

# THE EDUCATION FOCUS

FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

December/January 2011-12

## GREAT PASSION

*Teacher of the Year Kristin Shelby*



# Inside....

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## On the cover...

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Kristin Shelby in her classroom at Hollis' Sallie Gillentine Elementary. Photo by Doug Folks.

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On Facebook –

- Oklahoma Education Association
- Student Oklahoma Education Association
- Oklahomans for Great Public Schools

On Twitter –

- [twitter.com/okea](https://twitter.com/okea)

## Need help? Call us.

Do you need assistance with a personnel matter? Would you like to invite an OEA Teaching and Learning Specialist to provide professional development in your building? Does your Association need organizing help? Call your regional office and ask for help.

**Oklahoma City Metro, Southeast and Southwest Teams**  
800/522-8091 or 405/528-7785

**Northwest and Tulsa Metro Teams**  
800/331-5143 or 918/665-2282

**Northwest Team**  
800/439-0393 or 580/256-0071

# The Education Focus

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## Join today!

Membership in the OEA provides security, symbolizes professionalism and brings with it a wealth of benefits.

Visit [okea.org](http://okea.org) for more information, and call 800/522-8091 to find out how to join today.



# Confronting our challenges

By Linda Hampton  
OEA President

**2011** has certainly been an amazing year regarding public education in Oklahoma. The challenges have been extraordinary, but we are confronting and overcoming them one by one.

Working together, we have retained our right to unite collectively and payroll deduct our dues. This has been no small task when you consider what has happened in other states such as Wisconsin and Ohio.

When called “feral hogs,” “dirt bags,” and “henchmen for the mafia” here in Oklahoma, we very loudly and clearly let it be known that we will not tolerate such bullying tactics.

Instead of condemning, bullying and laying blame for all that ails education at the doorstep of public education and its employees, let’s look at all the factors involved in educating a child. Let’s continue to strive to have great public schools for every child. Let’s fund those things we know work – smaller class size and retaining and recruiting quality, caring teachers. Plus, let’s give teachers the time and resources to do what they were trained to do – teach.

This year, we have seen some positive things occur as a result of our challenges. Our GLEE Week was a big success. It gave our legislators a chance to live in our world for a day. It also gives our legislators the names and faces of real people working in our schools – people who they can contact when they have questions about how legislation really affects those of us who have dedicated our lives to public education.

Our Stand Up for Public Education campaign is promoting a positive image for public education. It has generated upbeat conversations about public education from folks outside of the education community. On those days you feel undervalued and unappreciated, go to StandUp-ForPublicEd.org and read “Thank a Teacher.” You’ll read comments like “inspirational,” “thanks for believing in me,” “your unconditional love and acceptance,” and many, many more. Comments that could be said about you! Then take a moment and thank a teacher who made a difference in your life.

OEA represents you at the Capitol – not only lobbying but at commission and committee meetings. Do you realize OEA was the only teacher organization at the Insurance Commission meeting, and the only voice to keep our insurance rates down? Visit our OEA website and go to the legisla-



By Linda Hampton

tive section to find out how you can receive real time text messages about what is going on from our staff lobbyists at the Capitol.

As you are grading semester tests, washing the glue and glitter from the desks, packing away the Christmas play costumes, plus a multitude of other things that must be done before the holiday break, take a few moments to reflect on what you have accomplished. You’ve motivated, inspired, instilled confidence, plus taught your subject matter – no small accomplishment. As I’ve traveled the state I’ve been inspired by each of you. You are amazing!!!

## WRLC coming to OKC

One of the National Education Association’s best meetings for members is coming to Oklahoma City and registration is still open.

The Oklahoma Education Association will serve as host affiliate for the Western Region Leadership Conference, January 20-22 at the Renaissance Oklahoma City Hotel and the Cox Convention Center.

Registration is \$175 and lodging at the Renaissance is \$129 per night plus tax.

