

OEA

An affiliate of the
National Education Association

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A Special Pullout
Section for the OEA
Convention complete
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Periodical
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The Education Focus
OEA's all-member publication

The Education Focus

For the membership of the Oklahoma Education Association

September/October 2002

Some Locals Bargain Gains

Schools Hit Hard by Poor Economy and State Cuts

In spite of a struggling economy, continuing shortfalls in tax collections and deeper cuts to education, some local Associations have been able to bargain more than traditional step raises.

All state agencies have received smaller state appropriations this year after suffering midterm budget cuts last spring. And while the legislature worked to hold education as harmless as possible, school districts are struggling through budget woes. In fact, many districts have started the '02-03 school year with fewer faculty and support professionals, using attrition and reductions in force to cut staff.

But it hasn't been all gloom and doom. In Moore, President Roma Clark reported that Moore ACT's settlement included step raises, an additional step to the schedule and \$100 per teacher for additional insurance.

"This is the earliest date (July 31) we have settled in recent history," Clark said. "We are thrilled! Last

year we were at impasse at the beginning of school. This feels a great deal better. Now we can focus on children's needs as we start school this year."

She credits the new personnel director's attitude for the cooperativeness and collaboration that were

exhibited at the table.

Choctaw-Nicoma Park ACT also settled early, receiving step raises and \$100 stipends for all 30 teachers who were off the salary schedule.

"Our Board and new superintendent demonstrated to us that we are a high

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Inspiration Awaits Conventioneers

Inspiring keynote speakers, top-drawer professional development workshops and, of course, the ever-popular cash prize giveaways will greet attendees at OEA's 2002 "Teaching Today, Shaping Tomorrow Convention."

The Tulsa Convention Center will again host the annual Convention on Thursday, October 17.

The OEA Teaching and Learning Center and the OEA Convention Committee have developed a program that promises speakers and workshops with exciting, innovative ideas that will enhance any



Frosty Troy
Closing Session Speaker

teacher's professional expertise as well as provide an uplifting message

See Convention on Page 3

Welcome to the New Education Focus

By Carolyn Crowder
OEA President

Welcome to the redesigned *Education Focus* for members of the Oklahoma Education Association.

No doubt you immediately noticed our most obvious change, from a quarterly glossy magazine to a tabloid newspaper.

Why the switch?

Longtime members will recall that we utilized a newspaper format a number of years ago. This time, we will publish nine times annually, with

our non-published periods falling over the winter holiday season and during the summer. Therefore, you will receive the new *Focus* more than twice as often as the magazine.

But the changes don't stop with the obvious. In fact, the new look is only the beginning of our new offerings to OEA members.

We have relaunched the new *Education Focus* with a greater emphasis on breaking news that you need in your professional life. To that end, we developed recurring sections in

the newspaper that will be devoted to key topics such as legislative updates and calls for action, bargaining and member rights issues, teaching and learning activities and many more.

The reason for this was logical. We regularly need to furnish information and provide updates to members. On one day, a new federal law might promise sweeping changes for educators. On another, a Supreme Court decision may be front and center.

Examples are legion. We may need

See New Publication on Page 2

Bargaining

priority for this district," said CNPACT President Pat Burton. "This brings us to a new level of cooperation and mutual admiration."

For the very first time, Harrah ACT's agreement will incorporate all the items they bargained into a negotiated agreement document.

Previously, the negotiated items had been incorporated into Board Policy.

Locust Grove EA negotiated a step increase and added a step to the schedule. Also, The National Honor Society sponsor and agriculture assistant positions received extra duty increases, teachers not initially employed for grant positions gained RIF protection language in the contract, and retiring teachers will receive \$10 for each day of unused sick leave not used for retirement service credit.

In the Northeast Region, Bartlesville EA received a step and added one to the schedule; Coweta

EA received a step plus an additional \$100; Coweta ESP won its steps plus an additional 5 cents per hour; Tahlequah EA received step movement plus an additional bachelor's step at \$475 and master's and doctorate steps at \$575; Tahlequah ESP got a step and continued to move forward with a step equalization plan; and Wagoner CTA won a step plus \$408 for teachers off the schedule.

Among Tulsa Metro negotiations, Broken Arrow EA got a step plus a longevity stipend for some 90 people who are off the schedule. The Owasso district agreed to pay \$425 more toward teachers' retirement in addition to step movement. Also, Owasso won improved language on personal leave. Teachers now get five personal days, at least one at no cost to the employee and no reason need be given to obtain the leave.

New Publication

to solicit member involvement in an urgent lobbying effort. Member support can be crucial in convincing Oklahoma lawmakers to pass pro-public education legislation. Last year's passage of HB 1968 is a prime example!

So, we found the feature magazine format to be no longer compatible

with the often-pressing need to inform members. Instead, we must be able to give our members news regarding changing laws, economic forces, regulations and other developments immediately impacting their lives.

The cost to do this will be less, too. The decision seemed a simple one: save money and create a more effec-

You Decide

Member Column to Explore Top Education Issues

Do you ever pick up a magazine or listen to a radio or television program and wish you could respond with *your* viewpoint? Well, now you can!

"**You Decide**" will be a regular feature in *The Education Focus* newspaper. This column will be devoted to topics of interest throughout the state education system and what opinions you, our members and readers, have about these issues. Two members will be highlighted in every issue, each taking opposing views on a given topic in a point/counterpoint format.

Each month a new question will be posed to our readers. We invite you to respond to either side of the issue by submitting a 250-300 word column. A new question will

be posed at the end of the column every month for the following issue.

The November issue's topic is the state-mandated Moment of Silence which is now required each day in our public schools. The question is: **Is the moment of silence a benefit to the educational day?**

Send your responses to OEA Communications Specialist Patti Razien at prazien@okea.org or fax them to her at 580/256-0073. Call her at 800/439-0393 with questions.

Columns for the November issue must be received no later than October 7, 2002. Please include your name, subject and/or grade level taught, school and phone number for verification. Published authors will receive a special prize!

Is the moment of silence a benefit to the educational day?

