



Important Dates

February 28-29, 2020

**Annual Conference and
Membership Meeting
Mohican State Park
Conference Center**

May 8, 2020

**Board Meeting
May 8, 2020
Lunch at the OEA RA**

July 25, 2020

**Board Meeting
11:30-2:30
OEA Office
425 Niles Cortland Rd, SE
Suite 101
Howland, OH**

Coming Around Again

By Jené Wilson, Past Chairperson



The OASNP Annual Conference is the highlight of the membership year for many OEA members working in special education. There is always something new to learn about issues effecting these members, covering topics in legislation, legal concerns, and professional matters. This year will be no different!

The two-day conference will again be held at Mohican State Park Conference Center and Resort, a beautiful setting for 24 hours of learning. Friday night starts with a delicious dinner and a much-needed presentation on the Ohio Department of Education Code of Conduct. Recent changes to it have left many members confused and worried. OEA leadership will be in attendance to give updates and the evening will conclude with a social hour that allows members from all over the state to network and find commonalities in their work students and adults with special needs.

Saturday starts with breakfast, followed by a legal update from the ever-popular Kathy McKinley. The OEA Special Education Work Group will then present a report on their two years of work bringing together the concerns of Pre-K to 12 special ed and County Boards of DD members. There will also be a Legislative update.

Closing the day will be the annual membership meeting, which this year includes election of all officers and at-large representatives, as well as voting on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that reflect the expanded membership and mission of the organization.

If all that isn't enough, Professional Development Units will be available, and there are fun giveaways. All this for \$35 for current OASNP members, \$45 for non-members, which includes your membership. Any OEA member is eligible to be part of OASNP. See the enclosed registration form or the website, oasnp.org, for further details.

A Changing OASNP Calls for New Proposed C&B Amendments

By Hank Haynes, OASNP Business Manager

Change is coming to OASNP. With the recent downsizing or elimination of County Board of DD (CBDD) programs, membership has dropped by half. The creation of the OEA Special Education Work Group in December 2017 and recent OASNP initiatives to reach out to educators in Pre-K-12 locals has helped reverse that downward trend. Special Educators in OEA's Pre-K-12 locals are now 36% of OASNP membership and rising. OEA's special educators are supporting OASNP efforts to address the needs of students and staff for contract language improvements, professional development opportunities, and in OEA Legislative Policies and Resolutions.



These changes require that the OASNP governance structure represent and support both groups of members. Since 1983 OASNP (OAPMRDD then, recently OADDP) reserved a seat on the Executive Committee for each active CBDD local. In 2016, three At-Large seats were added for members from local school districts. At that time, members working in local school district (SD) were just over 15% of the membership and CBDD membership was 822 in 14 active locals.

Today, OASNP membership is 758, with 466 CBDD, 275 local SD, and 17 Retired members. Proposed

C&B Amendments would replace the current nine CBDD Representatives and the three At-Large Local School District Representatives with six At-Large Representatives apportioned by membership, giving CBDDs four and Local School Districts two, all elected at the annual meeting.

The six Representatives would be members of the Executive Committee, with the four officers and past chairperson, and expected to attend meetings and perform the duties identified in the Bylaws.

A change is proposed for Committees as well. Members of the OEA Special Education Work Group and others from local SDs have expressed interest in continuing committee work within OASNP. Newly proposed OASNP C&B Amendments would revise the OASNP Committee structure to mirror the OEA Standing Committees and provide a framework for members to work on the issues facing special educators within OEA. We have been diligent in appointing a member to each of the OEA Standing Committees; therefore, with our committees mirroring the OEA Committees, OASNP members can provide valuable input to OEA Committee members. All of our current committee charges can be accomplished within the format of the OEA committees.

The full text of the proposed changes is posted on the OASNP.org website and will be available at the conference. Please plan on attending the OASNP Conference and Annual Meeting at Mohican to vote on these changes and to help this organization work for you.

Public Relations Grant Program

Offering local grants is one of the major activities of OASNP and is a visible reminder of your dues dollars at work. It's also a way to get more members involved in Association activities and to promote good will among members and enhance the image of your local and people with special needs in your community. Consider applying for a grant this year. Ideas to spark your imagination, the application form, and grant requirements are available on the website, oasnp.org.

The OASNP Public Relations Grant program is designed to:

- ♣ Support local associations in developing projects that reinforce the professional image of members serving individuals with special needs and
- ♣ Enhance the image of education, work and life skills development for people with special needs.



The project should promote a positive image of your local association and prominently display the name of the local on all materials. The amount of the local's grant depends on the proposal but is limited to \$250. The OASNP Executive Committee will review grant applications in late fall. You can submit your grant online or by contacting Christina West, Chairperson, at cwest@oasnp.org.



In order to save costs and get the OASNP newsletter to the most number of members in the most formats, it is also posted on the website and emailed to members. So you don't miss a thing, please send your email to Hank Haynes at oasnp@oasnp.org, to be included in the email list.

Local Focus...Portage County

by Judy Fetterolf, PCEADD Member

Portage County Educators Association for DD (PCEADD) Units A & B teamed up to participate in The Portage County Board of DD's Annual Trunk or Treat. Thanks to the OASNP grant, we were able to pass out non-candy treats of glow necklaces and temporary tattoos to approximately 550 kids of all ages and all abilities. We donned our pirate gear and had everyone walk the plank to our pirate ship in order to get their loot. We were so excited to give back to our community, along with the 23 other agencies who participated. Everyone brought hygiene supplies and the Trunk or Treat event was able to donate 4900 items to our homeless shelters: Miller Community House, Place of Peace, and Freedom House. We all had a swashbuckling good time. Arrrrr!

