

# Education Focus

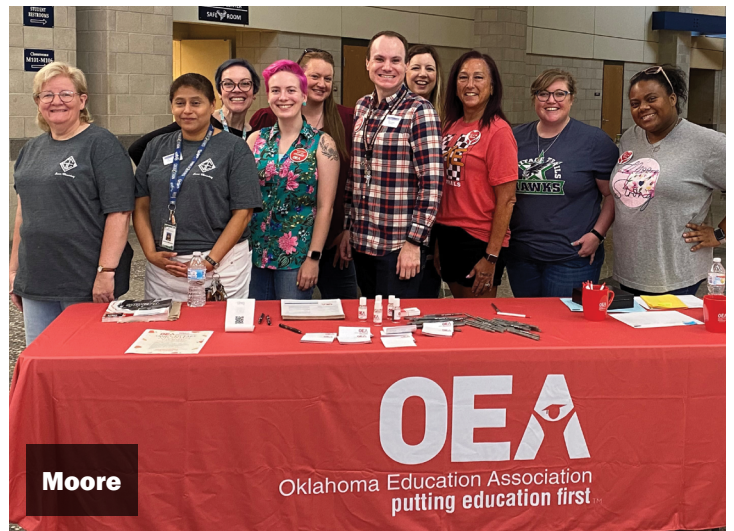
## Member Resource Guide.







**Putnam City**



**Moore**



**El Reno**



**Union**



**Tulsa**



**Duncan**



**Owasso**

## The Education Focus

Volume 39, Issue 1

Katherine Bishop, President  
Cari Elledge, Vice President  
Carolyn Crowder, Interim Executive Director  
Doug Folks, Carrie Jacobs Coppernoll, and Joe  
DuVall, Communications Center  
Scout Anvar, Center Assistant

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**Need help? Contact your regional team.**  
Oklahoma City Metro, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest Teams  
323 E. Madison, Okla. City, OK 73105  
800/522-8091 or 405/528-7785

Northeast and Tulsa Metro Teams  
10820 E. 45th, Suite. 110, Tulsa, OK, 74146  
800/331-5143 or 918/665-2282

**OEA** Oklahoma Education Association  
putting education first™



# Back-to-School 2021



**Hugo**



**Yukon**



**Mustang**



**Moore**



**Sand Springs**



**Mid-Del**



**Boone-Apache**



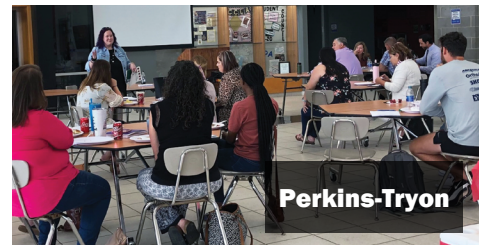
**Langston**



**Stillwater**



**Blanchard**



**Perkins-Tryon**



**McCloud**



## The OEA Vision

# A great public school for every student.

### **Equal Opportunity**

We believe public education is the gateway to opportunity. All students have the human and civil right to a quality public education that develops their potential, independence, and character.

### **Partnership**

We believe partnerships with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders are essential to quality public education and student success.

### **Collective Action**

We believe individuals are strengthened when they work together for the common good. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively.

## What OEA Values

### **Professionalism**

We believe that the expertise and judgment of education professionals are critical to student success. We maintain the highest professional standards, and we expect the status, compensation, and respect due all professionals.

### **A Just Society**

We believe public education is vital to building respect for the worth, dignity, and equality of every individual in our diverse society.

### **Democracy**

We believe public education is the cornerstone of our republic. Public education provides individuals with the skills to be involved, informed, and engaged in our representative democracy.



# Free Legal Services

In addition to professional protection, OEA members have access to a wide range of free personal legal services, such as:



Wills



Creditor  
disputes



Uncontested  
divorces



Stepchild  
adoption



Misdemeanors

OEA members also have access to reduced-fee legal services for a host of other issues, including identity theft, victim protection orders, defamation, felonies, and other legal issues. These services also extend to OEA members' spouses and dependent children. Conditions apply. **Call (405) 523-4340.**





## Education professionals deserve a specialist.

With ever-changing school budgets, demanding schedules, and surprise challenges every day, you know the realities of the education world inside and out. You expect your partners to keep up—and even lead the way, when needed. With decades of supporting schools and districts, consider American Fidelity for a different opinion in employee benefits, education and enrollment.

