

OEA

An affiliate of the
National Education Association

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CONVENTION TIMES

A special OEA Convention pullout section, complete with workshop descriptions, the day's full schedule and other vital information for the October 16 event.

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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 2003

Are You Highly Qualified?

State's HOUSSE Still Under Construction

By Doug Folks

Schools and teachers across the country are beginning to feel the first effects of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and the law has many Oklahoma educators wondering just how they will meet the standards set in the law.

In late August, the government released its list of schools which do not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (see Page 4). And, as many as 20,000 Oklahoma teachers are just now learning they may not be highly qualified according to NCLB.

Teachers who graduated from an Oklahoma college or university with an education degree since 1982 are probably highly qualified, assuming they took and passed the state certification test in the level or subject area they are teaching. However, those teachers who graduated before 1982 were not required to take a test, and may not be considered highly qualified. Approximately 35 percent of Oklahoma teachers have not taken the

certification tests.

"It's ridiculous to think we have teachers in Oklahoma who have been teaching for more than 21 years and can't be considered highly qualified just because they didn't take a test," said Becky Felts, OEA vice president. Felts took office in July as OEA's full-time release vice president after spending 27 years as an elementary teacher. Under NCLB requirements, she is not highly qualified.

Nonetheless, Felts said that the intent of NCLB is good for students and that Oklahoma teachers are among the best qualified in the nation. She added that it's just a matter of finding the right method to prove our teachers already meet the standards without forcing them to jump through any unnecessary hoops.

To be considered highly qualified, teachers of early childhood education, elementary education and core academic subjects (English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and govern-

ment, economics, the arts, history and geography) must have at least a bachelor's degree and a license or certificate in the subject(s) taught, and either pass the certification test or demonstrate competency based on a High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE).

Middle school and secondary teachers must have a degree and a license and have either:

- ✓ passed a state certification test in the level/subject(s) taught, *or*;
- ✓ completed an undergraduate academic major or course work equivalent to an undergraduate academic major (24 semester hours of subject-specific course work) in subject(s) taught as documented by the teacher's official transcript, *or*;
- ✓ completed a graduate degree in subject(s) taught, *or*;
- ✓ hold certification through National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the subject(s) taught, *or*;
- ✓ demonstrate competency in each

See "New Federal" on Page 3

OEA Action Helps Keep Insurance Rates Down

By Stacy Martin

Few consumers would consider a cost increase a good thing, but Oklahoma education employees can be thankful that their health care premiums will increase only a fraction of what originally was planned.

When the Oklahoma State Education and Employee Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) this summer be-

gan looking at insurance rates for 2004, it was considering a hefty rate hike to go along with a reduction in benefits. But Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) leaders told OSEEGIB that teachers are already making modest salaries and cannot afford higher health insurance. The OEA lobbied the board aggressively to help its members understand the enormous

negative impact their actions would have on teachers, support professionals and administrators alike.

Oklahoma's plight is just one part of a much larger crisis. Health insurance has become a serious problem across the nation with teacher insurance premiums rising an average of 17 percent.

"It was becoming clear our mission would be damage control, rather than averting an increase entirely," said Bruce Hunt, associate executive

See "Average Premium" on Page 4

NCLB: Great Name, Bad Law

By Roy Bishop
OEA President

There is no doubt most educators have heard of President George Bush's No Child Left Behind Act. Great name. Bad law.

That's how we at the Oklahoma Education Association and the National Education Association characterize the law.

This is not our law. We are working hard to urge federal officials to amend it so that it can be practically and realistically implemented. After all, the OEA has a long-standing commitment to high standards and teaching excellence. Yet, until it can be improved upon, we must live with its provisions.

Two key provisions in the law should be of utmost interest to Oklahoma educators. First, it proposes to define what makes a teacher "highly qualified." All classrooms must have highly qualified teachers by 2005-06.

At this point, all teachers who entered the profession in Oklahoma after 1982 have been tested and will meet the law's criteria – if they are teaching in their certification area. Fortunately, this standard was already in place in Oklahoma prior to NCLB.

Educators who began teaching prior to 1982 will need to identify how they fit into the definition in their subject areas. Federal and state officials continue attempting to finalize those guidelines.

At the state level we are working diligently with the State Department of Education to see that the large majority of Oklahoma teachers meet the highly qualified standard.

Nationally, the NEA is launching a legal challenge to force the federal government to either fully fund the law or give flexibility to states struggling to meet its provisions.

The second major issue is measur-

ing school progress solely on schools meeting standardized testing targets. These achievement levels are imposed regardless of the makeup of the student population.

That means students with such challenges as economic disadvantages, mental or physical handicaps, and language barriers must all achieve at levels set by the federal government or the entire school will be considered failing.

The penalties grow more and more harsh for failing to meet these improvement standards in consecutive years. Any school which does not reach the standards for two consecutive years is placed on the needs improvement list. After four consecutive years, sanctions can include replacing teachers, transferring children along with the associated funding



President Roy Bishop

to better scoring schools, and, ultimately, closing the school.

The OEA has a long-standing commitment to great teaching and high standards. What we don't have that would help make this law successful is the necessary funding. As long as a lack of respect and value for our profession persists, it will be virtually impossible for this law to achieve its lofty title.

Project Woman Coalition Offers Low-Cost Mammograms in October

During the month of October, women can save money – and possibly their lives.

Several mammography facilities in central Oklahoma will take part in the Project Woman Coalition Low-Cost Mammography Campaign as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The program is designed to make breast cancer screening and detection more affordable.

Alicia Drew, R.N., executive director of Project Woman Coalition, said the price of mammography services can sometimes be too costly for some Oklahomans.

"Many women know they need mammograms, but have difficulties affording it. These participating facilities are bridging the financial gap by offering low-cost coupons in Octo-

ber," Drew said.

Participating facilities will be offering screening mammograms at reduced prices of \$75 for film screen mammograms and \$120 for digital.

Drew said it is a significant savings on a screening mammogram that is a crucial part of women's health.

The American Cancer Society has determined 2,700 Oklahoma women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and 500 Oklahoma women will lose the fight to the disease. The ACS said breast cancer deaths can be decreased by early detection and mammography screening.

"You have a greater chance of beating breast cancer if it is detected early. You also have more treatment options. That's why we provide these pro-

grams," Drew said.

Project Woman Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission: to increase breast cancer awareness, provide access to screening and diagnostic services, and improve the breast health of Oklahoma women. The organization collaborates with area hospitals, mammography facilities, city, county and state agencies, community-based organizations, physicians, nurses and breast cancer survivors in order to provide services and education.

For additional information on Project Woman Coalition and to print a coupon with a list of participating facilities, please visit www.projectwoman.org, or contact Alicia Drew at (405) 604-4642.

OEA

The Education Focus

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New Federal Guidelines Will Help Complete HOUSSE

Continued from page 1

subject taught based on a HOUSSE.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education's HOUSSE was not finalized at press time as state officials had just received new federal guidelines for highly qualified teachers. In the meantime, proposed matrices for both elementary/early childhood and for middle/secondary can be found on OEA's Web site at www.okea.org/houssematrix. OEA President Roy Bishop has provided input for the HOUSSE to State Superintendent Sandy Garrett, both personally and in writing. (Bishop's letter is reprinted on this page.)

Further exacerbating teachers and the highly qualified issue is a piece in NCLB that requires districts to notify parents if their children are being taught for more than four weeks by a teacher who doesn't meet highly qualified standards.

"Since the law doesn't require teachers to be highly qualified until 2005-06, and since our teachers don't have a definition of the standard in Oklahoma, we believe it's entirely too early to send that letter and confuse and worry the public," Felts said.

Supt. Garrett agrees and has sent a letter to all school superintendents telling them "...that any notification to parents at this time focus on teachers' Oklahoma certification status and that you are awaiting final information from the federal government."

OKLAHOMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ROY BISHOP
President

BECKY FELTS
Vice President

DAVID DuVALL
Executive Director

August 19, 2003

Dear Superintendent Garrett,

Thank you for inviting the Oklahoma Education Association to be a part of the audience last Thursday as you publicly unveiled the draft of Oklahoma's Highly Objective Uniform Statewide Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE). I want to thank you for your willingness to develop a test alternative for teachers in Oklahoma to be judged as "highly qualified" under President Bush's No Child Left Behind legislation. I also appreciate the opportunity you gave us to provide input prior to sending it on to Washington D.C.

On behalf of approximately 40,000 OEA members, I have e-mailed our recommendations for change to Dr. Paul as you requested. I also want to provide our suggestions to you. They are as follows:

Column One – Coursework in the Core Academic Subject Area for Early Childhood and Elementary Teachers.

All content specific coursework should count, including education courses. The OEA will strongly oppose any attempt to place a value on the year the course was taken as suggested by the USDE staff.

Column Two – Student Achievement. This column should be eliminated from the matrix until such time that we have a statewide standardized method for measuring student achievement. Our current student testing system does not meet the standard of "uniform" in HOUSSE.

