



COMMUNIQUE

Publication of the East Cleveland Education Association

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Affiliate of the National Education Association, Ohio Education Association and the North Eastern Ohio Education Association

COMING EVENTS

December 2
OEA
Representative
Assembly
in Columbus

December 5
Reverse Raffle
Committee
Meeting
4:00 pm

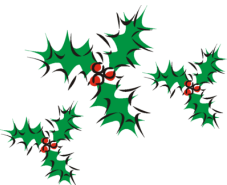
December 17
Executive Board
Meeting at
Chambers ES

December 17
ECEA
Scholarship
Committee
Meeting
5:00 pm at
Chambers ES

December 21
Social Hour at
Fairmount
Wine Bar

December 22—
January 3
Winter Break

January 16
MLK Day
No School



ECEA Members Continue to Win FCPE Awards

On Saturday, December 3rd I had the honor of attending the OEA Fall Representative Assembly as a first-time delegate. In addition to the important political updates, new business items, and reports, there was an awards presentation for members who have made significant contributions to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. I know many ECEA members have received awards in the past, but this was the first time I actually got to see the presentation.

The following members were recognized for becoming members of the "Executive Club," which

means donating \$500 in five years: Rachel Horowitz, Laura McLaughlin, and Sonaray Miller. We also had three members recognized for becoming members of the "Presidents Club," which means donating \$1000 in eight years. Those members were Ernestine Davis, Richard Felton, and Irene Spraggins. Finally, Kecia Sanders-Stewart was recognized for Lifetime Achievement, which means donating \$3000 total.

It made me very proud to hear so many of our members acknowledged because the FCPE is so important to me, especially now that an anti-public school president

has been elected. Please congratulate our award-winners on their significant contributions to public education in Ohio. Also, special thanks to all of our members for helping us maintain first place in the state of Ohio for the highest per member contribution in the category of 200 members. Every dollar makes a difference. Many locals do not have a successful campaign each year and I continue to be grateful for the support of our members and building reps who help make the drive a success each and every year!

~ Dawn Magnasco
FCPE Chairperson

KNOW YOUR CHARTERS

Educators (you as an ECEA member) and educator support professionals (our OAPSE members) have the power to bring greater accountability to charter school abuse in Ohio. Our fight for higher standards and financial accountability begins with all union members educating themselves about the charters in East Cleveland and in our own communities. We need to coordinate our efforts to educate our community on failing charters and the resultant draining of resources from our public school system—East Cleveland. Knowyourcharter.com is a useful tool to educate your family and friends, spark conversations and fight for greater accountability of Ohio's charter school operators and authorizers.

It is our responsibility to help others make educated decisions when it comes to finding the best schools for our children. It is also in our best interests to show how charters with failing grades take money from our traditional community schools and funnel these dollars, in many instances, to for-profit-businesses. The money that charters drain from East Cleveland or your own school system in which you live is a threat to OUR job-security and further reduces educational resources for our EC children and your own children. Our community and your own community need good schools and jobs; most charters are a drain on good jobs and good education.

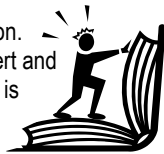
Use Knowyourcharter.com to find out information about your district and nearby charters.

CHEERS to our Reverse Raffle Committee that is busy planning another fabulous event for all of us to attend in March. You will not want to miss this evening of fun — dancing, eating and winning money are all on the ticket.

CHEERS to the Scholarship Committee that has begun their work. Look for the scholarship applications and announcements at the beginning of the new year.

CHEERS to our NEOEA delegates who travelled to Sheffield for the Representative Assembly — Karen Winston, Irene Spraggins, Dawn Magnasco, Steven Mitchell, Kecia Sanders-Stewart, Lillian Tolbert, and Marchell Josie. OEA delegates who attended the RA in Columbus —Steven Mitchell, Kecia Sanders-Stewart, Lillian Tolbert, and Dawn Magnasco.