### Help is here.

- Employee Benefit Solutions
- Supplemental Employee Benefits
- Cost-Effective Benefit Solutions.

**April Buoy**  
**Sales Manager**

Oklahoma City Branch Office  
7510 Broadway Ext., Suite 202  
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**AMERICAN FIDELITY**  
a different opinion





# Special Interest Groups

## OEA Member Caucuses

OEA caucuses serve to represent the interests and issues of their specific communities within the OEA. Caucuses are special interest network groups who promote association policy that benefits its members, take part in activities related to their cause, and work to improve the profession for all members. To be an official OEA Caucus, the group must establish itself with officers, bylaws and purpose. OEA members can join any caucus. Learn more and connect at [okea.org/caucuses](https://okea.org/caucuses).



Black Caucus



Democratic Caucus



Hispanic Caucus



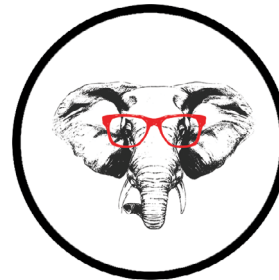
LGBTQ+ Caucus



Native American Caucus



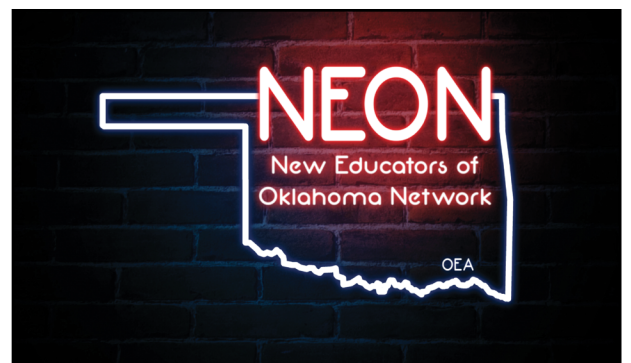
Peace & Justice Caucus



Republican Caucus



































## New Educators

The New Educators of Oklahoma Network empowers early career educators through lasting professional relationships, relevant and timely professional learning, and association activism, so that you can become an agent of change and own your profession. Go to [okea.org/neon](https://okea.org/neon) or call (405) 528-7785 to learn more and belong to NEON. Joining is free.





# What does **politics** have to do with **my classroom**?

Who decides ...	School Board	Oklahoma Legislature	State Agencies	Federal Government
Your salary				
School budget				
Class sizes				
Length of the school year				
Health benefits				
Due process				
Retirement benefits				
Testing				
Hiring practices				
Teaching credentials				
Academic standards				
Textbooks				
Campus repairs and upgrades				
Employee rights				

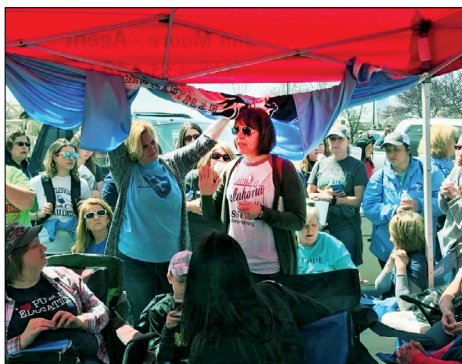
**Politics is already in your classroom.**





# Advocacy and Action

OEA members across the state join forces to advocate for public education: more resources for our students, better working conditions, and policy that strengthens our schools. OEA members have fought for and won bargaining rights in hundreds of districts across the state. Bargaining has been proven to boost salaries, but OEA members fight for more than that. Leaders and members work together to improve working conditions, student supports, and public policy. OEA members are also active in local campaigns, working to elect pro-public education candidates at every level of government.



“Being a Republican and a member of OEA has allowed me to see changes that both parties have wanted to bring to public schools in Oklahoma. I feel as long as the organization is working towards the best interests of the students and the teachers, it really doesn’t matter if we’re Republican or Democrat. **We do come together and work as one.**”

— Angelia Franke, math teacher and member of the Nowata Classroom Teachers Association



# More Than Our Votes

## Contributing to the FCPE

Every major policy decision affecting education is made by a politician, whether it's the governor, the Oklahoma Legislature or your local school board. That's why many Oklahoma Education Association members choose to make **voluntary contributions** to OEA's nonpartisan **Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE)**.