Switzerland Grant Application Closes Oct. 15

Teachers looking for an opportunity to teach for a year in Switzerland have until Oct. 15 to apply for a grant from The Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange.

Grant winners will participate in the exchange from August 2003 to July 2004.

Fulbright is looking for 7th through 12th grade teachers of German, French, Italian, English, English as a second language, Spanish, Russian, mathematics, science, history, geography, art, music or physical

education. The teaching assignment will be English language and literature and other subjects for which the U.S. teacher has been trained or certified to teach. Placement will depend on suitable exchange partners and may be at any type of Swiss secondary school.

The grant requires the U.S. teacher to obtain a leave of absence with pay from his or her school district. In turn, the U.S. school agrees to accept a Swiss teacher who has also secured a leave of absence with pay and at no

additional cost to the U.S. school.

Here's the best part. We didn't lose what *Focus* did best: provide features on talented, dedicated school employees and their numerous accomplishments. Among the key features in the redesigned tabloid newspaper will be stories on member activities and accomplishments.

additional cost to the U.S. school.

The U.S. teacher will receive an equalization stipend of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 through the Swiss partner organization (CH Youth Exchange), depending on the size of the U.S. teacher's family. Dependent children are welcome to accompany the U.S. teacher, and will receive free schooling in Swiss public schools.

See www.fulbrightexchanges.org for information on the Switzerland grant, more details on Fulbright exchanges and for an application form.

OEA

Education Focus

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GRADING PRACTICES IN VIEW OF *FALVO* AND *GONZAGA*

By Richard Wilkinson
OEA General Counsel

The 2001 term of the United States Supreme Court involved two significant cases interpreting the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The first case, *Owasso Public Schools v. Falvo*, involved the much publicized issue of whether “peer grading” violated FERPA. The second case, *Gonzaga University v. Doe*, involved whether plaintiffs could sue education institutions seeking money damages for alleged FERPA violations.

The impact of both these decisions is significant. Traditional teaching and learning tools utilized

by educators throughout Oklahoma and the nation can now be employed without fear of violating FERPA. Teaching and learning tools utilized prior to the decision of the Tenth Circuit in *Falvo* – such as group work, student chalkboard exercises and classroom debates – are now permissible practices under the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Falvo*. Additionally, under the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Gonzaga*, there likely will be less litigation alleging violations of FERPA since a putative plaintiff can no longer seek to recover monetary damages for FERPA violations.

A number of school districts have revised their grading policies to re-



Richard Wilkinson
OEA General Counsel

flect these decisions. However, many districts have not revised their grading policies in the wake of either *Falvo* or

Gonzaga. As a result, many locally adopted grading policies limit the effective use of traditional teaching and learning tools that are now deemed permissible practices.

Members are encouraged to contact their local associations for the purpose of reviewing locally adopted grading policies and determine whether such policies should be revised in view of the recent Supreme Court decisions interpreting FERPA. Local school districts should welcome input from educators when enacting or revising existing grading policies and educators should not hesitate to offer such input into the creation or revision of such policies.

Member Profile – Denise North

Joining OEA Was “A Good Business Move”

Teaching Position: Career Transition Specialist and Instructor, Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

Teaching experience: Three years at Varnum, five at Seminole and two at Gordon Cooper Career Tech.

OEA Member: Nine years.

Local leadership: Recently elected the first president of newly created Gordon Cooper Education Association.

Family: Husband Ted is a mechanic/farmer. Children: Latichia, Scarlet, and Bryan; two grandchildren, one on the way

You have taught for 10 years, but only been an OEA member for nine. What happened?

I left Seminole to take my current position at Gordon Cooper. I got so busy, and you know how it is with a new job, and before I knew it the year was over, and I hadn’t rejoined.

Why did you decide to rejoin?

It seemed like a good business move. I had some issues last year,



Denise North, President
Gordon Cooper EA

and my experience in bargaining and leadership at Seminole helped me know that I should challenge things that I thought were not quite right. Jana Legako, an administrator here, helped out a great deal, but the OEA gives me a safety net that I don’t have

with any other organization.

Why should Career Technology employees belong to the OEA?

This year at Gordon Cooper the OEA is working to build a team feeling. The current bargaining representative is not listening to the needs of the employees here, and we have very little input into negotiations or planning. Working conditions are very important, and being able to talk about them is also important. The contract is important, and serves as our

safety net, but the big thing is to have someone with whom to talk. The best way to get to know people on a new job is to get involved. People on committees and in leadership positions are usually the people who can get things done.

That’s why I belong and why I am involved as much as I can be.

Convention

of the hope teachers offer their students.

“We’re very excited about this year’s program,” said OEA Vice President and Convention Committee Chair Roy Bishop. “We are confident that every participant will leave here Thursday afternoon with at least one idea he or she can take back to the classroom.”

Renowned motivational speaker Troy Evans will kick off the day during the opening session, and *Oklahoma Observer* Editor Frosty Troy will provide his topical humor and commentary at the 3:45 p.m. closing session. In between, exhibitor booths offering a variety of educational products as well as personal items, will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and workshop sessions will be offered at 12:45 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

For a complete look at all the “Teaching Today, Shaping Tomorrow Convention’s” activities, see the special pullout section, *The Convention Times*, on pages 5-12.



I Found Out I Am the NEA

Charlsie Allen, a middle school social studies teacher and immediate past president of the Ardmore Education Association, attended July's NEA Representative Assembly and came away inspired. Following is an essay she wrote after returning from the national convention.

People say "The NEA" as if it

were a thing with one brain, one set of thoughts. "The NEA" sounds like a separate entity with unique characteristics. People are willing to join a local association because they know the leaders. They are willing to join a state association because they have met some of the leaders. But not so

Teaching Couples Can Avoid Insurance Premium Penalty

Oklahoma school employees will have an opportunity to make additions and changes to their health insurance coverage during the Open Enrollment period ending October 25.

As Open Enrollment looms, an important issue has arisen for education couples who are insured together under the state's plan.

Here's why: These teaching couples may be able to save money by adjusting their coverage.