CHEERS to past OEA winners in the FCPE categories of Executive Club — Joyce Hives, Steven Mitchell, Dawn Magnasco, and Karen Winston. The President's Club member is Lillian Tolbert and another Lifetime Achievement Award winner is Mary Alice Conkey.



**2014—2016
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**ECEA's Annual
REVERSE RAFFLE
for
SCHOLARSHIP
March 11, 2017**

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Dinner and dancing; numerous raffles for money, give-a-ways and chances to WIN! The committee is busy planning a night filled with fun! This is always a popular event— consider bringing your family and friends to support our efforts for the students.



ECEA Member Honored as Unsung Hero

Karen Winston, a Chambers teacher, was awarded the Unsung Hero Award at the United Labor Agency's (ULA) annual meeting in November at Landerhaven. NEOEA is a member of the ULA and seeks nominees each year. We also have two past recipients in East Cleveland—Steven Mitchell and Dawn Magnasco.

We thought you would enjoy reading Karen's speech ... As I contemplated what to say this evening, I couldn't help but to think about my union roots. You see, I am a fifth generation union member. Most of my family members belong to UAW or are Teamsters. My dad is a retired UAW member; GM Parma Plant. I grew up in the Fisher-Body Plant neighborhood of Collinwood in the city of Cleveland. So the common thread on my street was being in an union family. The thought of being a fair-share member never crossed my mind, unless I planned to find a new family to spend my holidays and the rest of my life with!

With that being said, I was eager to submit my paperwork to join the East Cleveland Education Association. Conversely, to my surprise, that same enthusiasm would serve a greater purpose... You see, my first year as an educator was also a strike year. I shared this news of a strike with my dad and his natural response was "well I do DECLARE!"As if it was time to go to war. "We must get ready! I will get the barrel, fire wood, cooler, and a few bricks!

So I am on the other end of the phone thinking "How can I tell him he can't come to our picket line? I don't even want to know what the bricks are for? I am afraid we may be arrested!" I then articulated "Dad, hmmm... I think you should just support us by riding by the picket line and NOT joining it!" Now, my dad's lan-

guage could be quite "colorful" at times. So he strongly advised me no matter WHAT happens you better NOT cross that bleeply bleeb picket line! For two weeks my dad road by our picket line; smiling and honking his horn (and of course making sure that I was there)!

I took that same energy from the picket line and redirected it into efforts that would build the capacity of my union and set an example for my students and my son by placing my time, talents, and even finances in what I believe in. The Bible reminds us that where your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. I treasure justice, equality, fairness, liberty, and serving others. Cesar Chavez once said that "Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

I am completely humbled by receiving this prestigious award and I thank Dawn Magnasco, a dear friend, for nominating me. I also thank my family/community for setting the foundation and my union for giving me the opportunities to serve our members and students. Thank you!

The ULA is a community service agency committed to strengthening our communities. Through their Employment Services and Business Services they have assisted hundreds of dislocated and unemployed persons find employment with a livable wage. The ULA is active primarily in Lake, Geauga, and Cuyahoga Counties. Karen is a true advocate for public education and the students she serves every day. Primarily, she is a union member, committed to taking a stance at every turn for the good of the whole! Congratulations Karen!

LPDC NEWS

Please read your LPDC Policy and Procedures manual for directives, dates, and copies of forms for preview. You may secure original forms from the Human Resource Department at the Board Offices or on the district's website. Forms are due two weeks before the meeting. You must adhere to all guidelines and due dates. Please note—certificated members need to have a current IPDP on file. *The LPDC meets the second Thursday of each month, except July.* Dates for meetings are posted in each building. The LPDC newsletter also addresses questions and concerns. If interested in serving on the LPDC in the future, send a letter of interest to the Director of Human Resources.



Contributions and news for the newsletter should be sent to:

macecea@sbcglobal.net.

The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the East Cleveland Education Association, its members, or its affiliates.

