

THE EDUCATION

FOCUS

FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - Winter 2019

WHAT'S NEXT FOR TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER YEAR 2?

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Looks Toward
the Next Four Years*

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Leave Legacies of Leadership*



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Newly elected Sen. Carri Hicks brought her children to the swearing-in ceremony in December. Hicks, a former OEA member in Deer Creek, was one of 16 educators elected during November's general election. (Photo by Doug Folks.)

We changed the legislature; now what?

By Alicia Priest
OEA President

We said we would ... and we did! Since April 9, OEA has been focused on campaigns and elections. In a press conference flanked by OEA Board members, I said that we had reached a point where we needed to switch tactics to campaigns and elections and elect more people who truly would support funding our public schools. That is just what our members did.

In the primary, we defeated several members of the "Platform Caucus" who voted against the revenue stream to support our schools and raises. Then, in November, we grew our Education Caucus from nine members to 25! In addition to electing some great educators, we re-elected legislators who had been supportive of public education via their votes since the time they were sworn in. Did we win all the elections that we wanted? No. Will the changes we made to the legislature make a difference? ABSOLUTELY!

OEA members truly impacted the elections. We held town hall meetings, candidate forums and coffee talk meet-and-greets all across the state. The Jay Professional Association of Classroom Teachers hosted a candidate forum with more than 100 community folks in attendance. That's just one of the many examples of what you did to make a change. We walked, we called, we knocked doors and we continued

to hear overwhelming support for public education and school funding.

Now what?

Vice President Katherine Bishop and I have been on Listening Tours in the southeast, have reviewed member input from a questionnaire that was distributed using email and social media and have received feedback from local leaders on a conference call. From that input, our team created our Together We're Stronger Year 2 Plan (*see page 7*).

I hope you were able to watch the OEA's December press conference after the Board of Equalization estimated there would be an additional \$600 million in revenue for the upcoming budget. We emphasized how important continued investment in teachers, ESPs and our school budgets were in keeping schools appropriately staffed and able to reach, teach and inspire our students.

One of the complications of the walk-out came from not having good contact information from all our members. We are working with our locals to fix that. Just think, if you joined OEA in the early to mid-90s, you may not have had an email or cell number for us to contact you. Or, you may have had 10 different email addresses since. Help us collect good information so we can contact you. We need home emails because we can't use school emails for legislative and political messages.

Send home email address and cell phone numbers to Jacob Tharp at jttharp@okea.org and let him know you want to receive legislative updates and text messages from OEA.



Alicia Priest

The Together We're Stronger (TWS) Task Force is made up of members who expressed an interest in going the extra mile to help us with TWS Year 2. This group of local leaders, who have been meeting for several weeks, will help connect with locals on a weekly basis with legislative, organizing and communications strategies that locals can use to stay engaged. We meet virtually every Thursday.

Two other things we've been working on are making sure each of our legislators receives a congratulations/introduction letter from our members and developing lobbying plans for coming to the Capitol for TWS Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining the TWS Task Force, send me an email at apriest@okea.org and I'll add you to the list.

We are only as strong as the action we are willing to take. If we continue developing relationships with our legislators, being pro-active in conversations with our elected officials, and keeping the needs of our students at the forefront of our message, we will continue to be the strong voice of advocacy for our students, our schools and our members.

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EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

2019 READ ACROSS AMERICA POSTER CONTEST

Official rules

- Student artists in grades 3-12, draw or paint a picture depicting a hero from literature. Is it Harry Potter or Katniss Everdeen, Abraham Lincoln or Rosa Parks, Ant Man or Wonder Woman? It's your choice.
- Lower elementary students (kindergarten through second grade) may participate through the coloring contest. The official coloring sheet can be downloaded from OEA's website, okea.org/raa.
- All Oklahoma public school students are eligible to enter.
- Entries must be submitted on white, unlined 8 ½ x 11 paper.
- DO NOT FOLD ENTRIES.
- Each entry must include the following information on a label attached to the back of the drawing:
 - o Title of Entry
 - o Student's Name
 - o Grade
 - o School Site
 - o School District
 - o Teacher's name (homeroom or art teacher)
 - o School phone number
- Entries must be hand-drawn or painted. Computer-generated art will not be accepted. Pictures will be judged on creativity, use of color and content.