HB 1968 increased the state's share of teacher individual health insurance premiums from \$69.71 monthly to \$132.13. However, under the state's present interpretation of the guidelines, only the primary insured person receives the increase.

That results in the couple paying \$81 more monthly (\$972 yearly) if they are insured under one plan than they would pay under two plans. To eliminate this so-called "penalty," couples may wish to consider insuring under two separate individual plans.

This is the best way to save money until the issue is resolved.

The OEA lodged a lengthy battle for passage of HB 1968. This was achieved against the gloomy backdrop of a \$350 million budget shortfall.

However, our work is not over. We will continue to advocate for improved education employee benefits.

That includes fighting for removal of any premium penalty for teaching couples insured together.

with "The NEA"?

"The NEA" has been portrayed as an overly liberal organization which promotes positions "we" can't support. People just don't want to support "The NEA" and "its" policies.

Well, I learned a few things about "The NEA" when I attended the Representative Assembly (July 2002) in Dallas, Texas. As I listened to the floor debates, the first thing I realized is that "The NEA" is an opportunity to have an opinion. When someone has an opinion, they also have the right to express that opinion. That's what democracy is. Once in a while, someone has an opinion which stands out because it is so different from the general thinking of the rest of the members. In a democracy, that opinion will be heard — and because it is out of the ordinary, it will be reported far and wide and loud by the media services. Media coverage does not, however, always reflect the opinions and beliefs of the majority.

So who is the majority at "The NEA"? As I meandered through the convention openly eavesdropping, I learned about that majority. "The NEA" is made up of first year teachers and 40 year teachers, mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, great grandparents, Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Church of Christ, Episcopalians, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, and every

other denomination and religion there is. "The NEA" includes Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

"The NEA" is people who hold second and third jobs so they can afford to keep teaching. "The NEA" is people from the North, South, East, and West, people with magnolia white skin, ebony black skin, and ev-

"I want my voice heard. I want to be part of 'The NEA' because now I know who 'The NEA' is. I am the NEA, and so are you."

*Charlsie Allen
Ardmore EA*

ery color in between. "The NEA" is teachers from every continent of the world. These people love their profession, they love children; they want to help shape the future of this country by touching the lives of their students. At this convention of "The NEA", I was in the room with 13,000 people who enjoy life, have children, watch television, believe in America, change diapers, carry out trash, laugh, love, teach Sunday School class, eat midnight snacks and believe in God.

It was an epiphany for me. Now I know that "The NEA" is what we as individuals make of it either by our membership or — by our lack of membership. Nonparticipation makes a loud statement. Nonparticipation says, "I don't care what rules you make for me." People who take no part have no part in the rule making, but they must follow the rules. Be assured, someone is going to make the rules.

A Full-Time Advocate, A Lifetime Cause!

Vote
Becky Felts
For OEA Vice President

Paid for by The Committee To Elect Becky Felts OEA Vice President

Troy Evans – A Bad Boy Gone Good

Troy Evans will share his unique history, filled with many twists and turns, as keynote speaker at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 17 at OEA's 2002 Convention opening session.

Born in Phoenix, Ariz., it may seem that he led a relatively uneventful life. He came from a loving family, played sports, got a car when he turned 16, married out of high school and had a son. He even went on to earn two college degrees, graduating with the highest academic honors available, and funded his entire college career through academic scholarships.

In short, Evans sounds like an all-American boy who made good. And you would be right — Troy has made good, but not before he made bad ... very bad.

Evans brings a message of overcoming adversity coupled with an appreciation for what is *really* important in all of our lives. He also conveys his belief that "it is not important how we come to the events in our lives, but how we deal with those events."

Inside Convention Times

- Workshop Summaries
- Ed Fair Participants
- Exhibitors
- Convention Center Maps
- Special Interest Meetings

Audience members will walk away with real insight into overcoming obstacles, adapting to change, and pushing themselves to realize their full potential.

Every day, teachers and school administrators hold our children's futures in their hands as educators, surrogate parents, wardens and counselors. The emotional drain can be intense and disillusionment can lurk around every corner. Evans' story serves as an example of what happens when educators have the strength to believe.

Although, Evans makes appearances throughout the country to corporate and education entities, teachers and students are where his heart is.



Keynote Speaker Troy Evans

"I credit education as the turning point in my life," said Evans. "Teachers work in the most noble of professions often without recognition and with limited resources. I tip my hat to them."

Faced with the ever-expanding role of educators and the fear and discour-

agement of recent headlines, Evans' message rejuvenates teachers and administrators and revives their vision and purpose. He shares his stories of failure to demonstrate the power teachers wield when they have the strength to believe and the vision to see potential and value in every child.

Frosty Troy Returns to Wrap Up Convention

The ever popular Frosty Troy will bring his unique brand of humor and insight to the closing session of the 2002 OEA Convention.

Troy is editor of the award winning *Oklahoma Observer*. An independent journal of politics, government and social issues, the *Observer* has won more than four dozen local, state and national journalism awards.

"No one can tell it like it is any

better than Frosty Troy," said OEA President Carolyn Crowder.

Troy has been named both the OEA and NEA Friend of Education, inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, received the Boy Scouts of America's God and Country Award, the First Amendment Award, the American Legion's Patriotism Award and recognized for his investigative reporting by the American Journalism Review. Just this past

year, Troy added to his list of accomplishments when he was awarded the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award for his crusade for public education. He was honored along with ABC's Peter Jennings at Christie's in New York City.

"Frosty was well deserving of this high honor," said Crowder. "He is a crusader for public education and we owe him a debt of gratitude for all his work on behalf of public schools and

public school employees."

His wife, Helen, also an OEA award winner, publishes the *Observer* while Troy speaks across the nation on his three favorite topics; free enterprise, education and politics.

The *Observer's* motto is "To Comfort the Afflicted and Afflict the Comfortable." Through his editorials and speaking engagements, Frosty Troy is the master of both.

At a Glance

7:30 a.m.

Registration & Exhibits Open

9:30 a.m.

