

### COMMUNIQUE

**Publication of the East Cleveland Education Association** 

Issue #1 August 2020



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

# SIMING EVENTS

#### August 12

Employees Report— Teacher Workday

#### August 17 First Day for

First Day for Students

#### September 7 Labor Day No School



Important Information:

ECEA Website: http://eastclevelandea.ohea.us/

ECEA is on Facebook, please like us for updated information

NEOEA: Website: <a href="https://neoea.org/">https://neoea.org/</a>

OEA Website: <a href="https://www.ohea.org/">https://www.ohea.org/</a>

NEA Website: <a href="http://www.nea.org/">http://www.nea.org/</a>

NEA Educating through crisis

educatingthroughcrisis.org/

OEA Take Action: <a href="https://www.ohea.org/action/">https://www.ohea.org/action/</a>

OEA Outreach Circle app—political action—<a href="https://outreachcircle.com/NAS319">https://outreachcircle.com/NAS319</a>

#### **MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS**

On July 15, 2020 your new leaders took office. We are thank you for entrusting us with this important work. We wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about us.

#### Lillian Tolbert—President

I will be entering my 28th year of teaching in the fall. I am a 5th grade teacher at Mayfair Elementary. I became active in ECEA my first year of teaching during our strike and have been an active member since that day. I have served in many capacities over the years in ECEA, NEOEA, OEA and NEA. In ECEA, I have served as secretary for many years before becoming the Vice President of ECEA for the last two years. I have also served on the Negotiation Team and successfully bargained our last contract in our last round of negotiations. I also serve on Curriculum Council, the District Leadership Team, Executive Board of ECEA and the Chair of our ECEA Scholarship Committee. I currently hold the position of Recording Secretary at the NEOEA level and has served in that term for the last 6 years. My position at NEOEA affords me a position on the District Leader's Council at the state level in OEA. This helps keep me abreast of the current educational climate across the state. I have spent the past 15 years attending Representative Assemblies at the regional, state and national level as an elected delegate. The information and experiences I have gained at these assemblies helped prepare me to take on the position of President at our local level. I look forward to moving our Association forward as we continue to face the changing climate of education in the future.

#### Irene Spraggins—Vice President

I began my career in the East Cleveland City School District in 1993 as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Rozelle Elementary. Through the last 28 years I have taught at both Rozelle and Mayfair Elementary Schools. My first school year of 1993-1994 ECEA went on a half-day strike in the spring. I have been an active and proud union member since that time. In ECEA I have been committed to being a building representative and member of the ECEA Executive Board yearly. I have also served on ECEA Curriculum Council, Legislative Committee, Grievance Committee, Constitution Committee, Negotiations Committee, and Negotiation/Crisis Chair during the two week strike of 2002 and as ECEA secretary for four years. I have also participated as an NEOEA, OEA, and NEA delegate to the Representative Assemblies. I was elected for six years as the NEOEA Board of Directors for NEOEA Unit 3. Currently, I chair the NEOEA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, am a member of the NEOEA Legislative Committee for ten years, and past member of the OEA Legislative Committee. I believe in grassroots political action and working hard to get pro-education candidates elected to all offices from city to state to country. There will be opportunities this school year for members to join me with opportunities to contact elected officials. I hope when you receive communication to do so, that we can count on your involvement. I am anticipating a great year working with my fellow ECEA officers to move forward in this new school year and to support all ECEA members.

#### Laura McLaughlin—Secretary

I am a proud ECEA member and have been for 18 years. For over a decade I have served as the election chair, served on the negation committee, and have sat on the executive board. By teaching in all the elementary buildings I have had the special opportunity to work and create relationships with members and administration throughout the district. Last year I was asked to head ECEA's membership action team where I worked with other building leaders to support members and plan social events. I have volunteered with NEOEA Social Human Concern committee at the Cleveland Food Bank. I have attended numerous NEOEA and OEA training and leadership academies. In November I was the proud recipient of the Unsung Hero award from NEOEA and United Labor Agency. I am eager to step into the role of secretary of ECEA.