NEA President Dennis Van Rokel, Vice President Lilly Eskelsen and Secretary/Treasurer Becky Pringle are all scheduled to attend. Breakout sessions will include information on preparing for the 2012 elections, responding to critics of public education, and organizing training for association representatives.

For more information and to register, visit the WRLC page at [nea.org](http://nea.org) or contact Rheta Kennedy, OEA Administrative Assistant, at [rkennedy@okea.org](mailto:rkennedy@okea.org) or 800.522.8091.



# Overwhelming passion

## *State Teacher of the Year has great enthusiasm for public education*

*By Doug Folks*

**K**ristin Shelby's fourth graders return to class from recess, but she has only 30 minutes with them before they leave again for music and physical education.

What follows is 30 minutes of rapid fire learning. Not one moment is wasted. It may look like organized chaos, and it might be a little loud, but all 21 children are engaged and participating. There's a quick review of this week's social studies lesson – westward expansion with the Donner Party, no less! Next, there is vocabulary word play with flash cards

where the kids are asked to substitute different letters in a word to form another word. Finally, the half hour ends with a math review in which every child uses a small white board and markers to quickly solve the examples Shelby writes on her board. "Calling a friend" (getting help from a neighbor) is encouraged for those struggling with the problem.

In no time, the students are lined up and heading for PE and one wonders if running laps around the playground is less exhausting than trying to stay up with the blond-haired, blue-eyed Shelby. Watching her deftly practice her craft at warp speed

with a room-full of 9- and 10-year-olds convinces any spectator she is not only passionate about teaching, but very good at it as well.

That passion and enthusiasm is surely what earned her the title of 2012 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, the first state teacher of the year from Hollis.

Before starting her year as Oklahoma's ambassador of teaching and the many appearances that will be required, Shelby sat down with the *Education Focus* to answer a wide range of questions.

**Education Focus: What did it feel like to hear your name called as State Teacher of the Year?**

**Kristin Shelby:** "The first thing I thought was, 'I'm so proud.' I'm proud for my parents, proud for my family, for my community, for my

students. The very next day when I came back into class, my students said, “Wow Mrs. Shelby. We did it. We’re the smartest class in Oklahoma.”

**EF: You come from a family of educators.**

**KS:** “My first great teachers were my mother and father. My father (Joe Bell) was a history teacher, coach and athletic director. My mother (DeAnne Bell) is a counselor (in Elk City). They inspired me to always be myself and to be passionate for whatever I do.” *Kristin’s husband, Trent is a teacher, football and soccer coach at Altus High School.*

**EF: What does it mean for Hollis Public schools to have the State Teacher of the year?**

**KS:** “Every teacher in this school building could be state teacher of the year. It just gives me the opportunity to put a little spotlight on Hollis for one year and I’m soaking up every minute of it. I think people (in Hollis) are holding their head a little higher and not because of me, but because something good happened. They feel like they won, too.”

**EF: How important is public education to someplace like Harmon County?**

**KS:** “It would shut down (without public education). We’re the backbone of this county. A lot of times we are not only the teacher, but a mother to many students during our six hours (with them). (We’re) the doctor, we bring crackers and peanut butter in because we don’t think they’re getting enough food during the day. And that’s all of us, not just me.”

**EF: Does that feel like a lot of pressure, to play so many roles to your students?**

**KS:** “You know, I welcome the pressure. I like the pressure. I welcome anything and everything that a day can bring because I’m making a difference in that child’s life.”

**EF: What inspires you about your profession?**

**KS:** “I have the opportunity to influence 9,000 lives over my 30 years of teaching. That’s what the research says. Public education has a lot going on for it and I’m proud to be a teacher. I think public educators need to hold their heads high, to mount their certificates, to dress for success, and to meet every day where we are on fire and have a passion for students. And not say, ‘I’m just a teacher.’”