General Session
OEA President Carolyn Crowder
Keynote Speaker – Troy Evans

Assembly Hall

11:30 a.m.

Ed Fair Exhibits Open

Lunch Break

12:45 p.m.

Session I

Ag in the Classroom	Mary Ann Kelsey & Jamey Allen	3A
Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Spirit	Linda Patton	2C
Eliciting High Productivity in Others & Ourselves	Dr. Michael Johnson	B North
ESP's Role in Education	Melissa Lee, Pat Miller & Larry Miller	2F
Floor Mat Learning & Cross-Lateral Aids	Frances Ritter	3E
Great Expectations	Rick Pierce	3G
Improving ACT Scores	Dr. Cindy Brown, Daniel Craig & John Morrow	2D
Is What You Heard What I Really Said?	Ronda Mikles	D South
Know Thy Peers	Susan Vineyard, Ed.D.	2G
Music & Fine Arts Integrated in the Language Arts	Wanda Sterling & Denise Covarrubias	2A
Plagiarism: Strategies and Solutions	Deborah Young Maehs	2B
Retirement	Tommy Beavers, Joyce Drew Parsons & Lou Wilcoxson	B South
"Stop It" Bullying Awareness & Prevention	Deborah Brooks	3B
Strengthening Your Creative Skills	Richard Hight	D North
The Men's Program	Steve Nedbalek	C North
The Vision Connection: Going Beyond 20/20	Dr. Monte Harrel	C South

2:00 p.m.

Convention Registration Closes

2:15 p.m.

Session II

Empowerment Through Reading	Dr. Michael Johnson	B North
Classroom Management & Instruction Strategies	Mary Howell	2B
Getting Through to That Difficult Student	Ronda Mikles	D South
Grantwriting 101	Diann Neal	2D
Great Body Shop	Shae Donham, Ph.D.	2A
Knight Life	Dr. Randall Parr & Barry Owens	C North
Let's Figure This Out	Linda Patton	2C
Music in the Classroom	Dr. Pam Hodges, Leslie Brown & Theresa Collins	3G
National Board Certification	Janice Swartz	C South
No One Can Make You	Susan Vineyard, Ed.D.	2G
Oklahoma Aquarium	Tara Treiber	3A
Russian Kaleidoscope	Sergei Shapoval	3C
Social Studies, PASS, PASSport & Assessment	Eugene Earsom	B South
Strengthening Your Creative Skills	Richard Hight	D North

3:30 p.m.

Ed Fair Closes

3:45 p.m.

Closing Session
Guest Speaker – Frosty Troy
Registration for Cash Drawings Closes

Assembly Hall

Cash Drawings in Exhibit Hall will be held 10 minutes after closing session ends

5:00 p.m.

Exhibits Close

Register to Win Big Cash Prizes

Convention registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. *You must be registered to enter the Exhibit Hall.*

Registration for the cash drawing is located in the Exhibit Hall and closes at 3:45 p.m.

Cash drawings will be held 10 minutes after the end of the closing session. *You must be present to win.*

Special Thanks to the following companies:

National Teacher Associates of Oklahoma
\$150

National Health Administrators
\$100

American Fidelity Assurance Company
\$500

Horace Mann Companies
\$500

Southern Living @ Home
\$100

Oklahoma Breast Care Center
\$500

Saturn of Oklahoma City
\$100

Members Take the Spotlight at OEA's First-Ever Ed Fair

Every teacher has a special project they've perfected or an innovative way to encourage student learning, but many lack a forum to share those ideas outside their own school district. The OEA Ed Fair gives OEA members that forum.

In its first year, the Fair was a recommendation of the OEA Convention Committee. Participants were solicited through the OEA Website and OEA staff. Ed Fair grant winners receive a \$200 stipend plus an additional \$100 to produce presentation handouts.

"We work very hard to plan a program that offers our members the opportunity to learn from education experts," said OEA Vice President and Convention Commit-

tee Chair Roy Bishop. "The Ed Fair is another way to recognize the true experts – teachers who work in a classroom every day."

Applications for next year's Ed Fair will be available at Convention. "We hope to increase participation significantly over the next few years," said Bishop. "It's a great opportunity to spotlight talented teachers while helping other teachers pick up new ideas."



Earth From Space

Darlene Black, Marlow ACT
Grades: 2nd – 6th

This is a great activity to help students recognize the importance of exact locations. After drawing Earth labels on balloons, students can compare the spherical shape of the Earth to a flat map of the Earth. It also helps to develop a view of the world from a spatial perspective. This project can be utilized in conjunction with activities on coordinates and map projections. *Earth from Space* meets the Five Themes of Geography as well as National Geography Standards.



Special Cards by Special People

Gretchen Lade, Enid EA
Grades: Moderate to severe disabilities-secondary level

This service learning project can be utilized as part of an art, math and English curriculum for students with moderate to severe disabilities. Students with disabilities, nondisabled peer tutors, teachers and paraprofessionals work collaboratively to create a variety of beautiful hand made cards. Every student, regardless of needs, completes part of each card. In Enid, Special Cards are sent to local Meals on Wheels recipients and the local hospital's long-term care patients on a monthly basis. This past year, students shared the Special Cards with the firefighters in New York and the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City.



Music to our Lives!

Marjorie Williams Ray, Haskell EA
Grades: 8th – 12th

This project is a student favorite, because it allows him or her to share something which is special (and personal) through a universal vehicle – music. Students present a 5-10 minute oral presentation demonstrating what style of music they favor and why. The presentation also includes a one page written essay, a visual aide such as a poster or other pictures, and a CD/cassette to play for the class. When this project is used early in the school year or semester, it establishes a pattern of shared learning which can improve the overall learning environment. Also, it gives the students a chance to learn about each other in an educational but casual atmosphere.



Living Museum Project

Sherrie Stout, Mid-Del ACT
Grade: 4th

The Living Museum Project is a wonderful experience in which students will learn how to write a biography and bring a character alive from the present or past dressed as their character while giving an oral presentation. In writing the biography, students will learn how to follow an outline, do research and bibliographies. The project takes up to nine weeks to complete.