Column Three - Service in the Content Area. This column is acceptable as written but should not have a 10 point maximum.

Column Four – Awards, Presentations, and Publications In Content Area. This column is acceptable as written but should not have a 10 point maximum. We disagree with the USDE staff recommendation to eliminate the teacher of the year portion of this column because it is a peer review. They are unfamiliar with selection process and criteria in our state.

Column Five – Academic Institutes. The title of this column should be changed to **Professional Development** and all content specific professional development should be counted on a one point per hour basis with no maximum.

Column Six – National Board Certification. All National Board Certified Teachers should be automatically "highly qualified." All NBCT's, regardless of certification area, take content tests as part of the process. For the assessment center, generalist candidates are assessed on their content knowledge in:

- Literacy and English language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical education, health and safety
- Children's play

Numerous other states are accepting NBPTS certification as part of an automatic "highly qualified" definition. Oklahoma should do no less.

Column Seven – Years of Satisfactory Teaching Experience in an Accredited School. This column is acceptable as written.

Hopefully the suggestions above can be included in your final draft. Our goal should be to develop a HOUSSE that is easily understood and is not burdensome to the teacher or other school district personnel. As you have stated many times, Oklahoma is already ahead of the rest of the nation in teacher quality. We have tested teachers since 1982, evaluated them since 1986, and required continuing education and professional development for over twenty years. Placing a point system on these already implemented activities should not be all that difficult.

The USDE has given us the discretion to develop our own HOUSSE thereby granting us "states rights" on this issue. We should move forward as leaders and develop our matrix based on what we believe it should look like in our state, not what some bureaucrat in Washington thinks.

Thank you for taking the time to read our suggestions. I look forward to seeing the final document.

Sincerely,



Roy Bishop
President

The Voice of Education

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Questions about NCLB?

OEA members with questions about highly qualified, Adequate Yearly Progress or other issues of the No Child Left Behind Act should contact their OEA regional Teaching and Learning Specialist.

Oklahoma City Metro – Floyd Cox,
fcx@okea.org, 405/528-7785 or 800/
522-8091

Northeast – Sharon Moore,
smoore@okea.org; 800/331-5143 or
918/665-2282

Northwest – Debby Stine,
dstine@okea.org, 800/439-0393 or
580/256-0071

Southeast – Larry Miller,
lmiller@okea.org, 800/522-8091 or
405/528-7785

Southwest – Bonnie Hammock,
bhammock@okea.org, 405/528-7785
or 800/522-8091

Tulsa Metro – Deborah Brooks,
dbrooks@okea.org
918/665-2282 or 800/331-5143

AYP Takes Its First Slap at Public Schools

By Stacy Martin

Under the new standards imposed by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, 48 of Oklahoma's 1,801 schools were classified as underperforming on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) list, an Oklahoma Department of Education report shows.

"These schools have individual challenges that demand attention," said Roy Bishop, president of the Oklahoma Education Association. "Typically, their students' challenges include learning disabilities, poverty, transience and language barriers, just to name a few.

"Rather than help them, this law focuses on punishment and fails to reward progress, while ignoring critical underlying issues. Yet, our dilemma as teachers is to work under this law until it can be improved. We are acting very aggressively to accomplish that."

Oklahoma City's Westwood Elementary was one of 14 state schools making the recently released AYP list

for the fourth consecutive year, making it a candidate for strong intervention. The school is making steady improvement in its achievement scores, but lags in reading. Not surprisingly, the school serves a largely English Language Learner (ELL) student population that tends to be highly transient.

"In one of my classes that was testing, only four kids I had actually taught were left to take the test," said Wendi Tajeda, a Westwood kindergarten teacher. "The rest had left the district, moved away, or whatever.

"In fact, most of the children being tested are children that I have not taught or touched personally. I'm a kindergarten teacher and these children are now in third grade. How can we accomplish what they want under these circumstances?"

The OEA has always supported meaningful reform. As the state's leading education organization, the OEA strives to help every school and every

student to meet high standards and have access to a quality learning environment.

At the national level, the National Education Association (NEA) has launched a legal challenge to improve the law's effectiveness. NEA proposes critical amendments, including full federal funding, giving states flexibility in improving schools and reduced reliance on a single, high-stakes test.

The stakes are too high. In some parts of the country, schools are losing portions of their Title I funding due to failure to meet the law's standards.

Due to plummeting funding at the state level, it will prove difficult to meet high educational standards. Oklahoma public education has suffered \$300 million in budget cuts. Oklahoma schools have lost teaching positions, support professionals and



Oklahoma City's Wendi Tajeda wonders how schools can succeed under NCLB guidelines when so many students come and go during a school year.

administrators. Teachers are struggling with poor salaries, huge classes, dwindling supplies and curtailed programs.

Funding issues also plague the federal law. Nationally, NCLB is underfunded by at least \$20 billion overall in the first three years alone, according to NEA estimates. States must bear those costs unless changes are made.

Average Premium Increase Capped at 10 Percent

Continued from Page 1

director for the OEA's Center for Legislative and Political Organizing.

OSEEGIB proposed a double-digit increase across all member groups and an increase in deductibles. The individual deductible would have risen from \$300 to \$500 and the family deductible would have jumped from \$900 to \$1,500.

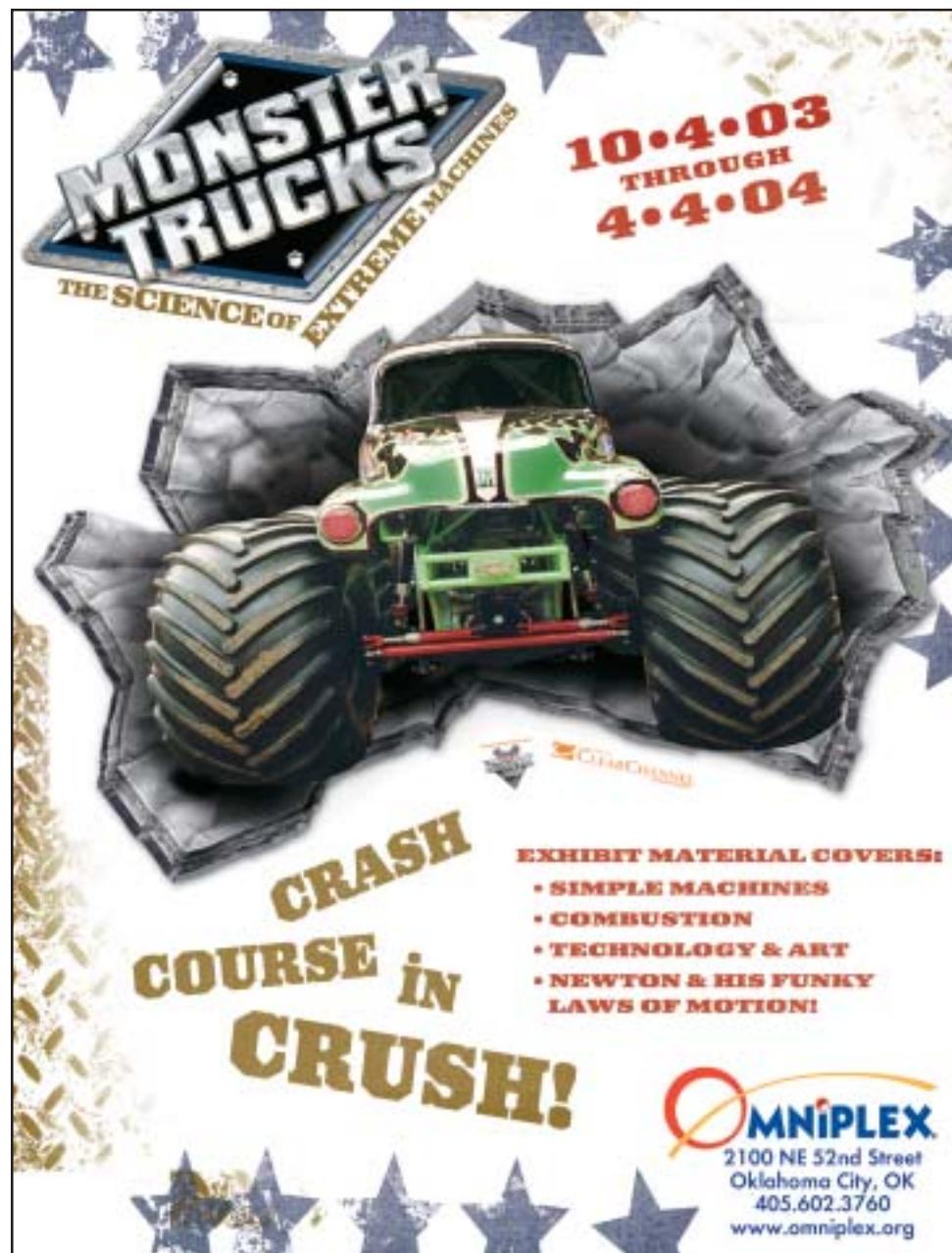
Thanks to OEA's work with the Board, the average increase ultimately was capped at less than 10 percent and deductibles remained unchanged.