Deadline

All entries must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, March 1, 2019. Mail, hand-deliver or overnight entries to OEA Focus on Reading, OEA Headquarters, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105. (Entries received after the deadline will not be judged.)

All entries will become the property of the OEA and must meet all contest rules to be eligible for prizes.

Prizes

An Award of Excellence and an Award of Distinction will be given in all four grade categories as well as an overall Best in Show.

- Kindergarten through 2nd grades (coloring contest) (\$25 and \$10 gift cards)
- 3rd-5th grades (\$50 and \$25 gift cards)
- 6th-8th grades (\$50 and \$25 gift cards)
- 9th-12th grades (\$50 and \$25 gift cards)
- Best in Show (\$100 gift card)
- Up to three entries in each category will be named honorable mention (certificates only).

Winners will be announced in March. Prizes for the winning entries will be presented at the winning student's school while honorable mention certificates may be mailed to the winning students' schools.



#OEAvotes

It was November, and we remembered. OEA members across Oklahoma shared “I voted” sticker selfies on Election Day, reminding friends and family to remember education when they hit the polls last fall. Tons of smiles — and a few delightful smirks — were all over social media with the hashtag #OEAvotes.



A legacy of leadership

DuVall retires after nearly 40 years of service to the OEA/NEA

By Bill Guy

For more than 40 years, David DuVall and the Oklahoma Education Association have been synonymous. From member to professional staff, manager to executive director, David has been an important part of the association, playing vital roles in some of the OEA's biggest moments.

An Oklahoma City native and a Northwest Classen High School graduate, David will retire in January from a career in public education and service to OEA members. After completing a degree in English and art history at the University of Oklahoma, he taught English, journalism and photography for one year at Chickasha High School.

It was while teaching English in Norman for five years that he began association work, serving as Professional Educators of Norman president and chairing OEA's Constitution Committee. With encouragement from his then UniServ Director, Lela Odom, who later served as OEA's executive director from 2005 to 2015, David joined the OEA staff as a UniServ director in 1981. During the next 24 years, he worked as OEA's bargaining director, its first research director and as associate executive director, managing the communications, bargaining and research Divisions. In 1997 he was named executive director, serving in that capacity until 2005.

After a four-year stint as executive director for the Colorado Education Association, David served for six years as the National Education Association's Western Region director before coming back home to round out his career as OEA's executive director for a second time, beginning in 2015.

In a recent interview, David provided some reflections on what he described as "a great career with absolutely no regrets."

Education Focus: What was the best thing about your teaching experiences?

David DuVall: I thoroughly enjoyed the subject matter and interacting with the students about literature and grammar. Also, I made wonderful friendships with fellow faculty members, most of us in our early 20s, passionate about the importance of teaching. We became a close-knit group, many of whom still keep in contact.

EF: How did you become involved in the association?

DD: I have always been a member, but it took an invitation from an attractive fellow Norman teacher (Darci O'Grady, now DuVall, his wife of 38 years) to go with her to an association meeting to pique my interest in getting active. I have always been cause-driven, going back to advocacy against the Vietnam War and supporting civil rights during my college days. So, when I realized the association offered an opportunity to put my language and communications skills into the service of member rights and developing "meet and confer" policy proposals, it seemed a natural fit.

EF: Looking back over your association work at all levels, from what do you feel the most sense of accomplishment?

DD: The assurance of health insurance probably illustrates better than any other single issue what the association can do to benefit educators and the entire public education system.

When I began teaching in the '70s, access to health insurance for educators in Oklahoma depended on the school district in which one worked. There was no state plan, no state provision of health insurance. If you worked in an urban or suburban district with a sufficient number of employees to make it feasible to meet an insurance company's risk pool cutoff number, you might be lucky enough to have an individual policy. Even then, you had to pay out-of-pocket expenses, but it could at least be affordable. If you worked in a small district with too few employees to make a group plan attractive to insurance companies, you had to try to find a much more expensive individual plan on the open market. Teachers who got really sick were in big trouble.