## **Lightning round – random questions with Kristin Shelby**

**Favorite school cafeteria food?**

“Square pizza, cup of peaches and chocolate milk.”

**Best teaching tool?**

“Listening. And I love my white boards.”

**If you couldn’t be a teacher, what would you be?**

“I have always wanted to be a teacher, but there was a moment when I wanted to be a sports broadcaster.”

**Funniest thing a student has ever said to you.**

“After coming back from having my last child, a student asked, ‘When are you going to have that baby?’ and I already had. That was discouraging, but funny.”

**Best excuse from a student.**

“It’s so cliché, but I had a student not too long ago tell me, ‘Ms. Shelby, my dog ate it,’ and I said, ‘Really?’ and he said, ‘We’ll, he kinda threw up on it.’”

**Best advice you received about becoming a teacher.**

“Keep it all in perspective. Stay calm. We wear so many hats and we get so worked up on providing all this information to our students, and Common Core, and testing. Keep it in perspective, enjoy your students, listen to them.”

**Why are you an OEA member?**

“I’m an OEA member because I wouldn’t go to a doctor that wasn’t a member of the American Medical Association. I think it’s important to be a member. I’m a member because they keep me informed with a magazine and a website. And I’m an OEA member because I sleep a little better at night knowing OEA cares about education and students, not just teachers.”



*Kristin Shelby, Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year, drills her students with a vocabulary lesson. In the photo on the opposite page, Shelby plays a math game with Walker Copeland (left) and Tyrell Johnson.*

# Legislators head back to school

**R**ep. Donnie Condit jumped on a McAlester school bus at 6:40 a.m. Rep. Weldon Watson spent all day at Tulsa Memorial High School and stayed for a student council meeting after school.

Sen. Gary Stanislawski worked with scissors and glue and pre-kindergartners at Eliot Elementary in Tulsa.

The state legislators were just three of 47 participants in G.L.E.E. Week, the Oklahoma Education Association's Giving Legislators an Educational Experience. Most of the back-to-school visits took place during American Education Week. The event was designed to give legislators a first-hand look at a public school classroom and to help

teachers establish relationships with elected officials from their districts.

"G.L.E.E. Week was a tremendous success. I think those legislators who participated really saw the great things going on in our schools," said Linda Hampton, OEA president. "I hope they

gained some real insight into just how tough a job we have, but also how much teachers and support professionals love the children."

Several legislators spent a full day in a school. Even though Condit is a former administrator in McAlester Public Schools, he still committed to a wide variety of tasks. He served as a bus monitor, helped serve lunch, answered phones in the office, and spent time in classrooms.

"I was very impressed with the dedication, professionalism and compassion that the teachers, administrators and other employees showed during my visit," said Rep. Gus Blackwell, who visited Buffalo Public Schools. "The one problem I saw was that state and federal mandates are making it very difficult for schools like Buffalo to meet the needs of their students."

*For a complete list of legislators who participated in G.L.E.E. Week, visit [okea.org/gleeweek](http://okea.org/gleeweek).*



Photo by Marry Bull.



Photo by Marry Bull.

*Clockwise from top, Sen. Brian Crain and Kari Garman at Tulsa Hale High School; Sen. Judy Eason-McIntyre shoots hoops at Tulsa McLain High School; and Rep. Emily Virgin with Cari Manzer at Norman's Adam's Elementary.*

## Chief lobbyist takes SDE position

Joel Robison, associate executive director and chief lobbyist, has resigned to take a job with the State Department of Education. Robison, pictured here, will serve a State Supt. Janet Barresi's chief of staff, effective December 15.

Prior to joining the OEA 11 years ago, Robison was a teacher and worked for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).



Photo by Dong Folks



# Hodgepodge furniture and no library

## Bassett makes the best of a difficult situation

By Kandis West

**T**ara Bassett is the ultimate scavenger. Her classroom is a hodgepodge of leftovers. Nearly everything in her room is something that has been long-forgotten since purchased for whatever intended use decades ago.

