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Fellow Coaches:

You probably don't hear it often enough, but on behalf the Oklahoma Coaches Association, let me just say Thank You. Thank you for all your hard work for the student athletes of Oklahoma. Thanks for helping our communities come together in a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship. Your job is important, and you're among the best in the country.

I wish you the best of luck in the coming year, both on the field, the course, or the court, and in the classroom. Coaching is teaching, and you're making a difference in a number of ways.

Your membership in the OCA protects you on the athletic field. To protect yourself in the classroom, I encourage you to join the Oklahoma Education Association. Local OEA associations that negotiate bargain your extra duty salaries in addition to your teaching salaries, benefits and working conditions.

The OEA battles for you in a number of ways. It works tirelessly for public education, serving as a champion for all educators as well as a watchdog against those who want to dismantle public education. OEA's core values are those that all public school employees can embrace: equal opportunity, a just society, democracy, professionalism, partnership, and collective action.

When I was teacher and coach in Oklahoma's public schools, I was always a member of both the OCA and OEA. I encourage you to join the OEA, because we're stronger when we stand together and because you are a teaching professional. And professionals join their professional associations.

Call us if we can help at 405-635-9300. And call the OEA at 800-522-8091 if you have questions or would like to join. Check out all that OEA – the largest teachers association in Oklahoma – has to offer by visiting its website, [okea.org](http://okea.org).

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Milt Bassett  
OCA Executive Director