In the 1970s, OEA made affordable group health insurance for all education
See "State-paid insurance" on Page 6



OEA has had only three executive directors during the last 27 years, and they were together during David DuVall's (center) retirement reception at association headquarters in December. Joann Waller (right) led OEA from 1992-97; DuVall followed from 1997-2005 and again from 2015-2019. Lela Odom (left), who hired DuVall as a UniServ Director in 1981, served as executive director from 2005 to 2015. (Photo by Doug Folks)

Williams retires after a career of advocacy and organizing

By Doug Folks

David Williams didn't join the Oklahoma Education Association during his first year as a teacher back in 1978. In fact, his father had to shame him into signing up.

But 41 years in education later – 17 as a teacher and 24 as an employee of the Oklahoma Education Association – David retires as one of the organization's biggest advocates for teachers, education support professionals and public education. He leaves behind a legacy of unmatched service to OEA employees and to an association he was just a little reluctant to join in the beginning.

As a local leader for Edmond ACT, David was part of the historic Four Days in April in 1990 when OEA members secured passage of the emergency clause for HB 1017. As an associate executive director, he helped coordinate the association's efforts during the walkout last April. In between, he assisted countless members facing issues in their workplace as their advocate and providing coaching and encouragement to the OEA staff who reported to him.

His path to becoming a strong advocate for OEA members and public education started with a stumble. During David's first year as a junior high geography teacher in Edmond, his father saw a story in the local paper about how the teachers hadn't settled their contract. When he asked David about it, he told his dad he wasn't a member and didn't know anything about it.

That bothered David's father, who was a strong union member as a lineman for Southwestern Bell Telephone. In fact, as a kid, David had walked picket lines with his father when the union had been on strike.

"As I was getting ready to leave, Dad said, 'I'm embarrassed my son is not a member of his union. So I'm going to your school and I'll find your shop steward and pay your dues,'" David said.

David refused the offer and soon thereafter joined EACT and OEA. Sarah

Fairbetter, then-president of EACT, put him to work, making him a building rep, putting him on the grievance committee and eventually asking him to run for vice president. During his teaching career, David served as president of the local and, for many years, was the spokesperson for EACT's bargaining team.

He joined OEA in 1994 as a Uniserv director for Grant, Noble, Payne and Garfield counties. In 1995, OEA changed from a UniServ model to the current team concept, and David became an instructional advocate (now known as a teaching and learning specialist). By 1996, he had moved to advocacy specialist, where he found a true calling.

David thrived, helping locals bargain, creating OEA's first compensation and extra duty comparison schedules and championing for many members facing work-related issues.

Two events come to mind when David thinks about the highlights of his OEA career. He taught himself how to read employee paychecks, which all seem to be different from district to district. That skill wound up saving members tons of money in lost earnings caused by payroll department mistakes on their checks.

"I'm proud that OEA has found about \$1.3 million in errors on paychecks," David said.

The second big success came when he and now-retired OEA staffer Bonnie Hammock won a reduction-in-force hearing for two OEA members in Marlow. The district was eliminating 13 positions, only two of which were OEA members. Just before the hearings, David explained to the superintendent how the firing of the



David Williams says no matter how OEA provides service to its members, the job is and always will be about establishing relationships. (Photo by Doug Folks)

two OEA members was a violation of the district's RIF policy.

"The board came out of executive session before the hearings started and immediately put our members back to work (without a hearing)," he said. "The others were all eliminated, but our members received good representation."

Ten years ago, David replaced Charles McCauley as associate executive director and manager of the Center for Organizing and Leadership, which includes organizing specialists and the team assistants. His duties also included coordinating member benefits and keeping the OEA building in good repair.

"No matter how we're structured, the job always has been and always will be about building relationships and organizing," David said, looking back on his career. "I've been able to establish good relationships with our staff, obviously, and our members, but also with administrators who we sometimes battle with."