Bassett's classroom is a perfect depiction of funding in Oklahoma. Instead of funding education first, schools absorb endless cuts and it is the students' piece of pie that is sliced into tiny slivers.

Despite the challenges, her collection of mismatched tables "stolen" from different rooms is just enough to elicit conversation for roundtable discussion. The mix-and-match chairs and uneven tables don't stop her students from creating a community and learning to get along with people who are different than themselves.

"I had to search all over the building for these tables. Yeah, they don't match, some are wood some are aluminum, some are little and some are big. But working together, everyone achieves more. They learn to identify each other's strengths and weaknesses and that teaches them to appreciate every individual's uniqueness," said Bassett, a middle-school language arts teacher, who is an avid supporter of group learning.

Bassett and the sixth grade teachers and students at Taft Middle School in Oklahoma City are confined to an elementary school that was closed a couple of years ago. Taft sixth-graders will remain in the former Madison Elementary School building while their main building at 23rd and May is being renovated.



*Tara Bassett calls on a student during class at Taft Middle School's temporary sixth grade center at the previously closed Madison Elementary in Oklahoma City.*

Bassett says it is a cramped space and resources are scarce.

"I am a reading teacher and we don't have a library in the building. I have collected books from Feed the Children and other charities to build a classroom library. I am looking for grants to write to create a reading corner," Bassett said.

She wants to create a cozy and inviting place in the classroom to encourage students to read independently.

"Of course I can teach reading and things like identifying the antagonist and protagonist, but I want to create a love for reading," Bassett said. "I want kids to read for

pleasure. Once you can communicate through words, you can do anything from here."

Bassett is just one of thousands of teachers across the state who are doing more with less. She is telling her story and you can tell yours. OEA's Stand Up for Public Education Campaign encourages you to share what's happening in your classroom. Visit [standupforpubliced.org](http://standupforpubliced.org) or contact OEA communications staff at 800/522-8091 to share your story.



*Tara Bassett scrounged a hodgepodge of round tables for her sixth grade language arts classroom.*

Photos by Doug Folks

# Awards nominations due January 31

OEA's annual awards program honors those who promote and support public education, members who exemplify greatness in the classroom, and local affiliates who excel for their members.

Nominations must be received at OEA Headquarters by January 31. Send nominations so that they arrive by the deadline to OEA Awards, PO Box 18485, Okla. City, OK, 73154; or overnight or hand-deliver them to the OEA at 323 E. Madison, Okla. City, OK, 73105.

You can find a complete description of all OEA awards and nomination forms that can be filled out online at [okea.org/member-resources/local-association-forms/awards-program](http://okea.org/member-resources/local-association-forms/awards-program).

Following is an overview of OEA's many awards.

## Board of Directors Awards

Nominations for the following awards must come from a current member of the OEA Board of Directors.

**Friend of Education** – OEA's highest award, the Friend of Education honors a person who has made significant contributions to the betterment of public education. Past winners have included *Oklahoma Observer* editor Frosty Troy, Tulsa philanthropist Henry Zarrow and former Gov. Henry Bellmon, to name just three.

**Claude A. Dyer Memorial Award** – Given to an Oklahoma educator who has worked to bring about legislative action for equitable salaries and desirable working conditions, and has rendered leadership and direction in efforts to protect and advance the civil and human rights and responsibilities of educators.

**Political Activist Award** – Given to an individual or organization who exhibits a willingness and determination to promote the goals of the

OEA through activities in the political arena.

**Outstanding Legislator** – Presented to legislators for outstanding support of public education and education employees.

**Advocate For Academic Freedom** – Honors a person or organization whose contribution to the safeguarding of academic freedom has had a significant impact on the public schools in Oklahoma and the nation.

## Human and Civil Rights Awards

**Kate Frank Award** – Presented to the OEA member and/or local Association rendering outstanding and significant service to advancing the cause of member welfare, rights and professionalism.