An individual will see about a \$10 monthly increase in premium while a family with two or more children will see an increase of about \$84 monthly. Changes will take effect January 1.

The health insurance fight has long been on the OEA radar. A year ago, OEA facilitated passage of legislation that would have entirely funded the individual HealthChoice premium.

In fact, that year health insurance was the OEA's No. 1 legislative priority. Part of that bill has gone into effect. Unfortunately, legislators chose not to find funding solutions to pay for the law's second phase.

"We must have elected leaders who will make education and educators a priority," said Roy Bishop, OEA president. "Health insurance is a critical issue. Improved benefits have long been a top legislative priority at OEA and that will not change."



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OEA CONVENTION TIMES

October 16, 2003 • Tulsa Convention Center

Setback Didn't Prevent Success

Tulsan Jim Stovall To Share Positive Path

As a young man, Jim Stovall was heading for a promising career when a physical ailment derailed his dream. While his dream job may have fallen out of reach, his chance to succeed didn't.

Stovall, a native of Tulsa, will share his story of positive outlook to the 2003 OEA Convention during his keynote address at 9:15 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, in the Assembly Hall of the Tulsa Convention Center.

Known for his athletic abilities on the Charles Mason High School football team, Stovall was looking forward to a successful college career with his sights set on playing in the National Football League when his vision began to fail. But in 1977, a one-hour seminar changed his life forever and

led him down a path of success against what some people might consider insurmountable odds.

"In just one hour, Dr. Denis Waitley helped me set a positive path for my life," said Stovall. "And now, 25 years later, I'm able to use my successes to bring a message of hope to other people."

Stovall has been a national champion Olympic weightlifter, a successful investment broker and an entrepreneur. He is cofounder and president of the Narrative Television Network (NTN), which makes movies and television accessible for our nation's 13 million blind and visually impaired people. Although originally designed for the blind and visually impaired, over 60 percent of NTN's

national audience is made up of fully-sighted people who simply enjoy the programming.

Stovall hosts the Emmy Award-winning talk show "NTN Showcase," which appears on over 1,200 cable systems and broadcast stations, and reaches over 35 million homes in the United States and 11 foreign countries. His guests have included Katherine Hepburn, Jack Lemmon, Carol Channing and Eddie Albert.

Stovall has also been recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and has appeared on "Good Morning America" and the Cable News Network (CNN), and has been featured in *Reader's Digest*, *TV Guide* and *Time* magazine.



Keynote Speaker Jim Stovall

During the course of his career, Stovall has written 12 books, including "You Don't Have To Be Blind To See," "Success Secrets of Super Achievers, The Way I See The World," and his latest book, "The Ultimate Gift." Copies of his book will be available for purchase at the end of the general session.

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Convention Center Map

Oklahoma Authors Ready to Share Lunch

OEA members attending Convention will have a unique opportunity to share lunch with a panel of celebrated children's authors.

Tickets to the Munch and Lunch w/ Author Bunch will go on sale at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 16 in the Tulsa Convention Center. The \$10 cost of admission includes a picnic-style lunch.

Seating is limited for the 11:30 a.m. event, and tickets are expected to go quickly.

Scheduled to appear are husband and wife authors Bill and Carol Wallace, Darleen Bailey Beard, Anna Myers and Gwendolyn Hooks, who recently published her first book.

Bill Wallace's "Danger in Quick-sand Swamp" won a Young Reader's Choice Award in 1992, and "Watchdog

and the Coyotes" and "Aloha Summer" were Oklahoma Book Award finalists in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

Carol Wallace has co-written several books with her husband, including the "Bub Moose" books, and penned a number of titles on her own, including "Chomps, Flea and Gray Cat (That's Me)."

Beard, who wrote "Twister," is a popular guest lecturer. She was been a writer-in-residence at the Thomas H. Bowlus Fine Arts Center in Iola, Kan.,



Darleen Bailey Beard, author of the children's book "Twister," is one of four Oklahoma authors who will participate in the Munch and Lunch with Authors Bunch.

every fall between 1999 and 2002.

Myers is an eighth grade teacher in Chandler. She has twice won the Oklahoma Book Award: in 1993 for "Red Dirt Jessie" and in 1996 for "Graveyard Girl."

Convention At A Glance

7:30 a.m. • Exhibits Open • General Registration and Cash Drawing Registration Begins

9:15 a.m. • General Session • Assembly Hall

Roy Bishop, OEA President, Presiding
Keynote Speaker: Jim Stovall

11:30 a.m. • Session 1

Ed Fair Exhibitors at their Booths – Exhibit Hall

Munch & Lunch w/Author Bunch – Conference Hall (ticket required, limited seating)

Citizen & the Constitution	Michael Reggio	2B
Conscious Discipline in the Lives of Teachers & Children	Carl Porter	2A
Data-Driven Decision Making: EXPLORE-PLAN-ACT		
Johnny Morrow, Cindy Brown and Dan Craig		2G
Getting Students to Do the Work	Tina Page	3G
Grammar Key	Robert Conklin	3A
Hilarity Therapy	John Irvin, C.S.P.	D South
Moving Teacher Standards Into the 21 st Century	Kyle Dahlem	2C
National Board Certification Process	Janice Swartz	3B
No Child Left Behind, But What About the Teachers?	Tim Dedman	C North
Parental Involvement	Ronda Mikles	C South
PreVent-ertainment	Dave May	3D
Pygmalion: Secrets of Motivation	Michael Johnson	D North
Seeing to Write	Greg Stiver	2D
Strengthening Your Creative Skills	Richard Hight	3C
Teacher Retirement	Jacqueline Shannon, Roy Byrd, Lou Wilcoxson	B North
Ukrainian Kaleidoscope	Sergei Shapoval	3E

12:45 p.m. • Session 2

“Classics Illustrated” Comics	Bill McCloud	3B
Classroom Management Strategies	Linda Harrison	2A
Grantwriting 101	Diann Neal	3A
Global Education Across the Curriculum	Kyle Dahlem & Buffy Edwards	2C
Identity Theft	Liz Picone	D South
IDEA/ESEA – The Intersection of Access and Outcomes	Katherine Bishop	B North
No Child Left Behind, But What About the Teachers?	Tim Dedman	C North
PASS & State Testing for the Language Arts	Claudette Goss	2G
Preparing for Retirement	Clyde Pendergraft	3D
Project Citizen	Michael Reggio	2B
Reading Instruction: No Teacher Left Behind	Sandy Washmon	3G
Social Studies Enhancement in 3 rd – 5 th	Joy Brewer	C South
Strengthening Your Creative Skills	Richard Hight	3C
Success F.A.C.T.S.	Victoria Lee	D North
Ukrainian Kaleidoscope	Sergei Shapoval	3E
Why Writing Matters	Clara Southerland	2D

2 p.m. • Session 3 • Convention Registration Closes

Action for Healthy Oklahoma Kids	Deana Hildebrand, Becky Evans, Carol Bush	2B
Behind the Scenes with an Oklahoma Author	Darleen B. Beard	3C
Challenge of Change	Ronda Mikles	C South
Floor Mat Learning	Francis Ritter	3G
ESP – It’s Important to Communicate	Sherrie Barnes	3F
Grantwriting 101	Diann Neal	3A
Honor System	John Irvin, C.S.P.	D South
Integrating the Arts Through Curriculum	Roxy Merklin	2D
K-12 Programs of the OSRHE	Johnny Morrow, Cindy Brown, Dan Craig	2G
The Men’s Program	Steve Nedbalek	2C
National Board Certification Process	Janice Swartz	3B
Penalties for Public Service	Barbara Smith	B North
Power of the Teacher	Michael Johnson	D North
PreVent-ertainment	Dave May	3D
See Our Sea: Oklahoma Aquarium	Tara Treiber	2A
Writing Together Apart	Bill and Carol Wallace	C North

3:15 p.m. • Closing Session • Assembly Hall

Frosty Troy, Keynote Speaker
Cash Drawing registration closes.

Cash Drawings in Exhibit Hall – 10 minutes after Closing Session ends

5 p.m. • Exhibits Close



Frosty Troy
Editor of the “Oklahoma Observer”
Closing Session Keynote Speaker
3:15 p.m., Assembly Hall

Big Cash Giveaway!

Convention registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 2 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 3:15 p.m.

Cash drawings will be held 10 minutes after the end of the closing session.

You must be present to win.

Cash Prize Sponsors

Be sure to visit the booths of our Cash Prize Contributors and thank them for their continued interest in the OEA and your Convention.