Those who know David know the kind of work ethic he embraces. Throughout his OEA tenure, he traveled thousands of

See "Williams" on Page 6

State-paid insurance is a career highlight for DuVall

Continued from Page 4

employees a major goal. The first significant success came in the '80s, giving access to the state employee health insurance program for school district employees across the state. Educators still had to pay their own premiums, but at least they were within more affordable group plans. A few years later, OEA fought for and won legislation that paid for one-third of the individual premium cost, and then in another few years helped achieve the state kicking in another one-third. Legislation passed in 2003 provided fully state-paid single health insurance premiums for education support professionals, followed by a similar state-paid benefit for teachers enacted in 2005.

This 30-year fight highlights a prime example of the importance of membership in the OEA. It takes such an organization, supported by thousands of members throughout the state with a lengthy history and a continuous commitment, to extend and protect these kinds of benefits for educators.

EF: Are there other memorable experiences?

DD: I have to include when, as OEA's research director, I represented the association on Gov. Henry Bellmon's task force that included educators, business leaders and Oklahoma citizens, whose year-long efforts resulted in the Education Reform Act of 1990. And I'll never forget the four days on the Capitol steps when I helped facilitate the statewide walkout resulting in passage of an emergency clause for HB 1017 that gave teachers the biggest raise up to that time.

While I was executive director for the Colorado Education Association, collaboration with the Speaker of the House in the state's legislature helped pass a five-year "time out" of the state's taxpayer bill of rights tax exemption. It pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into Colorado's public schools in the mid-2000s.

I also take pride in helping create the Western Region Organizing Institute that helped train organizers to work with thousands of members in the 10 state affiliates that make up the region.

And of course, the icing on the cake has been coming back home and helping facilitate OEA's Together We're Stronger campaign that resulted in last year's

walkout with as many as 50,000 public education employees and supporters advocating at the Capitol. We achieved the first state tax increase in 28 years, which funded the largest teacher pay raise in our state's history, including a dedicated raise for ESPs for only the second time in Oklahoma history. This is a remarkable achievement, especially so, given the three-fourths vote requirement to pass revenue in Oklahoma, the most stringent such hurdle in the country.

Another thing I find meaningful is having built and maintained very close professional relationships with pro-public education individuals in various organizations, including legislators, administrators and school board members. Despite disagreements sometimes about timing and tactics, we've shared the same broad goals and core values, and together, we've helped support public education, perhaps the most important entity that makes the United States the great country that it is.

EF: What remains to be done?

DD: I do have concerns about the long-term viability of the profession, in a time when we witness the proliferation of

emergency teaching certificates and when colleges of education don't seem to be graduating enough educators to fulfill the needs. Class sizes continue to rise. Too many government officials and media pun-

“ This 30-year fight (for state-paid insurance) highlights a prime example of the importance of membership in the OEA. It takes such an organization ... to extend and protect these kinds of benefits for educators. ”

ditions spout support for privatizing and monetizing public education to the detriment of education as an honored profession.

I'm also concerned about other groups whose misguided efforts to attack the OEA divide educators, weakening the profession and the ability of educators to achieve more for schools and the students we all serve.

But I've always been an optimist. A quote from the late Robert F. Kennedy has been a touchstone, "Some men see things as they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not."

My advice for new educators is to join the OEA, working with your colleagues and fighting for your students and your profession. Stay in it for the long haul. It is a great and noble profession.

Williams is excited for OEA's future

Continued from Page 5

miles to help OEA members. There aren't many Oklahoma roads he hasn't driven at least once. He was never one to shy away from an early start to the day or a long drive to meet with members that got him home late in the evening.

Knowing that, many wonder what he's going to do to stay busy in retirement. After some thought on that question, David quietly answers, "I'll have to discover that for myself."

For now, just relaxing at home, reading and working out at his YMCA will be fulfilling enough. Eventually, volunteering more at his church or for civic groups will likely happen, but not right away.

"I jump in and say 'yes' too quickly, so I don't want to look up in a month and

see that I'm as busy as I was in this job," he said.

While he feels it's time for him to step aside, David is excited for the OEA.

"For me, it's the end of a chapter, but for OEA it's pretty exciting as they move forward," he said. "If you're not changing, you're dying. So, we have to consistently be changing this organization. We need to get younger, and by younger that doesn't mean how old you are. That's a mind-set. We just need new perspectives. We've got to keep evolving and changing this organization."