**Tuskahoma Brown Miller Award** – Presented to a business or group which has contributed significantly to the improvement of education.

**F.D. Moon Educational Award** – Presented to the person who has contributed significantly to the advancement of education for students.

**Glenn Snider Human Relations Award** – Presented to the school district, individual or organization best exemplifying the practice of effective human relations and concerns for human rights.

## Instructional Excellence in Education

### Teachers Teaching Teachers and Teachers Teaching Students

– To recognize individual OEA members for outstanding contributions in instructional excellence, both with students and colleagues. The awards acknowledge the fact that the quality of education in this country can rise no higher than the quality of teaching.

### ESP of the Year

**Education Support Professional Award** – Honoring an individual ESP member whose activities reflect the contributions of an educational support professional to public education.

## Media Awards

**Marshall Gregory Awards** – Recognizing Oklahoma reporters and broadcasters and their newspapers, radio and television stations for significant efforts to provide continuing and accurate coverage of public schools, current education issues and the OEA. Categories for professionals and for high school journalists are offered.

*See "Nominations" on page 9*



Laurie Best (left) and Audra Cornett (right) receive Inola ACT's 5 Star Local Award from President Linda Hampton (second from right) and Vice President Alicia Priest during last spring's Delegate Assembly.

Photo by Doug Folks

# Conference will feature Rep. Inman

## ESP track offers customized training

Rep. Scott Inman will provide the keynote address and education support professionals will again be offered their own track of breakout sessions at the annual Advocacy Conference in mid-February.

Oklahoma City's Marriott Waterford Hotel will serve as host site for the popular event February 17-18.

Robb Gray, state project coordinator at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, will open the conference at 7 p.m. Friday, February 17. After Inman's keynote at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 18, attendees will be offered a wide variety of breakout sessions. Among the choices will be sessions featuring John Doern and Bobby Thompson of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) and OEA's own advocacy specialists.

Inman is the Democratic Minority Leader in the Oklahoma Legislature and serves on the Energy and Utility Regulation, Judiciary, and Veterans and Military Affairs Committees, and the Redistricting Central Oklahoma Subcommittee. He has a bachelor's and a jurist doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

Gray works with State Fiscal Analysis Initiative organizations and other nonprofit groups. Before joining the Center in 2007, he worked with numerous organizations as a government affairs consultant and coalition organizer. Gray is a former executive director for the Oklahoma State Tourism and Recreation Department and served as government relations director for the Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary for Commerce and Tourism.

Conference registration is \$35 per person for active certified members or \$15 for ESP members. The registration deadline is Friday, February 10. Participants may register online at okea.org or complete the form below and mail it with payment to OEA Advocacy Conference, c/o Melanie Engh, P.O. Box 18485, Okla. City, OK, 73154.

The registration fee covers continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday the 18th as well as all conference materials.

The Waterford has set aside a block of rooms for Advocacy Conference participants at the special per night rate of \$81 (plus tax), single or double occupancy. Conference participants will be expected to make their own lodging reservations directly with the Waterford Hotel by calling 800/228-9290 or 405/848-4782. Mention that you want the "OEA special rate" when reserving rooms for the conference. The rate is good only for reservations made by Friday, February 10.

Parking is available at no charge at the Fleming Parking Garage, one-half block west of the hotel, and along the street area in front of the hotel.

For more information, contact Engh at [mengh@okea.org](mailto:mengh@okea.org), 800/522-8091 or 405/528-7785.