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Curriculum Associates, Inc. – \$100

Horace Mann Companies – \$500

NEA Member Benefits – \$100

NEA ValueBuilders – \$100

National Teacher Associates – \$100

Oklahoma Breast Care Center – \$500

Saturn of Oklahoma City – \$250

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Niki Alderson



Gwyneth C. Ayres



Cindy Ball



Henry Brigman



Cindy Johnson

Ed Fair Presenters Bring Bushels of Ideas

Saving Timmy: School Bus Safety Awareness Campaign

Niki Alderson
Muldraw Public Schools

Educating students on school bus safety is important for every district, and this program allows your program to be as detailed as need be. The puppet show/play script developed by a Muldraw student will be available, as are flyers, coloring books and videos. In Muldraw, high school students tour the district lecturing and performing the puppet show, giving all students valuable bus safety tips and giving the high school students a chance to perform. Cost of the program can range from \$25 to \$100.

Presenting Puppets!

Gwyneth Ayres
Schulter Public Schools

A puppet show for preschool and kindergarten students is the culmination of Presenting Puppets. Before getting to the performance, the fifth grade students work in small groups to analyze a multicultural easy-reader children's book, write a script, create a puppet show complete with puppets and background. Students are given a budget to create their show, must have their script approved and then typed on a computer.

Easy-to-Use Creativity

Cindy Ball
Muskogee Public Schools

At a cost of just pennies per student, State Teacher of the Year Cindy Ball will give visitors to her Ed Fair booth "dozens of ideas for increasing

creativity in the classroom." She will bring three display boards full of ideas and share her successes with each project. Instead of just one lesson, visitors will leave this presentation with lots of ideas.

Spaghetti Structure

Henry Brigman
Durant Public Schools

In this hands-on activity, students build structures with spaghetti and gumdrops. They learn how triangles are basic to all real-world structures. Students discover that the hypotenuse of a right triangle is always longer than either of the other two sides. This activity allows students to express themselves creatively and develop teamwork skills.

Indoor Garden

Cindy Johnson
Union Public Schools

High school students reinforce their knowledge of graphing, mean, median and mode and are introduced to standard deviation during this nine-week project of growing plants indoors. Students plant seeds in each of the 12 sections of an egg carton, watering each section a different amount during the project. Students learn how much water is needed for maximum growth, and then find the mean, median and mode of their plant heights and predict how high their plants will grow.

Storytelling Festival

JoLynne Love
Woodward Public Schools

Gifted and talented (G/T) students

team up with their high school peers in the art department to design and produce a storytelling festival for second graders. Each G/T student reads and outlines five stories. As a group, they then choose four or five stories to learn and assign parts. Art students design t-shirts for the performers, banners and other materials for the festival and serve as guides who escort classes of second graders to a different station every 20 minutes. A luncheon wraps up the activity.

Special Ways With Food

Marjorie Ray
Haskell Public Schools

Students always get excited about a project that involves a party. This unit requires groups of students to pick a theme or culture to celebrate, and plan a menu and decorations around the theme. The group creates an invitation on a computer program, invites friends, decorates the room to match the theme, cooks appropriate food and then cleans up after the celebration.

Integrating Math and Art through Parametric Equations and Transformations

Linda Roop
Poteau Public Schools

Advanced math students in 11th and 12th grades integrate math and art in this unit. It gives students an opportunity to work with parametric equations, set parameters to affect transformations and study color analysis. For this project, the students need access to the Internet, colored pencils, white paper and construction paper.

Spanish Unit for Elementary

Kathryn Shafer
Shattuck Public Schools

Shattuck third graders look forward to a Cinco de Mayo fiesta through this social studies unit. Students gain an awareness of Spanish culture, covering literacy, math and arts. They learn basic Spanish words, work math problems in Spanish and make serapes, maracas and piñatas. At a fiesta to end the unit, students dress in Spanish clothing, enjoy Mexican food prepared by the school food service workers and perform songs in Spanish and English for their families.

Add a Dash of Space Photography to Your Geography

Pat Smith
Broken Arrow Public Schools

Students develop a new perspective of familiar landforms and a better understanding of others in this geography unit for elementary students. During this three-week project, they strengthen geographic skills; identify, evaluate and draw conclusions from different kinds of maps, aerial and space photographs, atlases and computer-based technologies; and develop a use of mental mapping to organize information and construct landforms.

Visit these creative OEA members in the Exhibit Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

JoLynn Love



Marjorie W. Ray



Linda Roop



Kathryn Shafer



Pat Smith



Workshop Descriptions

11:30 a.m.

The Citizen & the Constitution

Michael Reggio

11:30 a.m., Room 2B

This curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Each grade level – upper elementary, middle and high school – is provided with grade-appropriate textbooks containing lessons and activities. These materials satisfy many PASS objectives as well as help prepare students for the state-mandated Criterion Referenced Tests. Funded by U.S. Congress.

Conscious Discipline in the Lives of Teachers and Children

Carl Porter

11:30 a.m., Room 2A

Teachers will explore how others have used Dr. Becky Bailey's "Conscious Disciplines" to guide students to more helpful behaviors with positive and healthy words and activities. Based on brain research, these ideas can benefit children's long-term emotional health and change the lives of teachers.

Data-Driven Decision-Making: EXPLORE-PLAN-ACT

Johnny Morrow, Cindy Brown, Dan Craig

11:30 a.m., Room 2G

The presentation will focus on the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) program of the Oklahoma State Regents. Participants will discuss the use of longitudinal data that is provided to the school by the EPAS program, which may be utilized in improving ACT scores, increasing API scores and enhancing curriculum development.

Students to Do the Work

Tina Page

11:30 a.m., Room 3G

Strategies, procedures and instructional techniques that let you get students to turn in the work and turn on the brain. Mrs. Page has 26 years of experience that spans Advanced Placement to Alternative education. Don't throw in the towel or water down the work when students will want to succeed.

The Grammar Key: Techniques for Punctuation and Grammar

Robert Conklin

11:30 a.m., Room 3A

Tired of repeating the same old instruction over grammar and punctuation? You will marvel at how easily this program facilitates teaching punctuation and writing. Learn proven, professional techniques for making English the easiest subject to teach, with unique tips for motivating students to write.

Hilarity Therapy

John Irvin, C.S.P.

11:30 a.m., Room D South

The ability to see the positive side of things is essential to our vision, our relationships, productivity, problem solving and our health. This entertaining and inspirational presentation gives us the necessary skills and reminds us of the power of seeing the positive side. John is a favorite wherever he presents!

Moving Teacher Standards Into the Twenty-First Century

Kyle Dahlem, State Regents for Higher Education

11:30 a.m., Room 2C

How can teaching standards provide a road map to guide novice teachers through their initial classroom experiences, a structure to help experienced professionals become more effective and a means to focus school improvement? The Oklahoma model proposes to do that very thing. Preview the future in teaching standards and evaluation in this session.

Munch on Lunch with the Author Bunch

Darleen Bailey Beard, Gwendolyn Hooks, Anna Myers and Bill & Carol Wallace

11:30 a.m., Conference Room A

Here's your chance to have a yummy box lunch and spend an hour listening to some of your favorite authors discuss books, schools, reading and writing. Tickets for the Author Lunch will be sold the morning of the Convention on a first-come basis at \$10. **Space is limited**, so plan to come early to register for convention and then get your ticket for lunch.

National Board Certification

Janice Swartz, NBCT

11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Room 3B

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

No Child Left Behind, But What About the Teachers?

Tim Dedman, NEA

11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., Room C North

The landmark reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, also known as No Child Left Behind) was adopted in Fall 2001 with overwhelming bipartisan support of Congress. Two years later, what effect is this law having? What has been the effect on the profession of teaching? What can we expect in the near future?

Parental Involvement

Ronda Mikles

11:30 a.m., Room C South

Let's face it; in today's world growing up under the care of both parents is becoming rarer. Schools take on more responsibility in students' growth and development. Take a look

at various types of parental outreach, explore creative strategies and activities to involve parents and your community and discover some small things you can do that will have positive impact.

PreVent-ertainment: Creatively Preventing Drugs and Bullying

Dave May

11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Room 3D

If you are looking for creative ways to reach your students with prevention & life-skill messages, Dave is the man for you. A master ventriloquist and magician, Dave specializes in educational programs. From Substance Abuse to Bullying Prevention to Goal Setting, Dave will inspire you with his unique approach.

Pygmalion: Secrets of Motivation

Michael Johnson

11:30 a.m., Room D North

Dr. Michael Johnson, author and national columnist, provides a unique blend of stories, music and empirical research to illustrate key behaviors of powerful educators. Join Michael for a highly interactive (and entertaining) session on student motivation and learn for yourself why he received high marks from participants who heard him last year at Convention.

Seeing to Write

Greg Stiver

11:30 a.m., Room 2D

"Don't tell, *show!*" is the familiar instruction given to writing students. It is not, however, possible to show anything that has not truly been *seen*. Seeing to Write will demonstrate how visual art processes may be used to stimulate fresh perceptions in writing. Come prepared to use your eyes, your hearts and your hands and learn the meaning of life at the same time.