No matter how OEA changes in the months and years to come, David Williams's legacy of helping OEA's members will live on.

Setting Sights on TWS Year Two

Teacher and ESP raises, school operations funding highlight 2019 Together We're Stronger effort

By Doug Folks

Teacher salary increases, a raise for education support professionals and improved school funding highlight the Oklahoma Education Association's Year Two of its Together We're Stronger plan.

OEA President Alicia Priest announced the association's legislative goals for 2019 at a press conference in December. The plan calls for the legislature to provide:

- \$3,000 salary increases for teachers,
- \$2,500 salary increases for support staff,
- \$150 million for school operations, and
- 8 percent cost-of-living-adjustment for education retirees.

With the State Board of Equalization's announcement that the state would have \$620 million more to appropriate for Fiscal Year 2020, Priest said the Year Two goals are well within reach.

"While last year's gains were certainly historic, and much appreciated, we

still have work to do," Priest said. "Our teacher shortage is even worse this year. The State Board of Education has granted 2,852 emergency certifications – that's 1,001 more than all of last year. Schools still have large class sizes and haven't been able to replace teaching positions and classes that have been cut over the last few years."

The 2018 legislature nearly met OEA's Year 1 goals when they appropriated an average \$6,100 salary increase for teachers, \$1,250 for support professionals and an additional \$50 million to the education funding formula. Retirees received a stipend and state employees received salary increases.

According to the latest data from the National Education Association's Rankings and Estimates, Oklahoma teachers now rank 37th nationally in average pay and third in the region at \$51,678. That figure includes salary and benefits such as health insurance and retirement. But the state still falls far behind in per pupil ex-

penditures – 44th nationally and dead last in the region at \$8,703.

"We didn't reach this point overnight, and we can't fix it in one year. That's why we have a multi-year plan," Priest said.

Before last spring's teacher walkout, the OEA announced a three-year plan to raise teacher pay by \$10,000, increase salaries for education support professionals by \$5,000, add \$200 million for school operations, a cost-of-living-adjustment for education retirees and raises for state employees.

"Our children are worthy of every penny we spend on education," Priest said. "Every child deserves a highly qualified teacher and a classroom with the best resources. When we invest in education, we invest in our future."

In addition to the improved financial picture of the state, November's elections produced a larger Education Caucus – 25 members this year, compared to just nine last year. House leadership and Governor-elect Kevin Stitt have both made public comments that education needs additional funding.

"Education was the No. 1 issue in just about every election for the state House and Senate," Priest said. "I believe there is still a lot of momentum for education to receive improved funding this next session."

2019 Estimated Rankings

Average Per Pupil Expenditures

1. District of Columbia, \$25,578
23. Louisiana, \$11,543
27. Missouri, \$11,222
28. Kansas, \$11,093
29. Colorado, \$11,040
31. New Mexico, \$10,933
35. Texas, \$10,015
36. Arkansas, \$9,847
- 44. Oklahoma, \$8,703**
51. Indiana, \$58,895

National Average
– \$11,203
Regional Average
– \$10,50

Source: 2018 NEA Rankings and Estimates.



Average Teacher Salaries*

1. New York, \$85,303
29. Texas, \$53,766
31. Colorado, \$52,977
- 37. Oklahoma, \$51,678**
39. Kansas, \$51,403
42. Louisiana, \$50,492
45. Missouri, \$49,805
46. Arkansas, \$49,741
48. New Mexico, \$48,567
51. Mississippi, \$43,290

National Average – \$61,386
Regional Average – \$44,983



*Average teacher salaries figures include state-paid benefits, including retirement and health care premiums.

States are listed in these charts in national, numerical rankings.

Education Caucus Members

Lawmakers on this list work or have worked in common or higher education, such as classroom teachers, administrators and counselors. Sixteen were elected Nov. 6, and six were elected in the primaries and runoffs. Three were not up for election.