Phone Log Folder

Todd Richards, Comanche EA
Grades: Pre-K – 12th

The Phone Log Folder is a simple and convenient method to organize and document phone numbers and conversations. The folder contains parents' names, addresses and phone numbers. When making or receiving phone calls about a student, teachers can simply flip to his or her card and document the date, time and discussion notes for future references. The concept is easily modified to fit any grade or subject.



Diggin' Dinosaurs

Karen Rogers, Woodward EA
Grades: 1st – 4th

Diggin' Dinosaurs offers teachers many cross-curriculum activities. Students read, research, recite poetry and write about dinosaurs. They also measure, graph and engage in estimation activities. Students, also, learn about career choices by becoming paleontologists and excavating bones from an "actual dig site." Culmination activities can include individual blue books, class books or even a dinosaur museum where students are experts and share their knowledge. This high interest unit keeps students motivated and eager to learn.

12:45 p.m. Sessions

Ag in the Classroom

Mary Ann Kelsey & Jamey Allen

12:45 p.m. Room 3A

Ag in the Classroom equips K-6 teachers with hands-on, coherent and challenging resources. Educators will appreciate the creative approach of AITC in teaching reading, math, science, social studies, language arts and visual arts. During this interactive workshop, teachers will explore our vital link with agriculture and receive unique AITC lessons ready to implement into their curriculum.

Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Spirit

Linda Patton

12:45 p.m. Room 2C

By nature, teachers are a caring, generous, giving group of people; but what happens when we can no longer give from an empty cup? When we don't have time to sharpen the saw, we feel burned up and burned out. This humorous, high-energy presentation by an experienced educator and speaker will soothe the spirit and rekindle the flame.

Eliciting High Productivity in Others ... and Ourselves!

Dr. Michael Johnson

12:45 p.m. Room B North

How do we turn on the light in other human beings? Dr. Michael Johnson, author and national columnist, will share his beliefs on motivation, leadership and life-changing experiences created by the most important people in the world ... Teachers!

Floor Mat Learning and Cross-Lateral Aids

Frances Ritter

12:45 p.m. Room 3E

When spelling is a problem or remembering letters in a name or dyslexic-like symptoms are present — try this! When number recognition or value isn't clicking or telling time just doesn't make sense — try this! You will learn about researched ideas and activities and “make and take” cross-lateral aids.

Presenter Sessions

Great Expectations

Rick Pierce

12:45 p.m. Room 3G

Great Expectations is a program that provides an infrastructure for all schools, regardless of size, grade levels, geographic location, student demographics or economic base. Great Expectations promotes improvements in student self-esteem, student and teacher attendance, student behavior and parent participation, all of which result in improved academic achievement!

Improving ACT Scores

Dr. Cindy Brown, Daniel Craig & Johnny Morrow

12:45 p.m. Room 2D

This session will focus on using data from EXPLORE-PLAN-ACT to improve your students' ACT scores. College remediation rates and API connections will also be analyzed. Teachers, counselors and administrators will find this helpful.

Is What You Heard What I Really Said?

Ronda Mikles

12:45 p.m. Room D South

How we communicate determines our impact not only in the classroom, but in the world. Here's an entertaining view of the importance of communication and the situations that arise when we don't do it effectively. Examine the three levels of communicating, explore the elements vital to being a better communicator and discover how to make a difference in your world.

Know Thy Peers

Susan Vineyard, Ed.D.

12:45 p.m. Room 2G

A school's dynamic can be changed or enforced by the people who work there. If they do not know one another, how can they truly support one another? The activities of this workshop focus the participants

toward one another's values, humor and priorities. Getting to “Know Thy Peers” can easily be transferred to your own workplace.

The Men's Program

Steve Nedbalek, State Department of Health

12:45 p.m. Room C North

“The Men's Program” is a sexual assault prevention, peer education program for young men. Male students who participate in this program experience a significant drop in rape-myth acceptance, as well as a drop in the likelihood of being sexually coercive. According to evaluated research literature, this program has been shown to be one of the most effective and successful rape prevention workshops.

Music & Fine Art Integrated with Language Arts

Wanda Sterling & Denise Covarrubias

12:45 p.m. Room 2A

Teachers across the curriculum can integrate music and art into what they already teach without knowing how to draw. This workshop is fast moving and packed with information that teachers can use immediately. All participants will receive art samples, essays, grammar lessons and skits that will help them integrate art and music.

Plagiarism: Strategies and Solutions

Deborah Young Maehs

12:45 p.m. Room 2B

Combat plagiarism problems in your district by arming yourself with knowledge regarding this increasing problem. Lay the foundation and become a technology leader in the war against plagiarism. Low-tech and high-tech solutions will be discussed via handouts and a PowerPoint presentation.

Retirement Seminar

Tommy Beavers, Joyce Drew Parsons & Lou Wilcoxson

12:45 p.m. Room B South

OREA hosts this seminar for active teachers nearing retirement. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Plan to attend this session if retirement happens to be in your near future.

“Stop It” Bullying Awareness and Prevention Program

Deborah Brooks

12:45 p.m. Room 3B

OEA's “Stop It” is intended to help teachers increase their awareness of bullying behaviors and interventions. This session will give an overview of the 3-6 hour training and how it can be adapted to meet the needs of your district or site.

Strengthening Your Creative Skills

Richard Hight

12:45 p.m. & 2:15 p.m. Room D North

Even creative people need a constant injection of fresh ideas. During this session emphasis is placed on building those skills and breaking down barriers which keep creativity from flourishing. Richard has a unique way to keep workshop participants engaged and learning.

The Support Professional's Role in the Education Process

Melissa Lee, Pat Miller & Larry Miller

12:45 p.m. Room 2F

Oklahoma's schools could not function without Support Professionals. Their contribution to the day-to-day operation of every school is paramount to achieving excellence in education. Participants will explore how support professionals can be recognized for their contributions through improved training opportunities, increased salary and benefits, as well as the challenges of implementing ESEA regulations.

s Convention 2002

The Vision Connection: Going Beyond 20/20 Eyesight

Dr. Monte Harrel

12:45 p.m. Room C South

A 20/20 screening detects only 15 percent of the vision problems that interfere with learning. This interactive presentation will quickly give you an understanding of how vision can hinder children even if they have 20/20 eyesight. You'll also learn the signs and symptoms of vision problems that children display in the classroom.