Strengthening Your Creative Skills

Richard Hight

11:30 a.m. & 12:45 p.m., Room 3C

Even creative people need a constant injection of fresh ideas. In this session, emphasis will be placed on building those skills and tearing down the barriers which impede a flourishing creativity.

Teacher Retirement

Jacqueline Shannon, Roy Byrd, Lou Wilcoxson

11:30 a.m., Room B North

Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System, Oklahoma Retired Educators Association and Social Security Administration host a pre-retirement seminar for active teachers nearing retirement. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Plan to attend if retirement happens to be in your future plans.

Ukrainian Kaleidoscope

Sergei Shapoval

11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., Room 3E

Sergei will take the audience on a cultural adventure to Ukraine, one of the leading farming, industrial and

mining regions in Europe. The program will feature slides, video, folk dancing, musical instruments and active involvement of the audience. There will be information as to how to bring this program and others like it to your own students, whether they are kindergarten or college.

12:45 p.m.

"Classics Illustrated" Comics: Frankenstein, Lorna Doone & Me

Bill McCloud

12:45 p.m., Room 3B

Bill McCloud, author of "What Should We Tell Our Children About Vietnam?" and prototypical Baby Boomer, looks at the history, controversy and legacy of the "Classics Illustrated" comic books that originally had their run from 1941 to 1971. Along the way Bill will be taking sideways glances at irate reading teachers, the Comics code of the 1950s, the use of these comics in college courses, current state of reading among youngsters, the use of comics in the classrooms today and more.

Classroom Management Strategies

Linda Harrison

12:45 p.m., Room 2A

A veteran teacher who has trained OEA's "I Can Do It" Classroom Management workshop shares a plethora of strategies she has used successfully in her 30 years of teaching middle school and secondary. You'll come away with new ideas that can be implemented immediately in your classroom.

Grantwriting 101

Diann Neal

12:45 and 2 p.m., Room 3A

Grantwriting 101 is designed to give you a hands-on approach to applying for grants. Have you ever attended a workshop on grant writing and walked away with a feeling of helplessness? Well that won't happen here! We will provide you with information that will give you an edge when competing for grant dollars. This workshop received high marks from last year's participants.

Global Education Across the Curriculum

Kyle Dahlem and Buffy Edwards, State Regents for Higher Education

12:45 p.m., Room 2 C

Since 9/11, a new set of skills and knowledge is necessary when teaching the PASS objectives in all subjects and grade levels. "Global" is not a work to be mistrusted, but a concept to be integrated because Oklahoma's economic future depends on a workforce that is prepared for global competition. Explore the global concept in this session.

ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name!

Liz Picone, NEA Member Benefits

12:45 p.m., Room D South

All of us are fair game for the

Workshop Descriptions

predatory identity thief. Learn how to minimize your risk by managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with heightened sensitivity. Liz, a popular presenter wherever she goes, will be sharing information that every educator should hear about one of the fastest growing crimes in America.

IDEA/ESEA – The Intersection of Access and Outcomes

Katherine Bishop
12:45 p.m., Room B North

Both IDEA and ESEA hold a multitude of requirements and expectations for states and school districts. Through this presentation, participants will have the opportunity to explore how ESEA may affect IDEA's reauthorization, clarify which provisions of ESEA reference IDEA and raise key issues that need to be considered regarding the intersection of IDEA and ESEA.

PASS for Language Arts and State Testing

Claudette Goss,
State Dept. of Education

12:45 p.m., Room 2G

A look at PASS 2002: Relating it to classroom instruction and student assessment. Reviewing the state test blueprints and then applying them regularly to instruction can maximize preparation time teachers spend with students on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 10th grade multiple choice and writing tests.

Preparing for Retirement: It's Never Too Early or Too Late!

Clyde Pendergraft
12:45 p.m., Room 3D

What should you be doing today to be ready for tomorrow? Clyde will explain how the "3-legged stool" approach can help you have peace of mind as you enter your retirement years. Beginning teachers should look at this approach to financial planning as they begin their careers as well as those who see retirement in the near future.

Project Citizen

Michael Reggio
12:45 p.m., Room 2B

Project Citizen, a 5th through 9th grade program, is directly concerned with student citizenship involvement in the community and teaching students citizenship skills. Not only do students learn about how their government works, they will have an opportunity to become involved in helping make their local community (and school) a better place. Besides empowering students to make a difference, this program helps students with Criterion Referenced Tests.

Reading Instruction: No Teacher Left Behind

Sandy Washmon, NBCT
12:45 p.m., Room 3G

Participants will receive an overview of professional development that will enable educators to utilize the

necessary knowledge and strategies to teach beginning reading utilizing a balanced, integrated approach. It bridges the gap between research and practice for educators.

Social Studies 3rd-5th: Hints on How to Enhance the Highpoints

Joy Brewer

12:45 p.m., Room C South

Joy Brewer, OEA's Teachers Teaching Students 2003 Award winner, will share her expertise in preparing for those spring tests. Teachers will be provided with methods to assist in student learning, mastery and retention of information likely to appear on state CRTs. These include how to: 1) remember the 5 tribes on the state seal; 2) remember our 1st Amendment rights, and; 3) review for a test using a game which addresses all the learning styles.

Success F.A.C.T.S.

Victoria Lee

12:45 p.m., Room D North

The author of four Oklahoma books, Victoria works with individuals and organizations in communicating the value of positive pursuits. Her presentation is a unique blend of real-life experiences, including overcoming seemingly insurmountable personal challenges. She believes Success is built on the F.A.C.T.S.

Why Writing Matters

Clara Southerland

12:45 p.m., Room 2D

Writing well is not a skill owned by Language Arts. "Writing across the curriculum" is not a cliché; writing in *all* subject areas provides deeper and more meaningful understanding of everything students are learning. This session will provide activities as well as research on the effectiveness of writing strategies.

————— 2:00 p.m. —————

Action for Healthy Oklahoma Kids

Deana Hildebrand, Becky Evans and Carol Bush

2 p.m., Room 2B

Action for Healthy Oklahoma Kids (AHOK) seeks to reduce childhood obesity in Oklahoma. AHOK focuses on healthy eating and physical activity within the school environment. Speakers serving on the expert panel address issues related to nutrition, physical activity and the link between good health and academics.

Behind the Scenes with an Oklahoma Author

Darleen Bailey Beard

2 p.m., Room 3C

Meet Darleen Bailey Beard, winner of the 2003 Oklahoma Book Award for her novel "The Babbs Switch Story," as she discusses her new novel to be released fall 2004, "Operation Clean Sweep." Darleen will show slides and discuss behind-the-scenes stories about her books and her writing. Also,

there will be a Q&A with information about her author visits and door prizes, including a \$100 discount coupon for her next visit to your school.

The Challenge of Change

Ronda Mikles

2 p.m., Room C South

Why is change such a bad word?

Does it seem more like a challenge or chore than an opportunity? Come discover the purpose of change, discuss four responses to change, explore the vital steps to deal with change, examine how change can be a blessing in disguise and ultimately understand how to view change as positive.

Floor Mat Learning

Francis Ritter

2 p.m., Room 3G

Do any of your students experience these problems: spelling, remembering letters in a name, dyslexic-like symptoms, number recognition, telling time? During this session, Francis will share research-based ideas and activities as well as "make and take" cross-lateral aids.

ESP – It's Important to Communicate

Sherrie Barnes

2 p.m., Room 3F

Education Support Professionals are important members of our school teams. Often, however, they feel isolated and out of touch. Sherrie knows the value of using newsletters and flyers to keep members and potential members informed. She will share the "frame" concept and discuss how local ESPs can help each other and build stronger associations.

The Honor System

John Irvin, C.S.P.

2 p.m., Room D South

This program is based on the body of science known as "attitude enrichment." Participants are actively involved in activities and discussion that help explore and develop vital issues of leadership, attitude and vision.

Integrating the Arts Through Your Curriculum

Roxy Merklin, NBCT

2 p.m., Room 2D

As more and more art programs are cut from school in Oklahoma, teachers and school districts are hurting for ways to prepare students for Art PASS. Roxy will share a myriad of ideas on how to include art projects through your other curriculum areas. This veteran, award-winning art teacher has worked with elementary through high school AP students.

K-12 Programs of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Johnny Morrow, Cindy Brown, Dan Craig

2 p.m., Room 2G

This session will provide an overview of the K-12 programs of the State Regents. OHLAP, GearUp, EPAS,

Summer Math and Science Academies and other programs that relate to enhanced Student Preparation for College Success will be the main areas of discussion.

The Men's Program

Steve Nedbalek,
State Department of Health

2 p.m., Room 2C

The Men's Program is a sexual-assault prevention, peer-education program for young men. Male students who participate in it 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

Penalties for Public Service – Your Social Security Benefits May Be at Risk

Barbara Smith

2 p.m., Room B North

Teachers as well as firemen, policemen and others across the U.S. are losing major portions of the Social Security benefits they paid into for years. Thousands of teachers, including many in Oklahoma, are losing benefits they have been banking on to receive when they retire. Learn more about this little known provision and what you can do to protect yourself and others.