Senate



Michael Bergstrom
Senate District 1



David Bullard
Senate District 6



Dewayne Pemberton
Senate District 9



Mary Boren
Senate District 16



Ron Sharp
Senate District 17



J.J. Dossett
Senate District 34



Carri Hicks
Senate District 40



Brenda Stanley
Senate District 42

House



Lundy Kiger
House District 3



Randy Randleman
House District 15



Sherri Conley
House District 20



Logan Phillips
House District 24



Ronny Johns
House District 25



Danny Sterling
House District 27



Trish Ranson
House District 34



Ty Burns
House District 35



Jacob Rosecrants
House District 46



Rhonda Baker
House District 60



Toni Hasenbeck
House District 65



Mark Vancuren
House District 74



John Waldron
House District 77



Melissa Provenzano
House District 79



Mickey Dollens
House District 93



Kelly Albright
House District 95



Dean Davis
House District 98

Four More Years of Joy

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister looks ahead after re-election

By Carrie Coppernoll Jacobs

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister recently sat down with *The Education Focus* to look ahead at her next four years in office.

Education Focus: What was Election Night like?

Joy Hofmeister: It was exciting to realize that our work continues and we are able to move forward without missing a beat in advocating for Oklahoma school kids. It was just a lot of relief. It was also just as exciting to see the results in many of the Legislative races as well and to know that there will be so many public school advocates at the Capitol.

EF: Education was at the center of the 2018 elections. How did this election compare to your election four years ago?

JH: It was different. Before, there was a feeling of many practitioners in the field being cut out. This election felt like those who are in the trenches, in the classrooms, were out front with a strong voice, telling the stories of the children in their classrooms. And that made all the difference.

EF: What was different when you spoke with potential voters this time compared to four years ago?

JH: (In 2014), it was a desire to have high outcomes but also a seat at the table. This time, we had moved to a place of recognizing that the investment in the classroom must be the next step forward beyond teacher pay. That was only a first step. And the recognition that our children have great needs and those must be addressed with a strategic investment in public education. That affects all kids all across the state. Lowering class size. Having technology, textbooks, the right people in schools to support learning. The awareness of the teacher shortage was a different conversation. Before, that's what we began talking about: the need for regionally competitive pay right out of the gate and a teacher shortage that deepened right before our eyes. Yet this time, there was great awareness of the needs in classrooms, both experienced by families, but also the general public better understood the needs of Oklahoma public schools in a way that I don't believe had been appreciated for decades prior.

EF: Why do you think that is?

JH: I think teachers were a part of telling the stories of the children in their classrooms in a way that only teachers can tell. They have already been a part of changing the conversation, including a focus onto individual children in our communities, schools and classrooms. That has laid an important foundation, which I have confidence is going to produce visible progress in public education funding, progress in academic growth for students and in public awareness of the important role of educators as professionals – key professionals in our communities and in our state.

EF: What do you think it's like to be a teacher now?

JH: I think teachers need assurance that there will be stability, whether that's stability in funding or the opportunity to minimize changes that come at the state and federal level. All of that matters. Our teachers often have initiative fatigue. My



"I thank teachers for sticking with it, for not giving up, for being resilient themselves." – State Supt. Joy Hofmeister. (Photo by Carrie Coppernoll Jacobs.)

message to legislators is to be patient and allow evidence-based initiatives to take root and bear fruit. That doesn't happen overnight. It can cause teachers to wear thin if those changes happen thoughtlessly. Our goal is to help teachers see a path where they can make a difference and an impact in the lives of children. Too often, we've heard teachers leave because they don't feel they can make a difference. Whether there are barriers with paperwork, red tape, mandates that have little funding, these are elements that contribute to teachers moving to another state or into another profession.

EF: Why is trauma-informed instruction and mental health so important to your administration?

JH: Really, it's facing the facts of where we are as a state: leading the country with the highest level of children that have an ACE score – on the Adverse Childhood Experience index – of 3 or higher. Half of Oklahoma school children have a score of 3 or higher. Oklahoma has the highest level per capita of homelessness of any state in the country. When we start looking at those things, then we know this is a very key barrier that we must address, or we will not see what we know are opportunities for our kids ever realized. This has to also answer the need of teachers that are asking for coaching and trauma-informed instruction guidance. And it's not just one teacher at a time. The trauma summit that we had in October, we will repeat and have an additional gathering in February. This is about school policy. We want to work with other agencies as well to meet this in a variety of ways. I think just recognizing the context we find ourselves in and then planning a solution out.