2:15 p.m. Sessions

Classroom Management and Instructional Strategies For Teacher Success

Mary Howell

2:15 p.m. Room 2B

From the moment that a student walks into the school building, learning is taking place. This workshop is designed to help teachers design their days for instructional effectiveness and review essential management and behavior techniques that will provide student success. Your students can benefit from time on task activities and the design of the classroom.

Empowerment Through Reading

Dr. Michael Johnson

2:15 p.m. Room B North

Come and enjoy author and humorist Dr. Michael Johnson as he shares strategies on empowering students through reading. This former professional rodeo cowboy turned industrial psychologist and national columnist is the author of a number of books including *The Most Special Person*, *Susie The Whispering Horse*, and *Cowboys and Angels*, named "Best Nonfiction Book of 2002" by the Oklahoma Writer's Federation.

Getting Through to That Difficult Student

Ronda Mikles

2:15 p.m. Room D South

Here is an intriguing study of student/teacher relationships as we examine how to deal with students and their individual needs and differences. Take an in-depth look at how to listen more effectively, learn smart questions to ask and discover how to get to the heart of the problem. In the process, we'll seek to rekindle your passion and expand your vision.

Grant Writing 101

Diann Neal

2:15 p.m. Room 2D

"Grant Writing 101" is designed to give you a hands-on approach to applying for grants. If you have ever attended a workshop on grant writing and walked away with a feeling of hopelessness, attend this one. We will explain cliché words, and demonstrate "thinking outside the box." A practice grant will be provided to offer each person the opportunity to actually fill out an RFP. (What's an RFP?) Have fun while you learn ways to increase money for your classroom and school.

Great Body Shop

Shae Donham, Ph.D.

2:15 p.m. Room 2A

This session will provide participants with hands-on experience in this one-of-a-kind program. It is a Pre-K-Grade 6 comprehensive, cross-curricular, multidimensional curriculum. Easy to use, it is built on critical thinking skills that focus on multi-intelligences, developmental assets and current health risks based on data from the Centers for Disease Control. Information on funding sources for program implementation will also be given.

Knight Life

Dr. Randall Parr & Barry Owens

2:15 p.m. Room C North

The Knights of The Guild present "The Knight Life," a national award-winning character building program utilizing the theme of Knighthood and chivalry to teach positive core values to school children in grades K-12. This program features school visits from gallant knights in shining armor, majestic student assemblies, live barded warhorses and more; all complementing a comprehensive, integrated, daily academic curriculum based upon modern chivalry and the virtues of heroes.

Let's Figure This Out

Linda Patton

2:15 p.m. Room 2C

Preparing students for the 21st Century must include more than "the 3 R's." We must teach students to solve problems by using critical thinking and creative thinking skills. Teachers of all subject areas and grade levels will benefit from this hands-on workshop. The presenter's positive, upbeat style makes this workshop entertaining as well as educational.

Music in the Classroom

Dr. Pam Hodges, Leslie Brown & Theresa Collins

2:15 p.m. Room 3G

Dr. Hodges will provide an overview of the opportunities available to students through the Barthelmes Conservatory Community Music School and its in-school outreach program, Project CREATE. Leslie Brown will demonstrate ways in which music can be infused with other core curriculum subjects in the elementary classroom.

National Board Certification

Janice Swartz

2:15 p.m. Room C South

National Board Certification is an achievement many Oklahoma teachers are realizing. Janice will share information about the process and give

you time to ask those questions you might have.

No One Can Make You

Susan Vineyard, Ed.D.

2:15 p.m. Room 2G

"You can't make me!" This session will take an entertaining look into the clichés and colloquialisms of our culture that you hear daily at school. It will also explore how they are used to avoid responsibility.

Oklahoma Aquarium:

Incorporating Marine

Education into Your Curriculum

Tara Treiber

2:15 p.m. Room 3A

Living in landlocked Oklahoma, it is often a challenge to integrate marine education into your curriculum. This session includes information about on-site and outreach education programs, Adopt-a-Fish projects, supplemental education programs and support, as well as general information regarding the Aquarium.

Russian Kaleidoscope

Sergei Shapoval

2:15 p.m. Room 3C

The art, music and culture of Russia have been hidden from western eyes for more than 100 years. Now, people have an immense interest in learning more about this fascinating country. Sergei will provide a multimedia, educational, interactive presentation about Russian culture through the arts. You will learn how you can provide this and other cultural opportunities to students in your own schools.

Social Studies, PASS, PASSport and Assessment

Eugene Earsom, State

Department of Education

2:15 p.m. Room B South

Eugene will give a brief overview of Oklahoma's core curriculum in social studies and how recently revised PASS relates to the Oklahoma State Testing Program.

Sections and Special Interest Meetings

2002 OEA State Convention & Exhibits Show

October 17, 2002

OEA Black Caucus

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Downtown Doubletree Hotel,
Remington Room
Business Meeting

OEA Budget Hearing

12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Doubletree Hotel,
Dover Room

OEA Republican Caucus

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Downtown
Doubletree, Executive Lounge 1711

NBPTS Training – Reflective Writing

NBPTS Candidates only

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Downtown Doubletree Hotel,
Coventry/Westminster Room

Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies

Greenwood Cultural Center, 322

North Greenwood, Tulsa

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Danny Goble,
History Professor, University of
Oklahoma, “Circumstances and Ser-
endipity in History.”

Cost: \$5.00 for members, \$20.00 for
nonmembers (includes next year’s
membership)

Contact: Brett Dickerson,
Edmond North H.S.

brett_dickerson@edmond.k12.ok.us
(405/340-2875. See our Web site for
more details at www.okocss.org.)