The Power of the Teacher

Michael Johnson

2 p.m., Room D North

Come prepared to laugh, learn and enjoy this former professional rodeo cowboy turned industrial psychologist and author as he shares his beliefs on why you are the most important person in the world. Michael is always a favorite at Convention.

See Our Sea: The Oklahoma Aquarium's Education Programs

Tara Treiber

2 p.m., Room 2A

Find out how the Oklahoma Aquarium can help you integrate marine education into your curriculum. This workshop will provide helpful information about on-site education programs and field trips, as well as an overview of our WOW (Water On Wheels) outreach education programs, Adopt-A-Fish and supplemental education programs.

Writing Together Apart

Bill and Carol Wallace

2 p.m., Room C North

Both authors and teachers, Bill and Carol Wallace talk about the early days of their writing careers and the writing process. Since kids (and teachers) are always interested in the inspiration for stories, there will also be a slide presentation about where the ideas develop – a place that all teachers or children can find for themselves.

Section & Special Interest Meetings 2003

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

Thursday, October 16, Noon-3:00 p.m.
Russell Room, Downtown Doubletree Hotel

OEA Black Caucus

Business Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Woodward Room, Downtown Doubletree Hotel

OEA Budget Hearing

Thursday, October 16, 12:45-2 p.m.
Coventry/Westminster Room, Downtown Doubletree Hotel

OEA Women's Caucus

Thursday, October 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Remington Room, Downtown Doubletree Hotel

Oklahoma Reading Association/Title I Special Interest Group

Thursday, October 16, 8-9 a.m.
Downtown Doubletree Hotel, Woodward Room
Presenter: Debbie Smith, Director of Reading/Literacy, State Dept. of Ed.
The No Child Left Behind ACT of 2001 invests in teaching practices that have been demonstrated to work. It aims to foster an environment in which every child can learn and succeed. The focus for reading is to prevent reading failure by providing high-quality early education to young children, especially children from low-income families. It also aims to ensure that every child can read at grade level or above by the end of third grade through the implementation of instructional programs and materials, assessments and professional development grounded in scientifically based reading research. This session will focus on the most current federal program information as it relates to reading instruction at all grade levels.

School Nurse Organization of Oklahoma

Thursday, October 16
Registration begins at 11 a.m., program at 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room B South, Convention Center
"Emergency Preparedness - Is Your School Ready?," followed by SNOO business meeting. (Open to SNOO members only.)

2003 Convention Committee Members

Becky Felts, Chair, OEA Vice President

Charles Brady, Elmore City, SW-D

Kareen Brooks, Byng, SE-A

Kelly Curtright, Putnam City, OKC-B

Karen Dawson, Tulsa, Tulsa-B

Cheryl Dowell, Comanche, SW-C

Barbara Gwinn, University of Central Oklahoma, Student OEA

Terrie Keck, Marlow, SW-C

Sylvia Mahaffey, Marlow, SW-C

Kim Morris, Mannford, Tulsa-C

Shirley Nero, Porum, NE-B

Sandra Pendergraft, Retired

Charlotte Pittman, Dewey County, NW-D

Janet Stowers, Wagoner, NE-B

Debby Stine, OEA Staff Liaison

Convention Registration Free to Members, \$25 for Nonmembers

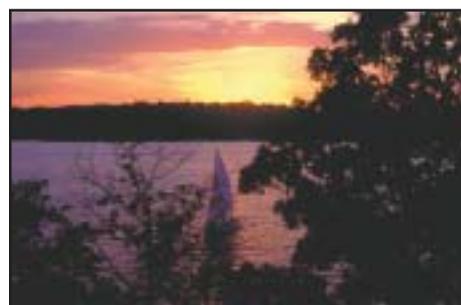
Downtown Parking

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 1000 parking spaces available. Additional parking is also located at the Doubletree Hotel.



Make a Weekend of It

Tulsa and northeast Oklahoma are great places to visit. Bring your family and after Convention spend the weekend visiting the sites, like the Jazz Hall of Fame (above), the new Oklahoma Aquarium and any of the beautiful lakes and state parks near Tulsa, like Lake Keystone (below)



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.

Parking Passes

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

Shuttle to the Convention Center From Expo Square

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.

Free parking and shuttle bus services will be available on the north end of Lot 12 at Expo Square, 21st and Yale. Exit Broken Arrow Expressway on Harvard or Yale northbound to 21st. Automobiles exiting on Yale will turn west on 21st and proceed to the north end of Lot 12. Crosstown Expressway traffic will exit on Harvard or Yale and proceed to 21st.

Shuttle buses will run all day beginning at 7:15 a.m. with the final departure at 5 p.m.

Tulsa Hotels

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

Doubletree Hotel

OEA Convention Headquarters
Downtown Tulsa
16 West 7th Street
918/587-8000
Rates (\$94 Single/Double Rate)