*Rep. Scott Inman*



*Robb Gray*

## Advocacy Conference Registration February 17-18, Waterford Marriott in Oklahoma City

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# The truth about liability insurance

By *Richard Wilkinson*  
OEA General Counsel

*First of two articles in a series.*

Questions about how much liability insurance coverage an education employee really needs come up frequently. There are myths, rumors and flat out misrepresentations that permeate faculty lounges, emails and even some websites – all in an attempt to lure education employees into believing they need a specific amount of liability insurance coverage to protect their employment. Here is the truth:

The Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act (OGTCA) protects school employees from any damages that are caused by the negligent acts of school employees while acting within the scope of their employment. The OGTCA even prohibits a plaintiff from naming a school employee in any lawsuit that alleges injury resulting from the negligence of a school employee acting within

## From Your Counsel

the scope of his or her employment and when a plaintiff does name an employee as a defendant, the OGTCA requires a school district to provide a defense for any such employee that is named in a lawsuit.

Finally, the OGTCA limits the amount of damages that a local school district is responsible for to no more than \$175,000 for any claim arising out of a single act and no more than \$1 million for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence or accident.

The NEA Educators Employment Liability Insurance (EEL) is a benefit of your OEA membership. The NEA EEL policy is secondary or excess insurance and only applies in the event the school district insurance is exhausted or there is some dispute about your coverage under the OGTCA. The NEA EEL policy provides coverage up to \$1 million per occurrence for any claims against a school employee arising out of their educational employment activities. The NEA EEL policy also provides coverage of up to \$3 million for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence or event.

The reason the NEA EEL policy far exceeds the liability limits set forth in the OGTCA is that the same EEL policy is provided by the NEA to all state affiliates – and some states may have liability limits that exceed

those set forth in the OGTCA. However, in Oklahoma there have been very few claims even made against the NEA EEL policy because of the OGTCA and the required school district coverage for any damages caused by the negligent act of school employees acting within the scope of their employment.

Even when there have been claims, no OEA member has paid a single cent on any claim for a negligent act and the liability policy has only paid a handful of claims; none over \$50,000 since 1980 when we started keeping records of these claims.

This is not to suggest that you don't need additional liability protection. The purpose of having additional liability protection is to ensure that a school district provides a defense for any tort claim against an employee acting within the scope of his or her employment and to provide a defense in the event there is some dispute about whether



*General Counsel Richard Wilkinson*



## Law-related Education

[www.okbar.org/public/lre](http://www.okbar.org/public/lre)

### Lawyers in the Classroom

[www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs](http://www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs)

### Representative Democracy in America

[www.representativedemocracy.org](http://www.representativedemocracy.org)

### We the People:

### The Citizen and the Constitution

[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

### Project Citizen

[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

### Peaceful Resolutions for Oklahoma Students

[www.oscn.net/static/adr/pros](http://www.oscn.net/static/adr/pros)

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**“Even when there have been claims, no OEA member has paid a single cent on any claim for a negligent act and the liability policy has only paid a handful of claims; none over \$50,000.”**

the complained of actions occurred during the course and scope of employment.

Finally, the additional protection provides excess coverage for any claims that for some reason exceed the limits set forth in the Oklahoma statute (though such a claim has yet to occur). The added protection is important; however, the amount of the protection is superfluous as long as it provides protection within the limits of the OGTC.

So, there you have it – the truth about how much liability insurance coverage you really need. Still not convinced? Then read for yourself excerpts from the OGTC at [okea.org/ogtca](http://okea.org/ogtca).

*In the next issue we will discuss how to read a liability insurance policy, what these policies provide, and compare other policies to the NEA EEL policy as well as the other legal services provided by the OEA.*



**HealthChoice**

- \* Free health risk assessment
- \* Free preventive service visit
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- \* \$5 copay for certain prescription tobacco cessation medications
- \* Increased number of well child/preventive visits

**Focusing on your health!**

## NFIE award promotes teaching excellence

Each year, one National Education Association member is honored as part of an effort to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession.

The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence are presented by the NEA and the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education. Each NEA state affiliate may nominate one member for the award. Deadline for the Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) nomination process is January 31.