Just as an example, one of the 10 scores that you can have is if you have a parent who's incarcerated. Well, Oklahoma has the

See "Hofmeister" on Page 11

2019 OEA Organizing Conference

Together We're Stronger

The Movement Continues

February 22-23, 2019
Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond

Friday Evening

Meet OEA's New
Executive Director
Jim Keith

Saturday

Learn new strategies and get
new tools to organize around
issues relevant to:

Early Career Educators
Trauma Informed Classrooms
Racial/Social Justice
Legislation & Politics
Local Associations



OEA

Register between now and February 4th and pay only \$35 per participant. After February 4th, registration fees will increase to \$45. Registration fees cover Friday night's reception of hot/cold heavy hors d'oeuvres, a continental breakfast on Saturday plus lunch, snacks and conference materials. Participants must make their own hotel reservations. A room rate of \$95 plus tax is available until Feb. 8. Call 405.285.0900 to reserve rooms.

Conference Registration: <https://2019orgconference.eventbrite.com>

Filing opens February 1 for OEA elections

A dozen seats on the OEA Board of Directors will be open when candidate filing begins in February, Pres. Alicia Priest has announced. In addition, members will be able to run for at-large positions to the 2019 OEA Delegate Assembly and the 2019 NEA Representative Assembly.

Filing for all offices will be open Feb. 1-15. Online voting will take place March 18-29.

The OEA Board of Directors represent members at the grassroots level. Each zone is made up of at least 1,000 association members who elect their representative on the board. The newly elected zone directors will take office July 8.

The Delegate Assembly is set for May 10-11 in Edmond, while the NEA RA will occur July 2-7 in Houston, Texas.

Filing forms will be available on the OEA website Feb. 1 and at OEA Headquarters in Oklahoma City and the OEA

regional office in Tulsa. For more information on the elections or filing forms, contact Maureen Peters at 800/522-8091, 405/528-7785 or mpeters@okea.org.

OEA Board of Directors

These **Zone Director** positions are for three-year terms, expiring in 2022. These board members will serve as NEA Delegates in 2020 and 2021:

Northeast B, representing Osage, Pawnee, Rogers, Wagoner and Washington counties.

Northwest C, representing Blaine, Canadian and Kingfisher counties.

Southeast A, representing Lincoln, Murray, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

Southwest C, representing Bryan, Carter, Garvin, Grady, Jefferson, Love, Marshall and Stephens counties.

Tulsa Metro C, representing Creek and Tulsa counties.

These **Zone Director** positions are for two-year unexpired terms, expiring 2021:

Northeast C, representing Cherokee and Muskogee counties.

Northwest A, representing Alfalfa, Beaver, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties.

Oklahoma City Metro A, representing Crooked Oak ACT, Harrah ACT, Mid-America Bible College, The Education Association of Moore, ESP Moore, Oklahoma Christian University and Oklahoma City Community College.

Southwest A, representing Beckham, Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties.

Tulsa Metro A, representing Tulsa CTA.

This **Zone Director** position is for a one-year unexpired term, expiring 2020.

Southeast C, representing Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha counties.

Administrator-At-Large – This Board position, which represents all administrative members, is to complete the final two years of a three-year term, beginning July 8, 2019, and expiring July 7, 2021.

Hofmeister to keep focus on early learning

Continued from Page 9

highest female and now male incarceration rates. There you go. Many of our children (live with) that. The Annie E. Casey Foundation said 96,000 Oklahoma children have a parent who is incarcerated. Out of 700,000 school kids. This has touched the lives of many of our children, and our teachers know it.

Starting early, with early learning focus, is also part of helping to address deep needs for Oklahoma school kids. We'll keep that focus on early learning.

The Reading Sufficiency Act – we want our focus to be on the early, strategic intervention in kindergarten, first grade and second grade on strengthening reading and engaging families. That's how we talk about RSA here in the department. It is less about a third-grade retention law and more of a focus on the funds that are earmarked for the children that have identified needs in kindergarten, first grade, second and then third. I want to see us reframe how we think about this. We have the power to change

that narrative. I want our teachers to know that no test should be a determining factor on high-stakes outcomes for kids. We must include family – include people who know the student and their body of work for years – in making the right decisions for how to meet their needs in reading or in math this current year and every year going forward. That's what I believe in.