Oklahoma Reading Association/Title I Special Interest Group

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Downtown Doubletree Hotel

Dover Room

School Nurse Organization of Oklahoma (SNOO)

9:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Downtown Doubletree Hotel,

Gilcrease Room

Light refreshments will be served.

Networking of school nurses and lat-
est update plus election of officers.

Parking

Off-site Parking

Driving into Tulsa? You can park
at a shuttle bus site and avoid the
hassle of downtown parking.

Shuttle buses will deliver riders to
the north entrance of the Tulsa
Convention Center.

Expo Square

Free parking and shuttle bus ser-
vices will be available at Expo
Square Lot 12 at 21st & Yale. Exit
Broken Arrow Expressway on
Harvard or Yale northbound to
21st. Automobiles exiting on Yale
will turn west on 21st and proceed
to Lot 12. Crosstown Expressway
traffic will exit on Harvard or Yale
and proceed to 21st.

Shuttle buses will run all day be-
ginning at 7 a.m. with the final
departure at 5:30 p.m.

Downtown Parking

Ample public event parking is
available in the immediate area or
within walking distance of the Tulsa
Convention Center. Public event
parking at the **Tulsa Convention
Center Parking Garage** will be at
a rate of \$3 per day. There are
over 1,000 parking spaces avail-
able. Additional parking is also
located at the Doubletree Hotel.

Parking Passes

Uncovered parking north of the
convention center is for exhibitors,
presenters and other parking pass
holders only.

Tulsa Hotels

Convention rates are offered at the
following hotels to OEA members:

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Tulsa

16 West 7th Street

918/587-8000

(\$86 Single/Double Rate)

Ramada Inn

3131 E. 51st

918/743-9811

I-44 & Harvard at 51st

(\$55 Double/Single Rate)

Prestige Inn & Suites

3217 S. 79th E. Ave.

918/624-2800

(\$50 flat rate, \$5 for each
additional person)

Convention Registration
Free to Members,
\$25 for nonmembers

2002 Convention Committee Members

Roy Bishop, OEA

Vice President, Chair

Terrie Keck, Marlow

Sylvia Mahaffey, Marlow

Charlotte Pittman, Seiling

Charles Brady, Elmore City-
Pernell

Cheryl Dowell, Comanche

Mark Powell, Broken Arrow

Sandra Pendergraft, Retired

Kelly Curtright, Putnam City

Shirley Nero, Porum

Janet Stowers, Wagoner

Kim Morris, Mannford

Kareen Brooks, Byng

Deidra Dunbar, Student OEA

Karen Dawson, Tulsa

Debby Stine, Staff Liaison

Child Care

Child care will be available in room 2E of the Convention
Center from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for children ages 2 (toilet
trained) to 10 years. Snacks will be provided. Cost is \$2 an hour
per child. Parents must bring children to the room and pick
them up personally.

Emergency Phone Numbers

918/596-7177

918/596-9015

Exhibitors

*The exhibit area will be open
from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
You must be registered to enter.*

Exhibitors	BOOTH #
AA Committee on Cooperation	105
AA&A Fundraising and Spirit Shakers	136
ABA Cards & Gifts	724
Abitibi Recycling	726
AdvoCare	15
Alpha Plus Systems, Inc.	146
American Association of University Women	703
American Fidelity Assurance	401-402-403
Amish Bakery Treats	513
Arbonne International	607
Audio Optical Systems of Austin, Inc.	601
Bangles & Dangles	163
Blood & Guts	307
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	302
Blue Thumb	155
Carla's Fine Fashions	723
Cay Cays Trinkets	5-6
Cherokee Heritage Indian Education Foundation	102
Children & Family Eyecare	16
Children's Health Market	520
City of Tulsa	714
Classroom Connect	311
Computer Automation Systems	110
Country Creations	158
The Cultural Kaleidoscope	625
Curriculum Associates Inc.	309
Custom Imprinting	143
Deanan Gourmet Popcorn	613
Discovery Toys	135
Educational Solutions	608
EMC/Paradigm Publishing	830
Everyday Mathematics	127-128
Feed the Children	133-134
Floor Mat Learning Products	149
Follett Library Resources	305
Frog Publications	507
Great Expectations	503
Great Source Education Group	606
Handwriting Without Tears	312
Harcourt School Publishers	512
Harn Homestead Museum	4
Head-to-Toe Discount Boutique	111-112
HealthChoice	624
Holt Rinehart & Winston	711-712
Horace Mann Companies	415-416
Houghton Mifflin Company	301
Interactive Books	150
Interfaith Alliance	727
Internal Revenue Service	605
Jasmine Moran Museum	511
Java Dave's Fundraisers	11
Jewels by Jewel	14
Kee Corp., Inc.	116-117
"Know-Its" – The Link to Reading	506
Lakeshore Learning Materials	701
Learning Disabilities Association of OK	825
Learning Unlimited	807
Lisa's Xtras	144-145
Macmillan/McGraw-Hill	705-706
Mark Enterprises, Inc.	132
McDougal Littell	713
Michael Johnson Books	508
Mondo Publishers	716
The Names Project	140
Narconon Arrowhead	518
National Geographic	516-517
National Learning Systems, Inc.	519
National Teacher Associates	414
NEA Auto & Home Insurance	411
NEA Member Benefits	412
NEA Member Care	409
NEA Valuebuilder	410
Nystrom	710