### FCPE Facts

- **No dues dollars are involved.** Dues dollars NEVER go to the Fund for Children and Public Education. All donations are voluntary, and all donations come from OEA members.
- **Participation doesn't require big donations.** To sit on these committees doesn't require a large contribution. In fact, the FCPE guidelines recommend a \$10 annual contribution.
- **FCPE policy outlines how to treat incumbents.** OEA will not endorse someone against an incumbent unless that incumbent has "taken action to harm the OEA as an organization, public education or its employees," according to FCPE policy.
- **OEA members who are candidates receive donations.** OEA members receive automatic campaign contributions based on the office: \$250 for a House of Representatives seat, \$500 for a Senate seat, or \$750 for a statewide seat. This does not constitute a recommendation.

On average, OEA members vote at a rate 20% higher than the general public, but **voting isn't enough**. Electing good candidates costs money. To contribute to the FCPE, go to **[okea.org/FCPE](https://okea.org/FCPE)**.



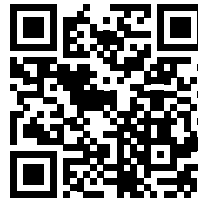
# How to Donate



**PayPal**  
@oeafcpe



**Venmo**  
@OEA-FCPE



**Payroll Deduction**  
Scan the QR code and  
complete the form.



**One-Time Donation**  
Fill out this page and  
mail it back to OEA.



**OEA Fund for Children and Public Education**  
**NEA Fund for Children and Public Education**

Local/Zone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member ID #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ **Cash**
- ☐ **Payroll Deduct**
- ☐ **EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)**  
*Please attach a voided check or complete the  
banking information to the right.*

## ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

*(Complete this box ONLY if you are paying dues through bank draft.)*

Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number (9 digits):

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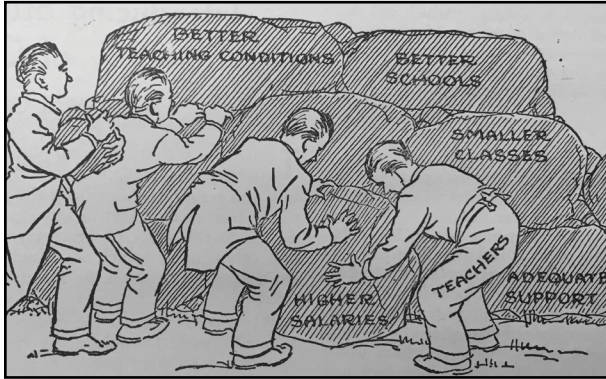
Account Number:

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The National Education Association Fund for Children and Public Education collects voluntary contributions from Association members and uses these contributions for political purposes, including, but not limited to, making contributions to and expenditures on behalf of friends of public education who are candidates for federal office. Contributions to The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education are voluntary; making a contribution is neither a condition of employment nor membership in the Association, and members have the right to refuse to contribute without suffering any reprisal. Although The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education requests an annual contribution of \$15, this is only a suggestion. A member may contribute more or less than the suggested amount, or may contribute nothing at all, without it affecting his or her membership status, rights, or benefits in NEA or any of its affiliates. Contributions or gifts to The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Federal law prohibits The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education from receiving donations from persons other than members of NEA and its affiliates, and their immediate families. All donations from persons other than members of NEA and its affiliates, and their immediate families, will be returned forthwith.



# 132 Years of Fighting for Public



**1901**

The Oklahoma Teachers Association recommends the establishment of a **teacher retirement system**.

**1919**

OEA members successfully lobby for the **first state aid bill** for schools.

**1949**

OEA calls for all teachers to have a bachelor's or higher. That campaign comes to fruition when the State Department of Education in Oklahoma is the **first state in the country** to require only college graduates as teachers.

**1944**

OEA members again stage a petition drive for several ballot measures, including increased **school funding and free textbooks**. Voters approve the measures.

1880

1890

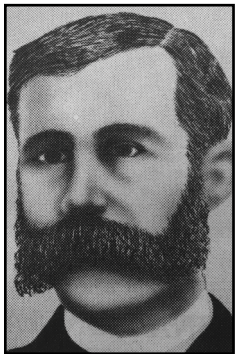
1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



**1889**

A group of 11 teachers met in Guthrie to form the Oklahoma Teachers Association, which would eventually become the **Oklahoma Education Association**. Guthrie Superintendent Frank Terry was elected president. They hosted their first statewide meeting on Christmas Day that year.