#### Kecia Sanders-Stewart—Treasurer

I have taught 6th grade at Mayfair and before that Rozelle Elementary for 26 years. I have also held positions on the OEA Board of Directors and NEOEA Board of Directors. I am currently the chairperson of the Social Human Concern committee. As your treasurer, my most important duty is to be an excellent custodian of ECEA's money. I have been awarded the Ohio Education Association Outstanding Treasurer Award annually. I have received clean audits from a reputable CPA. I look forward to continuing my service to ECEA and I thank you for your continued support.

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**CHEERS** to the following members who attended NEOEA Summer Leadership, our first virtual summer leadership Laura McLaughlin, Kecia Sanders-Stewart, Irene Spraggins, Lillian Tolbert, and Karen Winston-Carpenter.

**CHEERS** to the members who also attended OEA's Summer Leadership virtually in June—Kim Anderson, Jan Edmondson, Marchell Josie, Laura McLaughlin, Kecia Sanders-Stewart, Irene Spraggins, Lillian Tolbert, and Karen Winston-Carpenter. We appreciate their time and effort!

**CHEERS** to our retired members Mary Alice Conkey and Pat Frost-Brooks for attending OEA's Summer Leadership virtually in June. Once ECEA always ECEA.

#### 2020-2021 ECEA OFFICERS

Lillian Tolbert
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Laura McLaughlin Secretary ImclaughlinECEA@gmail.com 216-269-1151

Kecia Sanders-Stewart Treasurer KeciaSan@aol.com 216-210-2336

## ECEA Annual Budget Meeting September 17th Time and Location TBA \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

ECEA is looking for volunteers!!! Not all union work deals with contract enforcement, controversy and bargaining. We need members to participate in school board screenings, serve on the Sick Leave Bank, the Annual Reverse Raffle Committee, our Calendar Committee and Scholarship Committee. Please see the list that was emailed to members. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents in any of these areas, contact an ECEA officer today.

#### Tolbert's Tidbits

Welcome Back ECEA Members,

As stated by Roy T. Bennett, "Great leaders create more leaders, not followers"

Welcome to the new 2020-2021 school year and to the new leadership team of ECEA. I am honored to be elected as your new President and I take the responsibility of leading this Association very seriously; however it's not just about leading you all. It is more about giving every member the strength to to stand on their own and become an active member of ECEA. Our association needs YOU!

I recognize that we are experiencing different times returning to school this year and some members are anxious as we are in uncharted waters. Things seem to be rapidly changing daily and it is our intent, as your leadership team, to keep you posted on all things as soon as we find out about them. Please understand that we are going to try things as we move forward and may have to readjust them when they are not working. As a result, we have to remain patient and be flexible until we are able to successfully do our jobs. This school year will be unlike any other school year so let's continue to work together!

Lastly, during this time that we are rebuilding and reorganizing our school district, let's reflect on how we can do that for our Association. No longer can it be a small group of members working on all the members behalf. There are many different ways you can become involved in our Association. Take a close look at the voluntary and paid committee opportunities and think about where best you can share your talents. Instead of talking about what our Association should be doing, get involved and share your ideas so that we can continue to move our Association forward. Take advantage of the many opportunities that will be provided through ECEA, NEOEA, OEA and NEA so that you can become knowledgeable about what is going on in every facet of our teaching career. This is an election year so we need YOUR voice to speak up about public education and public school employees. Talk to your friends and neighbors about electing public school friendly candidates who will support what we do everyday.

I am sending out my strength to you today and throughout this school year. Again, great leaders create more leaders and I am looking forward to seeing you stand up and take an active leadership role in your buildings and this Association. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the other three officers if you questions, concerns or suggestions.

#### 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 <a href="two-weeks">two-weeks</a> 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:

ImclaughlinECEA@gmail.com The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the East Cleveland Edu-

cation Association, its members, or its affiliates.