Ramada Inn

3131 E. 51st
I-44 & Harvard at 51st
918/743-9811
Rates (\$55 Double/Single Rate)

Emergency Phone Numbers

OEA Information Booth,
Exhibit Area
918/596-9012

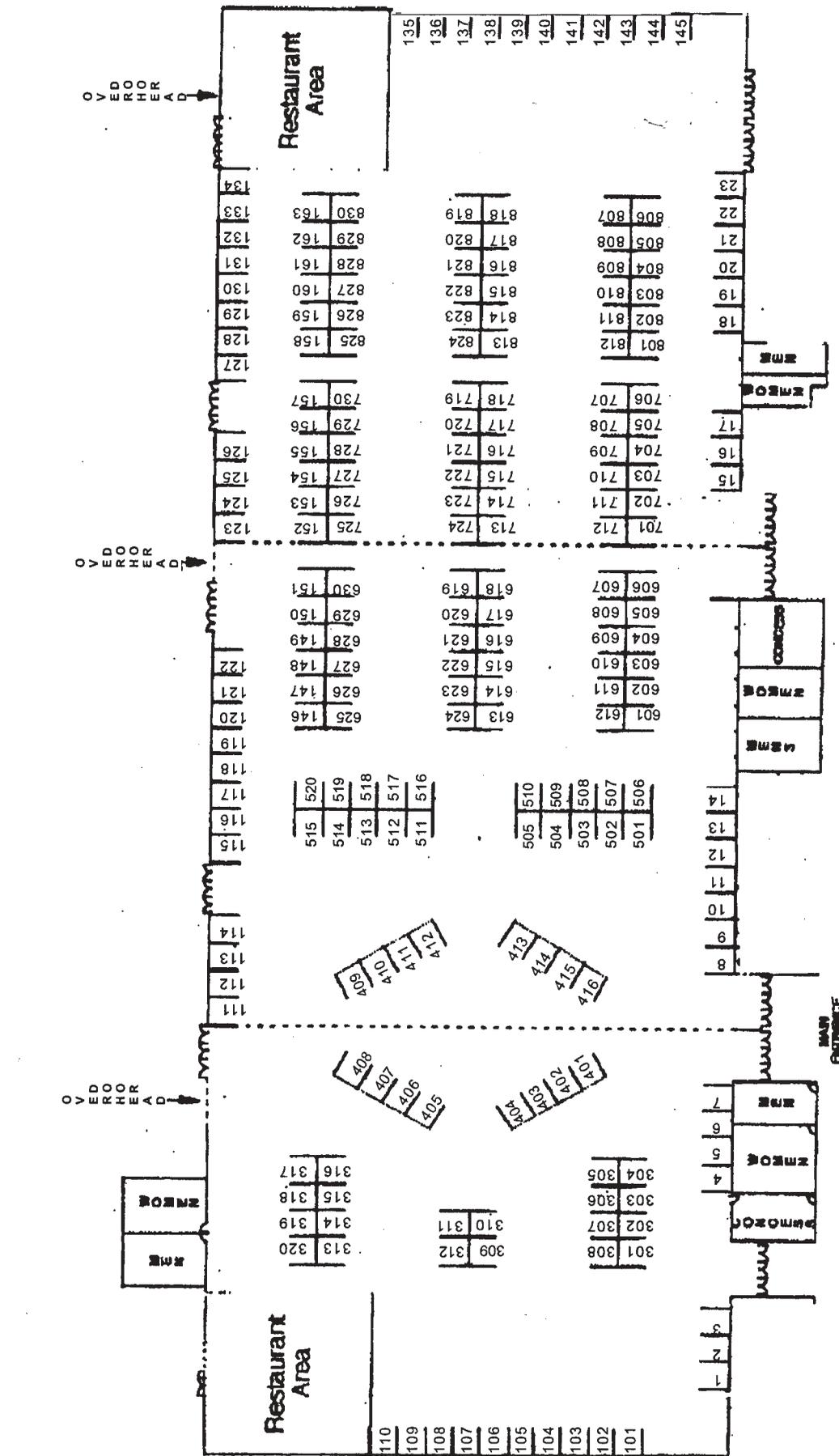
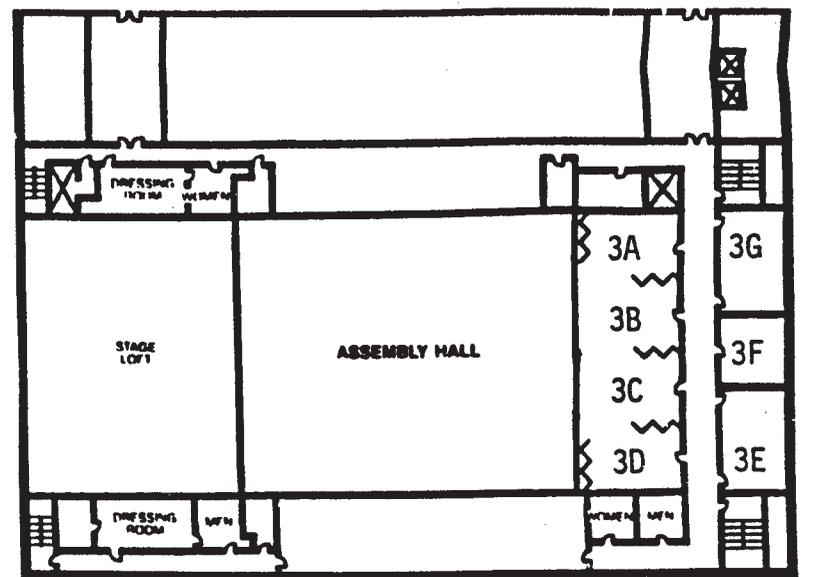
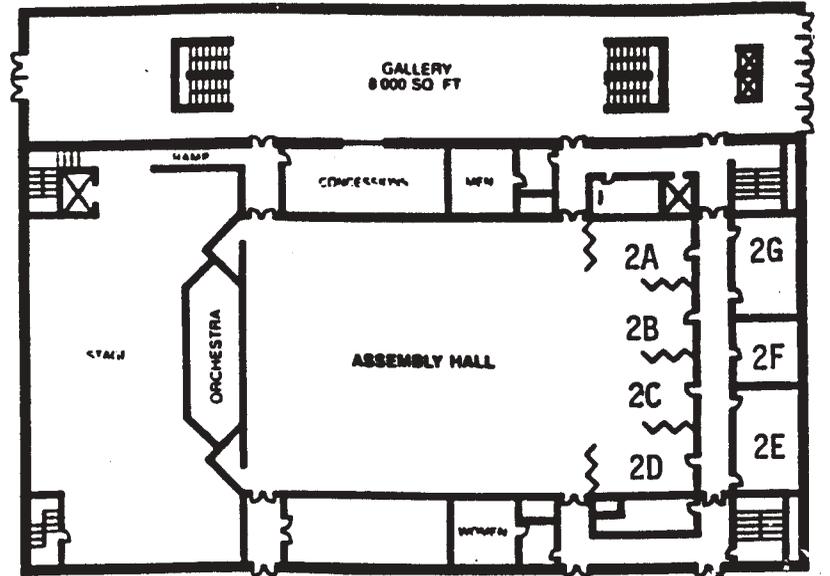
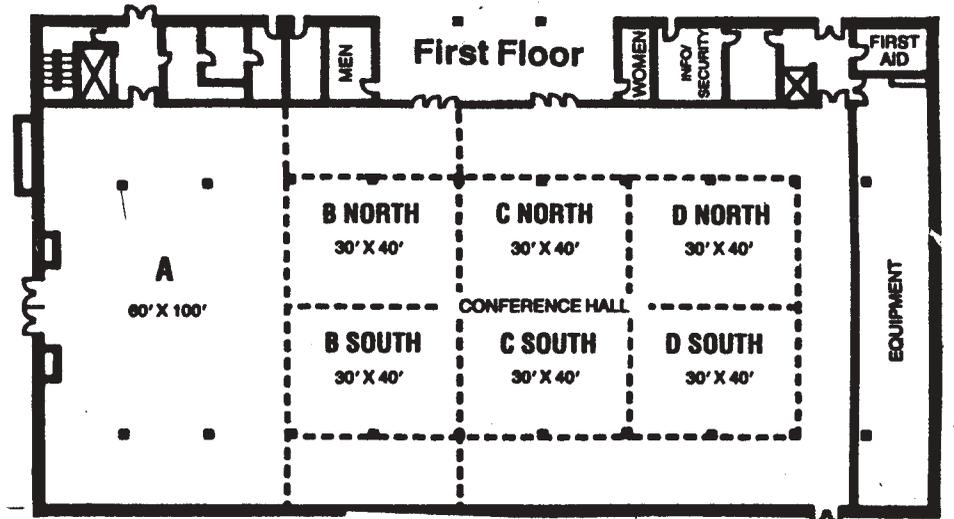
Presenter Check In
918/596-9023

Exhibitors

**Exhibits open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
You must be registered to enter the exhibit hall
or register for prize giveaway.**

Organization	Booth	Organization	Booth
AA&A Fund Raising	163	Nystrom	141
AA as a Resource	160	OEA Education Fair	619-620-621-622-627-628-629-630-723-724
Abitibi Recycling	726	OEA Exhibit Information	8-9-10
Ag in the Classroom	123-124	OEA Membership	408
AIG VALIC	414	OEA PAC	407
Alpha Plus	162	Oklahoma Bar Association	303-304
Ameba Publishing	130	Oklahoma Blood Institute	104
American Fidelity	401-402-403	Oklahoma Breast Care Center	404
Aquatic Resources Education	158	Oklahoma College Savings Plan	515
Arbonne International	618	Ok Education Today	17
Arkansas River Museum	140	Oklahoma Educators Credit Union	413
ArtsPower	143	Oklahoma Energy Resources Board	623
Asterix Meeting Needs	7	Oklahoma Project WET	156
Audio Optical Systems	613	Oklahoma Project WILD	157
Author Victoria Lee	721	Oklahoma Reading Association	148
Bacone College	111	Oklahoma State Dept. Of Education	708
Bekk Enterprises	117	OK Veterinary Medicine Association	517
Blood and Guts	617	Omniplex	802
Blue Cross/Blue Shield OK	302	Oral Roberts University	805
Capstone Press/National Geographic	313-314-319-320	OREA	406
Cay Cays Trinkets	5-6	OSU Aviation & Space Education	306-307
Cherokee Heritage Indian Education	101	OSU Education Extension	308
Children's Museum	505	OSU-Okmulgee	518
City of Tulsa	715	OSU-Tulsa	626
Classroom Kaleidoscopes	501-502	OSU Writing Project	504
Computer Automation	312	OU Distance Learning	713
Connections Today	722	Pearson Learning Group	703-704
Country Creations	152-153	Perfection Learning	503
Crafts by George	161	Porch School Supply	121-122
Create a Great Day!	129	PreVent-ertainment	602
Curriculum Associates	510	Prentice Hall	606
Deanan Gourmet Popcorn	516	Red Carpet	12
Department of Environmental Quality	125	Renaissance Learning	15
Discovery Toys	144	Rigby-Steck-Vaughn	512-513
East Central University	509	Rogers County Conservation District	159
EduServ	511	Rosen Classroom Materials	311
Everyday Mathematics	108-109	Ruby Crystal	825
Follett Library Resources	102	Rush Creek Accessories	142
Frog Publications	612	Saturn UAW/Staples	315-316-317-318
Glenco McGraw-Hill	711-712	Saxon Publishers	519-520
Great Expectations	601	Schoolmate	714
Great Source Education	608	School Specialty	706
Guidance Division/CareerTech	716	Scott Foresman	701-702
Gypsy Supply Co.	110	Seasons Today	113-114
Handwriting Without Tears Inc.	719	Shurley English	814
Harcourt School Publishers	305	Silver Trends Jewelry Co.	115
HealthChoice	309	Southwestern State University	707
Heritage Treasures	818	SRA/McGraw-Hill	811-812
Hilarity Therapy	819	STARBASE/TASM	105-106-107
Holt Reinhart & Winston	709-710	Stars & Stripes Fundraising	616
Homemade Gourmet	301	Steck-Vaughn	514
Horace Mann Companies	415-416	Stickees Inc.	16
Houghton Mifflin	609	Sundance Company	624
INCOG Air Quality Division	730	TCCD/Blue Thumb	155
Interactive Books	120	The Cultural Kaleidoscope	625
Java Dave's Fund Raisers	14	The Grammar Key	610
"Know-It's" The Link to Reading	806	The Great Body Shop	13
Lakeshore	614-615	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	147
Learning Disabilities	508	Thomson Learning	137-138- 139
Lisa's Xtras J' Ville, AR	135-136	Tulsa Community College	604
Little River Zoo/Sam Noble	150	Tulsa Teachers Credit Union	725
Macmillian/McGraw-Hill	717-718	Tulsa Technology Center	611
McDougal Littell	607	Tulsa Zoo Friends	151
Michael Johnson Books	11	University of Phoenix Online	813
MidFirst Bank	605	Usborne Books At Home	146
Mondo Publishing	310	USDA-Natural Resources Cons. Service	126
Narconon Arrowhead	824	Visual Impact	830
NEA Member Auto & Home Insurance	409	Whaley Gradebook Co.	4
NEA Member Benefits	411	World Neighbors	507
NEA Member Care	412	Wright Group/McGraw-Hill	705
NEA Value Builder	410	You-Niquely Yours	506
Not So Shabby Chic	131	Zaner-Bloser	801
NTA	405	Zat's Art	112

Floor Maps for the Tulsa Convention Center and the Doubletree Downtown Hotel



You Decide

A monthly column of member opinion.

