

The OASNP *Newsline*

The Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

Important Dates

Board Meetings

September 8, 2018

November 17, 2018

December 1, 2018

Lunch at OEA RA

January 12, 2019

**March 1-2, 2019
Annual Conference
Mohican State Park**

May 10, 2019

Lunch at OEA RA

July 27, 2019

**Locations to be
announced**

ALL are welcome!

**Check the website,
www.oasnp.ohea.us,
for location addresses
and times.**



UNION STRONG!

By: Christina West, Chairperson

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

Wow, are our plates full! The Janus ruling, state testing requirements, federal mandates, and constant change continue to keep us on our toes.

But, this doesn't stop us. It is so important for us to have a voice for ourselves, but more importantly, a voice for those we teach and serve. The Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals (OASNP) is that voice for educators and professionals who work with students and adults with special needs.

As we continue to encourage integration of people with special needs into classrooms and into our communities, every member of the OEA comes across someone with special needs every day. In order for us to improve and continue to be passionate in our careers, we need to educate ourselves about how we can better serve people. We need representation that supports us in our battle to serve folks with disabilities to the best of our abilities.

It's more important now than ever to be involved as the worlds of county boards of DD, public school, and the community continue to merge and change. Please share information regarding OASNP with your members in special ed as well as in regular ed so that we can work together to support those students and adults we are so committed to serving. OASNP costs only \$9 a year and can be added to your unified OEA/District/Local dues.

Looking forward to working with you!

Special Education Work Group: Next Steps Continued

By: Hank Haynes

At the Fall 2017 OEA Representative Assembly, delegates created an OEA Special Education Work Group making a commitment to address the unique needs of OEA members, including support staff, working in all areas of special education. Over the next year, the work group will review special education issues and provide recommendations to the various OEA Standing Committees for action. Since OASNP appoints a member to each of the standing committees, you can be assured that your views are represented. As an OASNP member you will have a direct voice and be kept up to date on all activities.

Background –

OASNP is the evolution of the Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals (OADDP). OADDP was organized as a Department of OEA in 1983, and had been focused on the needs of OEA members working at County Boards of DD. As County DD programs continued to be phased out and privatized, students with DD have joined their peers with special needs in their local school districts. Department members recognized the need to shift the focus and change the name to better meet the needs of OEA members working in special education in local school districts. OADDP leadership also recognized the need for change and in March 2018, at its annual meeting and conference, members amended the C&B and Mission Statement.

OASNP has 736 members from 99 OEA locals, including 136 members from 86 local school districts. Some locals have just one member. Are you one of only a few members in your local? Ask your colleagues to consider joining. You can download OASNP Brochure-2018-07 at www.oasnp.ohea.us.

What's next?

Becky Higgins, OEA President, appointed 12 members to the Work Group, from among 40 interested applicants from all across the state and from among DD and regular ed locals. They will have an initial meeting September 22. The 12 members are:

- ◆ **Kathy Abrahamson**, Newton Falls ACE, NEOEA
- ◆ **Traci Arway**, Columbus Education Association, Capital
- ◆ **Jane Barnes**, Springfield Education Association - Lucas, NWOEA
- ◆ **Crystal Boyd**, Hudson Education Association, NEOEA
- ◆ **Amber Clark**, South Western Education Association, Central
- ◆ **Megan Flowers**, Columbus Education Association, Capital
- ◆ **Stacy Gibbs**, Preble-Shawnee Local EA, WOEAE
- ◆ **Theresa Grubaugh-Alai**, Brecksville-Broadview Heights EA, NEOEA
- ◆ **Jessica James**, Mayfield Education Association, NEOEA
- ◆ **Jennifer Krause**, Fairfield CTA-Butler, SWOEAE
- ◆ **Wendy Shubrowsky**, Medina City Teachers Association, NEOEA
- ◆ **April Walsh**, Columbus Education Association, Capital

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Membership Benefits

Anyone who is an OEA member can be a member of OASNP. Dues are only \$9 annually and membership provides:

- Two-day Annual Membership Conference with professional development, leadership training, and valuable legal and legislative updates
- Delegate Luncheon at each OEA Representative Assembly
- A Public Relations Grant program for locals
- Monitoring of legislation that affects OASNP members
- Email updates, a quarterly newsletter – *The OASNP Newsline*, and a website, www.oasnp.ohea.us
- Regional board meetings
- Subcommittee structure
- Expense support for OASNP leadership to represent your interests to OEA leadership.
- Representation on each of the OEA Standing Committees that advocate for the unique needs of the constituency to OEA Leadership

How Can I Become a Member?

Just complete the simple Membership Form, send it in, and your \$9 OASNP annual dues will be added to your 2018-19 OEA dues. Lifetime OASNP-Retired Dues are just \$35.00. Additional forms can be downloaded from the website, <http://oasnp.ohea.us/membership/>

If you need to update your contact and email information, please drop us a note on our Contact Us page at <http://oasnp.ohea.us/contact-us/>.



OASNP MEMBERS SERVING ON OEA STANDING COMMITTEES

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|--|---|
| • Chrystal Boyd, Hudson EA | Collective Bargaining & Member Advocacy |
| • Kathy Abrahamson, Newton Falls ACE | Convention Planning |
| • Leslie Frank, Summit County Board of DD | Human and Civil Rights |
| • Nicole Nadasky, Portage County Board of DD | Legislative |
| • Christina West, Portage County Board of DD | Local Development and Training |
| • Lisa Lieben, Lorain EA | Organizing Strategy |
| • Erin Quinn, Hudson EA | Professional Efficacy |
| • Jené Wilson, Cuyahoga County Board of DD | Resolutions |

OASNP

220 Market Ave. S., 3rd Floor,
Canton, OH 44702

Local Focus...YOUR Local

by Jené Wilson

An advantage of belonging to OASNP is the PR Grant program to support projects that enhance the image of your local in the community, reinforce the professional image of members, as well as the positive image of people with special needs. The amount of the grant depends on the project, but can be up to \$500.

Grants have been used for a variety of staff recognition programs; camperships for consumers; helping with Special Olympics expenses; assisting with expenses to publish regular communications to members; participating in community events such as sports booster clubs, Halloween costume contests, and Hunger Task Force fundraisers; purchasing switches for adapted toys for consumers; community "Take your Child to Work" Days; and hosting community members in the classroom.

Find the requirements for being awarded a grant, as well as more ideas for projects to get you thinking about what would be helpful in your local, on the website, www.oasnp.ohea.us. You can submit your grant online or by contacting Christina West, Chairperson at oasnp@oasndp.org.