All affiliate awardees receive expenses-paid travel to the NEA Foundation’s Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C. Five finalists receive The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence, which include a \$10,000 cash prize. The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient, selected from the five finalists, receives \$25,000 in cash.

All current OEA members, both certified and support, are eligible.

A detailed nomination packet is required. For more information on the NFIE Award or how to complete the packet, contact Dr. Dottie Hager, OEA associate executive director, at 800/522-8091, 405-528-7785, or [dhager@okea.org](mailto:dhager@okea.org). The complete award program can be reviewed at [neafoundation.org](http://neafoundation.org).

## Nominations due January 31

*Continued from Page 6*

### Local Affiliate Awards

**OEA Collective Bargaining Award** – Presented to an individual or group making a significant contribution to the advancement of education through the collective bargaining process.

**Golden Apple Awards** – Recognizing OEA local associations for their consistent efforts to provide quality communications to all of their audiences, including members and other education personnel, local school administration, parents and the community in general.

**5 Star Local Awards** – The OEA 5 Star Local Program is intended to strengthen local Association programs and to recognize locals who meet the criteria in each program area. Application deadline for recognition at Delegate Assembly is March 15. The application deadline is June 15, for recognition at the Summer Leadership Academy. Five Star Local nomination forms can be found at [okea.org/5starlocal](http://okea.org/5starlocal).

# Is your local ready to Stand Up for Public Education?

Did you know that nearly 60 percent of Oklahoma teachers with national certification teach in high-poverty schools? Or that since 2003-04, Oklahoma has ranked first in the nation for serving the highest percentage of 4-year-olds in its state-funded preschool program?

Great things are happening in Oklahoma's public schools, but the media, a few legislators and a vocal-yet-very-small group of people have hijacked the conversation. They would have you believe public education is failing badly and it's all the fault of teachers.

Those of us who work every day in public schools no those accusations are false, and it's up to us the change the conversation. Telling our story is the goal of the Oklahoma Education Association's Stand Up for Public Education campaign, and your local association can get involved.

OEA has developed a Stand Up for Public Education Tool Kit to help your local take your story to the community. The kit includes posters, a fact sheet, Stand Up letterhead you can customize for your local, PSA's ready



to read during home ball games, and 10 ideas of what you can do locally to get the truth out.

There is also a PowerPoint presentation that an OEA staff member can present during a local association meeting, or that you can take to a Parent-Teacher Association or civic club meeting.

To get started,

- Visit [StandUpForPublicEd.org](http://StandUpForPublicEd.org). Download the tool kit, sign a pledge for public education, leave a thank you note for a teacher you admire or are inspired by, and get your family and friends to visit the site as well.

- "Like" our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StandUpForPublicEducation](http://www.facebook.com/StandUpForPublicEducation)); and

- Follow the Stand Up Twitter feed (@StandUpOK).

For more information on how your local Stand Up For Public Education, call a member of your regional OEA team.

## A PLACE FOR YOU & ME

LEARNING AND LIVING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY



## Do you have students with disabilities in your classroom?

Do you feel comfortable interacting with them? How about your students? Do they form friendships with students with disabilities? Or do they just stay away?

People with disabilities experience exclusion more than people without disabilities. You can help create new understandings. You and your students have the potential to make a world of difference in someone's life.

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council and the Newspapers in Education program have created curriculum to teach students about creating positive communities. Free printed Student's Guides are available by contacting the ODDC.