**1935**

OEA members successfully lobby for the first **state minimum salary schedule**.

**1942**

OEA members help gather enough signatures to put the issue of **state teacher retirement benefits** on the ballot. Oklahoma voters approve the constitutional measure.

**1943**

Muskogee teacher Kate Frank was fired for being a **"troublemaker,"** as the local newspaper put it. She organized, and she and her local association were able to unseat several school board members. OEA fought for her to get her job back and to receive back pay. NEA members from across the country donated money to pay her salary during the court battle. In the end, Frank was reinstated, setting a national precedent. The NEA named its legal defense fund in her honor.





elor's degree  
 on in 1957,  
 n announces  
 ntry to have

A black and white photograph showing a massive crowd of people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The crowd is dense, filling the foreground and middle ground. Many individuals are holding up signs, some of which are partially visible. One prominent sign in the lower right foreground reads "L. DONALD RATHER BY TEACHING". The Lincoln Memorial, with its iconic columns, is visible in the background, centered behind a large tree. The sky is overcast, and the overall atmosphere suggests a significant public demonstration or protest.

After intense pressure from the OEA, the Oklahoma Legislature completely **overhauls the funding formula and increases salaries and retirement benefits**. The OEA also helped support and pass SQ 430 to allow voters to fund their local schools with property taxes.

OEA secures **due process for education support professionals** after fighting a court battle that led all the way to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Oklahoma Legislature votes to **allow teachers to bargain** with local school boards, after a months-long campaign by OEA.

OEA members stage a four-day statewide walkout that ended with the emergency enactment of HB 1017. More than 20,000 attend. The education reform bill **raised teacher pay, cut class sizes, funded professional development, and injected hundreds of millions into education funding.**

## 1960

## 1980

2000

2010

The Midwest City Classroom Teachers Association becomes the **first bargaining local** in the state.

OEA members lobby for the **Education Reform Act**, which establishes the first teacher mentor program in the country, boosts teacher certification standards, and mandates teacher-designed professional development statewide.

OEA member Edna Donley becomes the first Oklahoman named **National Teacher of the Year.**

OEA-backed legislation requires all schools to offer **group health insurance** to employees.

OEA members stage a two-week statewide walkout that leads to tens of millions in additional classroom funding and pay raises for teachers and support. More than 50,000 attend on the largest day. It's **the most successful walkout of the national #RedForEd movement.**



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- NO deductible for a collision claim on or near school property or at a school-sponsored event;
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- liability coverage when you transport students.

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- no deductible if you have a collision with another vehicle insured by Horace Mann; and
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**Your gift is taking care of students — ours is taking care of educators.**

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# OEA: The Professional Association in Oklahoma

If another organization advertises itself as cheaper, ask yourself: What services am I not getting? What am I willing to sacrifice when it comes to my profession and my livelihood?

**If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

	OEA	Other Organizations
Negotiates local contracts at hundreds of school districts statewide and advocates for <b>collective bargaining</b> everywhere in Oklahoma.		
Employs an <b>unparalleled legal team</b> . We don't outsource work to cut-rate law firms that help you when it's convenient for them.		
Led and supported the <b>Teacher Walkout</b> of 2018, including negotiating funding and pay raises. The fight continues today.		
The <b>largest professional association</b> for educators and support professionals in Oklahoma.		
Leadership <b>elected by association members</b> at the local, state, and national levels.		
Effectively <b>advocates for education employee rights</b> at the Capitol, including collective bargaining and worker rights.		
Provides personal <b>liability insurance</b> .		

**We are the OEA.  
Together we are stronger.**

# Here for you — anywhere

The OEA is divided into six geographical regions with staff members across the state to serve you where you live and work.

