who work in special education in public schools volunteered to be the public school representatives for the next two years. They are:

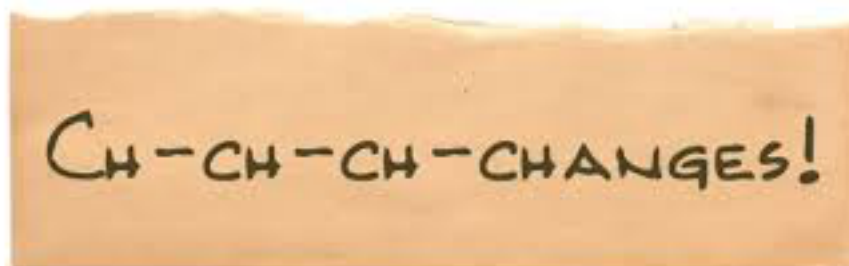
Crystal Boyd, Hudson Education Association

Paige Rizzotte, Beaver Creek Education Association

Serena McCoy, Fredericktown Education Association

Welcome on the journey to make SpEd work for all people with disabilities and those of us who work with them.

The major activity at the meeting was the exciting culmination of the last year of working to become more inclusive of all those OEA members who work with special needs students. The movement started in NEOEA with a Work Group, and through a New Business Item (NBI) approved at the Fall OEA Representative Assembly, will now be continued at the statewide level. To that end, the members in attendance voted to change the name of the organization to **Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals (OASNP). Updates to the Constitution and Bylaws and to the Mission Statement were also made to reflect the new name of the organization.**



OADDP = OASNP

From the Trenches...

Members from the locals in attendance reported on what is going on back home:

Brunswick Transportation: Lots of issues with both students who are typical and special needs, but with little administrative support and no training

Columbiana County BDD: The county board program will be closed by the end of the year.

Franklin County BDD: The program is being slowly dismantled, though no final date has yet been communicated to staff or families.

Fredericktown City Schools: There has been an influx of new students with special needs - 22 new students with IEPs have recently moved to the district. More support and training are needed.



Hudson City Schools: Lucky Members there report things are going well!

Lorain City Schools: The district has been taken over by the state.

Loudonville City Schools: There is a new superintendent and Special Education Director. The local and administration are in negotiations; members are working to strengthen their association.

Stark County BDD: The program will be closing on June 29th. The private provider who is taking over has pledged to hire up to 50% of the current staff. Uncertainty about working conditions remains, as well as where the rest of the current employees will find work.



Streetsboro City Schools: The district has many new administrators, as well as an influx of students with special needs enrolling in the schools.

Summit County BDD: One workshop will close in June and the other two will cease to operate by the end of the year.

Important Dates

OEA Special Education Work Group – Apply Now!

The time for applying to be appointed to the OEA Special Education Work Group is now open, with a deadline of April 27th. The purpose of the group, as laid out by the Representative Assembly and President Becky Higgins is:

Create an OEA Special Education Work Group to develop recommendations for professional development programs, sample contract language, OEA Resolutions, and OEA Legislative Policies that would address the needs of OEA members involved in or supporting education programs for students with special needs.

OEA needs our members working as special education educators and service providers to share their expertise, experiences, knowledge and insight. Applications for this Special Education Work Group are being accepted through **April 27, 2018**. Your completed application will include:

- Two (2) letters of recommendation supporting your position on the Special Education Work Group submitted to specialworkgroup@ohea.org.
- Your current resume submitted to specialworkgroup@ohea.org.
- A completed, online application found at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/80774914600154>

Please note that participation on the OEA Special Education Work Group will require face-to-face meetings in Columbus that will occur *during* school hours, and virtual meetings that will occur *after* school hours. Please consider your availability to participate in those meetings prior to applying.

Please contact Daria DeNoia at denoiad@ohea.org if you have questions or concerns.



The last two **meetings** of the OADDP year are:

May 11th during the lunch break at the OEA RA. All OADDP members and interested OEA members are invited to attend. Watch the screen at the RA for details about where.

July 14th, location to be announced.