Exhibitors	BOOTH #
OEA Read Across America (cell phone donations)	407
OEA-PAC	408
Oklahoma Abstinence Training Conference	719
Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom	123
Oklahoma Aquarium	126
Oklahoma Bar Association	304
Oklahoma Breast Care Center	413
Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau	303
Oklahoma City National Memorial	120
Oklahoma College Savings Plan	310
Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation	817
Oklahoma Dept. of Career Tech	616
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	124
Oklahoma Dept. of Education	808
Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation	510
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation/Aquatic Resource	153
Oklahoma Educators Credit Union	404
Oklahoma Energy Resources Board	157
Oklahoma Library for the Blind	604
Oklahoma Project WET	154
Oklahoma Project Wild	152
Oklahoma Retired Education Association	406
Oral Roberts University	514
OSU Aviation & Space Education	103-104
OSU Education Extension	602-603
OSU-Okmulgee	509
OSU-Tulsa	702
OU Distance Learning	802
Pacific Learning, Inc.	715
The Pampered Chef	107
Pearson Learning	617-618
Perfection Learning Corp.	316
The Pin Man-Positivepins	812
Porch School Supply	121-122
Premier Wholesale Market	106
Prentice Hall Publishers	505
Rand McNally	610
Red Carpet Motorcoach Charters	12
Rigby Education	622-623
Rosen Classroom Books & Materials	609
Ruby Crystal	17
Sam's Club	813
Saturn of Oklahoma City	313
Saxon Publishers	501-502
School Mate	615
Schoolology	147
School Specially	515
Scott Foresman	614
Seasons Today	113-114
Shurley Instructional Materials	306
Silver Trends Jewelry Co.	115
Southern Living @ Home	504
Southwestern State University	630
SRA/McGraw-Hill	611-612
Staples, The Office Superstore	313
Steck-Vaughn	620-621
STARBASE/TASM	308
Teacher Created Materials	717-718
Thomson Learning/Southwestern	137-138-139
Tulsa Community College	704
Tulsa Teachers Credit Union	725
Tulsa Technology Center	626
Tulsa Zoo Friends, Inc.	141
University of Oklahoma	118-119
Usborne Books At Home	317
USDA-Natural Resources	156
VALIC	405
Vision	619
Visual Impact	148
World Neighbors	801
You-Niquely Yours	101
Zaner-Bloser	818

Staples To Offer Discounts Statewide During Convention

For the second consecutive year, Staples stores in Oklahoma are deeply involved in the OEA Convention and the OEA-NEA's Read Across America program.

Last year at the convention, Staples gave away numerous prizes, and OEA members at this year's convention can expect more of the same. In addition, the Staples stores all over Oklahoma will be having "OEA Appreciation Days" Thursday through Saturday, October 17-19.

OEA members who shop at Staples stores and show their OEA cards will get, in addition to their normal teacher rewards, 10 percent off furniture, lighting, machines, hardware, monitors, printers, accessories,

cartridges and software (excluding computers). OEA members will receive a \$50 discount on any personal computer, laptop or built-to-order computer (CPUs only). On top of all that, members will receive 15 percent off classroom and office supplies.

"We are fortunate to be included in your Read Across America program," said Nathan Wallace, Staples manager in Oklahoma City. "It is exactly the type of effort that our stores want to get behind. We look forward to being even more involved this year."

Make sure to stop by the Staples booth at Convention and meet the Staples employees, as well as take advantage of the OEA Appreciation Days at Staples stores statewide.



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Donate Your Old Cell Phone and Get a \$50 or \$100 Tax Break



By Bruce Treadaway

After a one year absence, Read Across America once again will make an appearance at the OEA state convention.

To help out the RAA program in

Oklahoma, bring your old cell phones by the RAA booth and you will receive a tax credit for \$50 for each cell phone and \$100 for each flip phone. For each phone donated, the OEA will receive a contribution to the RAA program.

The Cat In The Hat and Sam I Am, possibly the No Named Yellow Dog from "Green Eggs And Ham," and Thing One and Thing Two – and maybe even the Grinch – will be there to accept your cell phones.

Last year the OEA characters saw 38,000 students in Oklahoma and donated over 4,000 books supplied by the Christmas Connection to public school libraries.

Along with the Christmas Connection, other sponsors for the OEA's

reading initiative are Saturn of OKC, Staples, and Blunck's Studios. This year's new sponsor, the Hometown Buffet restaurants, will be providing gift certificates for 40,000 students to use for free meals at Hometown Buffet restaurants around Oklahoma.

"You're never too old, too wacky or wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."

Dr. Seuss



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Paid for by the Committee to elect Greer Nichols

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NEA Grant Gives El Reno ESP Technological Edge

By Patti Razien

Melissa Lee set out this summer to achieve two major goals.

One goal was to hike up Colorado's 14,000-foot Mt. Humboldt. The other was to have the ability to start her own Web site where she could share information with other support professionals.

Through her diligent efforts she was able to accomplish both.

As president of the El Reno Support Professional Association, Melissa attended the National Education Association's ESP Conference held in Birmingham, Ala., last April. There it was announced that the NEA ESP Information System (ESPIS) would be awarding Technology Grants for the fifth year. These grants provide the opportunity for ESP locals to involve

ESP members in the application of technology in projects that could help their locals, schools and/or communities to restore public confidence in public education. In the fourth year of the Technology Grants Program, 19 grants in amounts from \$250 to \$3,500 were given to ESP locals around the country.

While at the conference, Lee attended a grant writing class to help her prepare for submitting her application. She also spoke to Lavonne Hastings and Sheila Gray, copresidents from Tahlequah and 2001-02 grant recipients, who offered Melissa some helpful hints.

Melissa's idea was to write a technology grant that would enable her to purchase a lap top computer, digital camera, scanner and software pack-

age which she could develop a Web site for El Reno SPA to share information with other support professionals in her buildings and get them involved with the benefits of OEA/NEA. She devised a plan whereby she could travel to the building sites in El Reno and show the support staff the NEA site and how to access the ESP Information System (ESPIS) and other on-line resources.

In late April, Lee sent her application to NEA for a \$1,400 grant to purchase the equipment necessary to fulfill her goal. Just three months later she received a congratulatory letter advising her that she had won the grant to fund the ESPIS activities during the 2002-03 school year.



El Reno SPA President Melissa Lee shows off the equipment she purchased with a \$1,400 NEA grant.

"Was it a difficult process? Yes, but one that I would encourage others to do. The grant writing class I took and just asking others for their advice really made it easier," Lee said.

With 339,000 support professional members in the National Education Association, Melissa Lee is to be congratulated for her desire to better her local association and be among the few honored with this grant, as well as climbing that mountain!

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