## **Northwest** **405.523.4358**

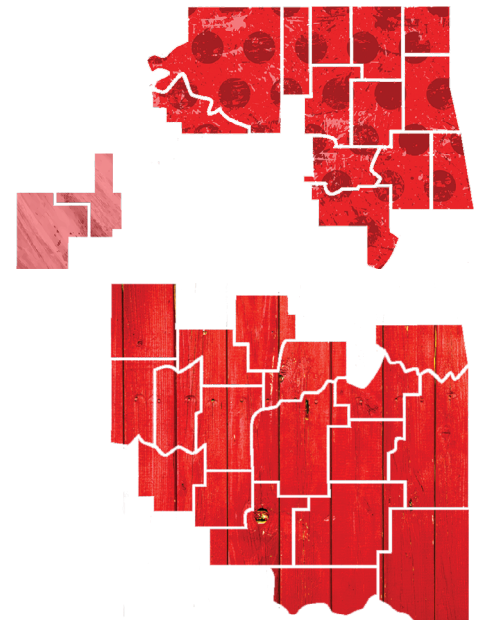
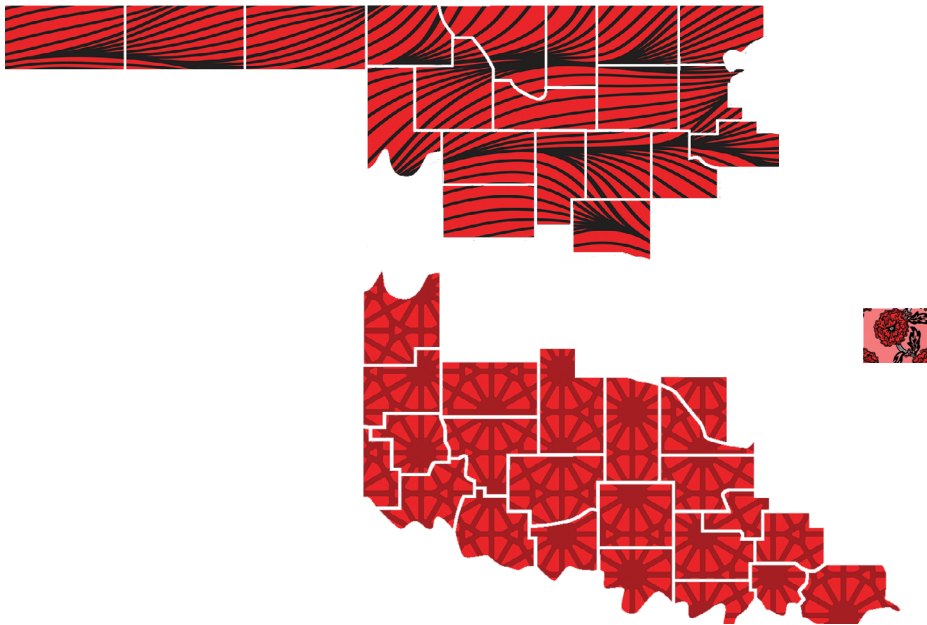
Team Assistant: Lilia Ocampo  
Advocacy: Jacki McFarland  
Legislative: Ellen Pogemiller  
Organizing: Patti Serio  
Teaching & Learning: Vacant  
Communications: Joe DuVall

## **Tulsa Metro** **918.665.2282**

Team Assistant: Tina Townsend  
Advocacy: Jon Marie Piguet  
Advocacy: Kate Baker  
Legislative: Ivy Riggs  
Organizing: Brendan Jarvis  
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody  
Communications: Doug Folks

## **Northeast** **918.665.2282**

Team Assistant: Tina Townsend  
Advocacy: Melissa Kaltenbaugh  
Legislative: Ivy Riggs  
Organizing: Jeff Savage  
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody  
Communications: Doug Folks



## **Southwest** **405.523.4358**

Team Assistant: Lilia Ocampo  
Advocacy: Sheri Childress  
Legislative: Ellen Pogemiller  
Organizing: Bruce Treadaway  
Teaching & Learning: Vacant  
Communications: Joe DuVall

## **Oklahoma City Metro** **405.523.4341**

Team Assistant: Kim Holley  
Advocacy: Carnie Cullen  
Advocacy: Annetta Hein  
Legislative: Ellen Pogemiller  
Organizing: Amber Spradlin  
Teaching & Learning: Vacant  
Communications: Carrie Jacobs

## **Southeast** **405.523.4341**

Team Assistant: Kim Holley  
Advocacy: Cal Ware  
Legislative: Ivy Riggs  
Organizing: Brian Johnson  
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody  
Communications: Carrie Jacobs



# Democracy in Action



The OEA is a democratic organization, which means members decide how their organization runs at the local, state, and national levels. Members dictate the budget, legislative goals, and other business. There is no rich benefactor profiting at the end of the line. The OEA is an organization of educators, by educators, and for education.