EF: What would you like to say to teachers?

JH: I thank teachers for sticking with it, for not giving up, for being resilient themselves. And yet we know that the sacrifice they have made is significant, but it is their commitment, dedication and passion for their own students that drives them forward each day and each year. That is exceptional. It is part of what gives me hope that we can accomplish what our kids deserve. It's going to take great teachers and great support staff to do it. But I'm convinced we have the people here, right now, to do that work.

Statewide Openings

OEA Delegate Assembly Positions:

OEA Administrator Delegate(s)-at-Large to OEA/DA

OEA/NEA Retired Delegate(s)-at-Large to OEA/DA

OEA Ethnic Minority Delegate(s)-at-Large to OEA/DA (*Should the Bylaws requirement in this election category be met by local Associations, no OEA Ethnic Minority Delegates-at-Large will be seated.*)

NEA Representative

Assembly Positions:

NEA Retired Delegate(s)-at-Large to the NEA/RA (successor delegates only)

Regional Positions:

Category I Delegates-at-Large, 2019 NEA Representative Assembly

(The zones and exact number of delegates involved in this election were not determined by press time. This information will be listed on election filing forms, which will be found online at okea.org/2019elections by Feb. 1.)



A Visit with Rep. Horn

Newly elected U.S. Rep. Kendra Horn (center) stopped by OEA Headquarters in late December to meet with OEA Leadership and spend a few minutes talking to the staff and answering questions. Rep. Horn thanked OEA members for their support and their volunteer work on her campaign. (Photo by Doug Folks.)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

The publication's title is The Education Focus (Publication No. 1542-1678). The filing date of the statement is October 11, 2018. It is published quarterly. The annual subscription price is \$5.00. The complete mailing address of the known office of the publication and of the General Business Office of the Publisher is: Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3117. Doug Folks (405/523-4355) is the contact person. The publisher is the Oklahoma Education Association, P.O. Box 18485, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0485. Doug Folks is the Editor and Amanda Ewing is the Managing Editor. Owner of the publication is the Oklahoma Education Association, P.O. Box 18485, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0485. There are no bondholders, mortgagees, or other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax have not changed during the preceding 12 months. The name of the publication is The Education Focus. The issue date for the circulation data which follows is September 24, 2018. The data is classified as follows: a. the average number of copies of each issue during preceding 12 months, and b. the actual number copies of the single issue published nearest the filing date. Total number of copies: a. 16,158; b. 15,700. Paid or requested circulation through (1)

outside-county mail subscriptions stated on Form 3541: a. 15,807; b. 15,494; (2) in-county subscriptions: a. none; and b. none; (3) through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution: a. 249; b. 104; (4) other classes mailed through the USPS: a. none; b. none. Total paid distribution: a. 16,056; b. 15,598. Free or nominal rate copies for (1) outside-county: a. 77; b. 77; (2) in-county: a. none; b. none; (3) other classes mailed through the USPS: a. none; b. none. Free distribution outside the mail: a. none; b. none. Total free distribution: a. 77; b. 77. Total distribution: a. 16,133, b. 15,675. Copies not distributed (office use, leftovers, spoiled): a. 25; b. 25. Total printed: a. 16,158, b. 15,700. Percentage of paid and or requested circulation is: a. 99.5% and b. 99.5%. Electronic copy circulation is (1) Paid electronic copies: a. 0; b. 0; (2) Total paid print copies plus paid electronic copies is: a. 16,056; b. 15,598; (3) total print distribution plus paid electronic copies is: a. 16,133; b. 15,675; (4) Percent paid (both print and electronic copies): a. 99.5%; b. 99.5%. The statement of ownership will be published in the Winter 2018, issue of the publication. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions. Doug Folks, Editor.



- 88 papers passed out
- 17 minutes for assembly
- 5 parent drop ins
- 3 tutoring sessions
- 1 standardized test given

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