**Electronic copies of the Student's Guide and a Teacher's Guide are available online at:**

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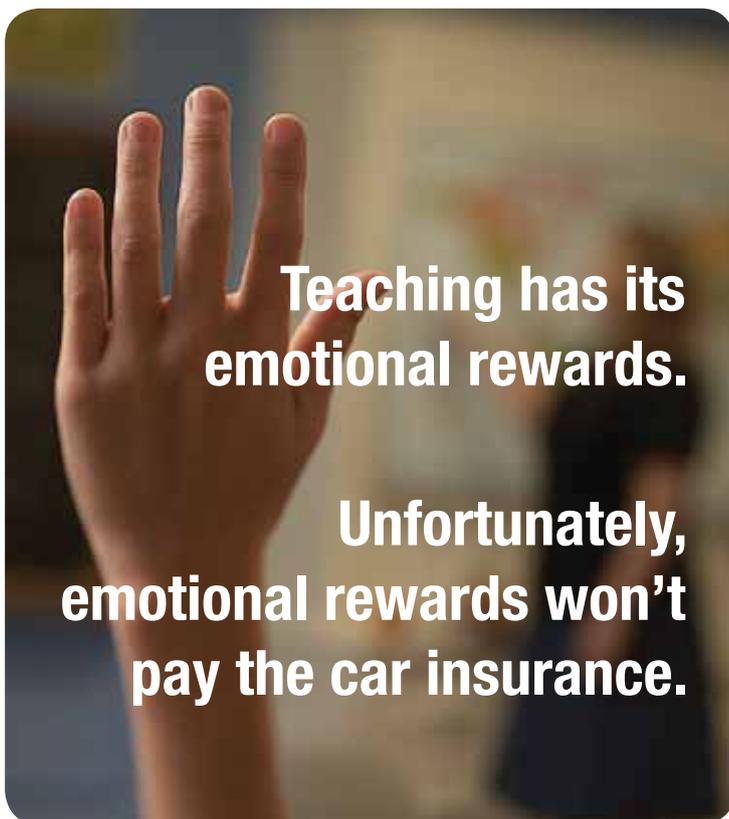
# 2010-11 OEA Audit Report

The financial statements of the Oklahoma Education Association for fiscal year ended August 31, 2011, were audited by Luton and Co. An unqualified opinion was issued by the accounting firm stating that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the OEA.

A brief summary of the 2010-11 General Operating Fund follows:

CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,891,936
OTHER ASSETS	<u>3,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$3,894,936</u></b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 516,374
LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS	
Accrued Pension Obligation	11,060
Additional Pension Liability included in net assets	3,660,209
NET ASSETS:	
UNRESTRICTED	
Undesignated	(715,843)

Designated for building related expenses	<u>423,136</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$3,894,936</u></b>
REVENUE:	
MEMBERSHIPS	\$5,086,476
NEA SUPPORT	1,146,449
OTHER	<u>472,647</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	6,705,572
EXPENSES	(6,248,354)
Transfers for Fixed Assets	<u>( 0)</u>
Change In Net Assets before pension-related changes other than net periodic cost	457,218
Pension-related changes other than net periodic cost	<u>(382,928)</u>
Change in Net Assets	74,290
Net Assets Beginning	<u>(366,997)</u>
Net Assets Ending	<u>(292,707)</u>



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(Required by 39 USC 3685)

The publication's title is The Education Focus (Publication No. 1542-1678). The filing date of the statement is September 2011. It is published monthly, with the exception of four issues which are published bimonthly. Eight issues are published annually, in September-October, November, December-January, February, March, April-May, June-July and August. 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. Maureen Peters (405/528-7785) 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 Dr. Dottie Hager 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 August 2009.

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. 22,456; b. 24,550. Paid or requested circulation through (1) outside-county mail subscriptions stated on Form 3541: a. 21,658; b. 21,561; (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. 661; b. 2,853; (4) other classes mailed through the USPS: a. none; b. none. Total paid distribution: a. 22,319; b. 24,414. Free or nominal rate copies for (1) outside-county: a. 112; b. 111; (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. 112; b. 111. Total distribution: a. 22,431, b. 24,525. Copies not distributed (office use, leftovers, spoiled): a. 25; b. 25. Total printed: a. 22,456, b. 24,550. Percentage of paid and or requested circulation is: a. 99.5% and b. 99.5%. The statement of ownership will be published in the November 2009, 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.



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