# Your Board of Directors



**Katherine Bishop,  
President**  
Putnam City  
Association  
of Classroom  
Teachers



**Cari Elledge,  
Vice President**  
Professional  
Educators of  
Norman



**Zach Grimm,  
NEA Director**  
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Moore



**Brittany Arnold  
Southwest B**  
Professional  
Educators of  
Norman



**Frank Brazwell  
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Association



**Polly Christian  
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**Chelsea Foo  
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of Classroom  
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Association



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**Michael Horn**  
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 Tulsa Classroom  
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 Ponca City  
 Association  
 of Classroom  
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**Laura Nicholas**  
**Southwest A**  
 Professional  
 Educators'  
 Association of  
 Lawton



**Sharon Reese**  
**Southeast A**  
 Shawnee  
 Association  
 of Classroom  
 Teachers



**Kelli Roberts**  
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 Tulsa Classroom  
 Teachers  
 Association



**Dr. Anthony Rose**  
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 Large**  
 Edmond  
 Association  
 of Classroom  
 Teachers



**Jennie Scott**  
**Northwest A**  
 Enid Education  
 Association



**Amber Taylor**  
**Oklahoma City  
 Metro B**  
 Putnam City  
 Association  
 of Classroom  
 Teachers



**Mark Webb**  
**Northwest C**  
 Mustang  
 Education  
 Association





# Your Staff Members



**Scout Anvar**  
Legislative Team Assistant  
(405) 523-4310  
sanvar@okea.org



**Kate Baker**  
Tulsa Advocate  
(918) 749-2544  
kbaker@okea.org



**Sheri Childress**  
Southwest Advocate  
(800) 522-8091  
schildress@okea.org



**Heather Cody**  
Teaching & Learning Team  
(918) 665-2282  
hcody@okea.org



**Carolyn Crowder**  
Interim Executive Director  
(405) 528-7785  
ccrowder@okea.org



**Carnie Cullen**  
OKC Metro Advocate  
(405) 523-4352  
ccullen@okea.org



**Joe DuVall**  
Communications Team  
(405) 523-4351  
jduvall@okea.org



**Melanie Engh**  
Paralegal  
(405) 523-4341  
mengh@okea.org



**Amanda Ewing**  
Associate Executive Director, Legislative  
(405) 523-4310  
aewing@okea.org



**Doug Folks**  
Communications Team  
(405) 523-4355  
dfolks@okea.org



**James Gilkerson**  
Comptroller  
(405) 523-4333  
jgilkerson@okea.org



**Rhonda Harlow**  
Associate Executive Director, Organizing  
(800) 522-8091  
rharlow@okea.org



**Annetta Hein**  
OKC Metro Advocate  
(405) 523-4322  
ahein@okea.org



**Kim Holley**  
Southeast + OKC Metro Team Assistant  
(405) 523-4341  
kholley@okea.org



**Carrie Coppernoll Jacobs**  
Communications Team  
(405) 523-4350  
cjacobs@okea.org



**Brendan Jarvis**  
Tulsa Metro Organizer  
(918) 665-2282  
bjarvis@okea.org



**Brian Johnson**  
Southeast Organizer  
(800) 522-8091  
bjohnson@okea.org



**Melissa Kaltenbaugh**  
Northeast Advocate  
(918) 665-2282  
mkaltenbaugh@okea.org



**Rheta Kennedy**  
Administrative Assistant  
(405) 523-4365  
rkennedy@okea.org



**Kim Littrell**  
Aspiring Educators Coordinator  
(918) 665-2283  
klittrell@okea.org





**Jaquita May**  
Legal Secretary  
(405) 523-4340  
jmay@okea.org



**Jacki McFarland**  
Northwest Advocate  
(405) 528-7785  
jmcfarland@okea.org



**Tim Melton**  
Associate General Counsel  
(405) 528-7785  
tmelton@okea.org



**Heath Merchen**  
Associate General Counsel  
(405) 528-7785  
hmerchen@okea.org



**Debbie Moore**  
Computer Tech  
(405) 523-4320  
dmoore@okea.org



**Lilia Ocampo**  
Northwest + Southwest Team  
Assistant | (405) 523-4316  
locampo@okea.org



**Maureen Peters**  
Administrative Assistant  
(405) 523-4360  
mpeters@okea.org



**Jon Marie Piguet**  
Tulsa Metro Advocate  
(918) 665-6879  
jmwilson@okea.org



**Ellen Pogemiller**  
Legislative Organizer  
(405) 523-4359  