This issue's question:
"Should the local Association be responsible for selecting members of the district's staff development committee?"

Locals Should Choose Those Willing To Serve

By Lori Shannon
Guymon Public Schools

I feel that most locals have staff more than willing to volunteer for committees. Some people have a stronger push or drive from different points of view. If they are willing to give the time and the effort needed to be pushed on and forward, then I do not feel that a local association should have the need for selecting members.

I feel that everyone should have a fair chance and should be allowed to shine and show off these talents.

Committees take a lot of time and effort and if you have local people that want to improve and make things work, then let them go for it. Get 'er done!

I know that when I have a cause I will do whatever it takes and do my part to make things better, so to answer the question: Let the local Association be responsible to place the best people they have who are willing to make a difference and get things done. They are the people who should be on the staff development committee.



Lori Shannon

Next Issue's Question:

"Pres. Bush's omnibus No Child Left Behind education bill requires all teachers to be highly qualified by 2005-06. Does meeting the standards as written in NCLB prove you are highly qualified?"

Columns should be 250-300 words. E-mail your responses to Patti Razien at prazien@okea.org or mail them to her at OEA Northwest Office, 2315 Downs Ave., Woodward, OK, 73801. The deadline is October 10.

OETT Awards Technology Grants to 21 Schools

Twenty-one Oklahoma schools will share \$1.6 million in technology grants, the Oklahoma Educational Technology Trust (OETT) announced recently. Each school will receive \$79,000 to purchase equipment and train staff to help students succeed using technology.

The OETT board of directors includes David DuVall, executive director for the Oklahoma Education Association.

The 21 schools receiving grants are: Bridge Creek Elementary; Park Lane Elementary, Broken Arrow; Madison and Truman Elementaries, Norman; Byng High School; Oaks Mission Public School; Grand Avenue Elementary and Chickasha Middle School, Chickasha; Harvest Hills and James L. Dennis Elementaries, Putnam City; Cleveland High School; Rattan High School; Mark Twain Elementary, Duncan; Angus Valley El-

ementary, Sand Springs; Howe Public Schools; Turpin Elementary; Madill Elementary; Attucks Alternative High School, Vinita; Maysville High School; Woodward Elementary Schools; and Central Elementary, Moore.

These grants are the first in a three-year, \$5.25 million granting initiative by OETT focusing on improving student achievement, integrating technology and leadership.

The OETT obtained its initial \$30 million in funding through a grant from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company under an agreement reached with Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

"The goal of OETT is to facilitate authentic learning using technology," said DuVall. "It's likely these schools couldn't afford this investment otherwise."



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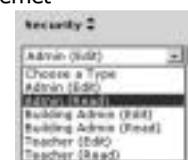
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From Your Counsel

Highly Qualified Info Must Be Requested

By Brandon Webb
Associate General Counsel

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that, at the beginning of every school year, school districts which receive Title I funds must notify the parents of each child attending a Title I school that parents may request information about the qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. However, one large problem with this is that many states, including Oklahoma, have not developed the standards needed to determine whether some teachers are highly qualified.

The Act does say that "parents may request" certain information about their child's teachers and, "upon request," the District will provide:

1) Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria

for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

ESEA mandates that information must be collected and disseminated in a manner which protects the privacy of individuals.

2) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.

3) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

4) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and their

qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, an "individual Title I School must notify parents:"

1) When their child has been assigned to a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified requirements.

2) When their child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified requirements.

The Act goes on to mandate that information must be collected and disseminated in a manner which protects the privacy of individuals.

Therefore, districts must take precautions when collecting information about teachers to ensure that information is not revealed to individuals who do not have a right to know, which may include certain administrators, staff and teachers. Moreover, districts should only notify parents of information when requested or required by law, should only provide information regarding the child's specific teachers,



Brandon Webb

and not provide information regarding teachers that the child does not have.

Hopefully Oklahoma's State Department of Education will soon clarify all the standards for determining who will be considered highly qualified. In the meantime, if you believe your district is not following the requirements of the law, please contact your regional OEA Advocacy Specialist for assistance.

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Risk Pop Quiz

- A** Of my gross household income, I spend the following percentage on debts like credit card, car payments, rent or mortgage payments:
1. More than 33%
 2. Between 10% and 33%
 3. Less than 10%
- B** In case of an emergency, I have savings available to pay:
1. Less than two months of living expenses
 2. Two to four months of living expenses
 3. Five months or more of living expenses
- C** The chance that I may lose my job or face a large financial burden in the next year is:
1. Somewhat likely
 2. Not very likely
 3. Not likely at all
- D** Regarding the risk of investing, I will change to another investment if:
1. There is any drop in value
 2. The value drops by 20% during a given year
 3. It doesn't bother me if my investment drops in value. I might even buy more since prices are lower.
- E** The majority of my money is currently invested in:
1. CDs, Passbook Savings, Money Market Funds or Treasury Bonds
 2. Stocks from large corporations, mutual funds that are pretty reliable, or high-quality corporate bonds.
 3. Predominantly small company stocks or aggressive mutual funds.
- F** Regarding my investment objectives:
1. I prefer a guaranteed account, one where my money is absolutely safe, even if it means I earn a lower rate.
 2. I want investments that show steady growth. I need to beat inflation so I'm willing to take some risk.
 3. I prefer a more aggressive mix of investments, some with moderate growth, but mostly those with higher risk and the chance for higher returns.

Question Answer

A

B

C

D

E

+ F

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10-15	Moderate Investor
16-18	Aggressive Investor

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VB391003

Two Steppin' in Norman and Tulsa

By Doug Folks

In the midst of the state's worst budget crisis last spring, school districts everywhere were forced to cut programs and staff. And with more cuts possibly looming on the horizon this year, many local Associations were content to settle for step raises and nothing else.

Some locals, though, were able to negotiate more than just steps. The wins for teachers in Norman and Tulsa, and for support personnel in El Reno, are great examples.

In Norman, teachers received not only this year's step, but also the step they lost last year when the salary schedule was frozen. With some steps worth more than \$1,000, some veterans received more than \$2,000 raises.

"Receiving two steps was beyond what most of our members would have expected," said Bryan Young, president of the Professional Educators of Norman. "The administration did a good job of managing the budget to put us in a position for this raise."

While Norman Public Schools did not conduct a reduction in force (RIF), temporary contracts for 83 faculty were not renewed for this year. Most of those positions have been refilled, but the overall number of teachers in the district has been reduced by about 30 for this year.

Cuts to every area of the district budget along with unexpected money from the state have allowed Norman to increase its fund balance from 1.6 percent to 4.2 percent.

"I appreciate Dr. Siano's commitment to our teachers," Young said of the two steps. "Even though the administration didn't make its goal of a 5 percent carry over, Dr. Siano and the board took care of our teachers."

Tulsa teachers will also receive this year's step and a step they lost last year, if the state doesn't cut common

education's budget.

The retroactive steps will come in November and again in March provided Tulsa Public Schools is cut no more than 2 percent by the state. The district also agreed to provide the steps if cuts are made and then later restored by the state.

"We think this is one of the most positive contracts we've had in some time," said Steve Stockley, Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association president.

Of the 1,800 Tulsa teachers who voted in the ratification election, 99.3 percent voted in favor of accepting the contract.

In other developments of the contract, Tulsa's board agreed to pay teachers for the length of service they have in Oklahoma, not just in the district. For years, the district placed veteran teachers taking jobs in Tulsa on lower steps, regardless of how much experience they brought to the district. Now, all Tulsa teachers will be brought up to a step that equals their overall teaching experience, some moving as many as five or six steps.

"Giving people credit for all of their years is an incredible victory for our teachers," Stockley said. "We couldn't be happier."

In other bargaining news, every El Reno support professional who meets the requirements for paraprofessionals in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will receive a 50-cent-per-hour raise.

Stillwater teachers can now count professional development toward bettering their position on the salary schedule. The district has lanes for bachelor's, bachelor's plus 16, master's and master's plus 16. Now, teachers can use professional development points to get up to 50 percent credit in advancing to the next lane.