epogemiller@okea.org



**Ivy Riggs**  
Legislative Organizer  
(405) 523-4313  
iriggs@okea.org



**Mary Robison**  
Membership Accounts  
(405) 523-4358  
mrobison@okea.org



**Jeff Savage**  
Northeast Organizer  
(918) 764-9547  
jsavage@okea.org



**Patti Serio**  
Northwest Organizer  
(800) 522-8091  
pserio@okea.org



**Brenda Snider**  
Membership Accounts  
(405) 523-4357  
bsnider@okea.org



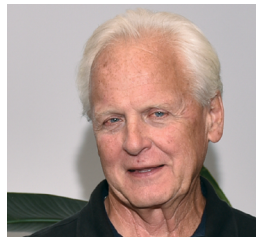
**Amber Spradlin**  
OKC Metro Organizer  
(405) 528-7785  
aspradlin@okea.org



**John Stapleton**  
Network Administrator  
(405) 523-4317  
jstapleton@okea.org



**Tina Townsend**  
Tulsa Metro + Northeast Team Assistant  
(918) 665-2282  
ttownsend@okea.org



**Bruce Treadaway**  
Southwest Organizer  
(405) 523-4327  
btreadaway@okea.org



**Cal Ware**  
Southeast Advocate  
(405) 523-4326  
cware@okea.org



**Richard Wilkinson**  
General Counsel  
(405) 528-7785  
rwilkinson@okea.org



**Kevin Winstead**  
Accounting Specialist  
(405) 523-4331  
kwinstead@okea.org

**OEA Headquarters**  
323 East Madison Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 528-7785  
(800) 522-8091

**Tulsa Regional Office**  
10820 East 45th Street, Suite 110  
Tulsa, OK 74146  
(918) 665-2282  
(800) 331-5143

# A Lifetime of Connection:

## Before, During, and After Your Career



The **Oklahoma Aspiring Educators Association** is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate and graduate students preparing for careers in education. OAEA is one of the largest student organizations in Oklahoma with local programs at over 25 university and college campuses. [okea.org/oaea](http://okea.org/oaea)



The **Oklahoma Education Association** is the largest education organization in the state, representing educators, administrators, and support professionals in nearly every district. OEA has been the force for positive change in public education for more than 130 years, and its members carry on that movement today. [okea.org](http://okea.org)



The **Oklahoma Retired Educators Association** serves the retirees who dedicated their careers to public education. OREA provides a voice for retired education employees, secures and protects benefits, and enhances the quality of life for members throughout the state. [orea.org](http://orea.org)



## Attention: First-year teachers!

Did you know you're eligible for a rebate in your first year as an OEA member? Get \$30 back for every year you were a student member with OEA and NEA. Fill out the form online at [okea.org/studentrebate](http://okea.org/studentrebate) or call (405) 528-7785.





# Professional Development

OEA provides **free professional development** for educators, support professionals, and school districts across the state. We can also design training specifically for your district. Just call the OEA office at (405) 528-7785 or visit **[okea.org/pd](http://okea.org/pd)** to request a training. In addition to our ongoing trainings, we're excited to offer two new PD pathways in 2021!



Classroom Management



Recognizing Trauma



Mindfulness



Teaching Resiliency



Bullying Prevention



Racial & Social Justice



True Colors

## K90: Knowledge in 90 Minutes

Sept. 16	<b>Collaboration in 90:</b> Collaborating with Others to Better Serve Students
Oct. 21	<b>Classroom Management</b>
Nov. 18	<b>Give Me 10:</b> Use That Extra 10 Minutes
Dec. 16	<b>Project-Based Learning</b>
Jan. 20	<b>Racial &amp; Social Justice</b> (Part I)
Feb. 17	<b>Racial &amp; Social Justice</b> (Part II)
March 24	<b>Social Emotional Learning</b>

## Power Hour: Connect with OEA

Sept. 7	<b>Structure of Our Power</b>
Oct. 5	<b>History of Our Power</b>
Nov. 2	<b>Own Your Power:</b> Your Voice in the OEA
Dec. 7	<b>Local Power:</b> Organizing Around Local Issues
Jan. 4	<b>Protect Your Power:</b> Legal Issues
Feb. 8	<b>Capitol of Power:</b> Legislative Issues
March 8	<b>Negotiating Power:</b> How to Bargain
May 3	<b>Build Your Power:</b> Member Organizing
June 7	<b>Celebrate Your Power</b>





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