

Education Focus

Educators are back in the house

By Doug Folks

As the legislative session passes its half-way point, one thing is abundantly clear: Educators are back in the house.

The pandemic all but shutdown visitors to the state Capitol for the second half of the 2019 session as well as 2020. 2021 wasn't much better. Education employees were dealing with a mixture of in-person and virtual classrooms and their own overwhelming responsibilities, making legislative engagement beyond difficult.

While OEA members were making phone calls and sending emails, the last two years have made it hard for education employees to visit face-to-face with legislators. Some of the bad bills that passed, particularly in response to the pandemic, made it through the process perhaps because of that lack of personal contact.

"We wanted to increase our engagement with legislators this session," said Katherine Bishop, OEA president. "It was important for us to get back in the game, so to speak. We need our elected leaders to hear our stories, to meet us in person again."

The association has achieved that goal so far this session thanks to a grant from the National Education Association. The funding allowed the Legislative Political Organizing Center to create the Civication program, which included dinners for members and legislators in their home districts and an opportunity for teachers and support professionals to lobby at the Capitol.

"Our engagement this year has been fantastic," Bishop said. "We've had great participation by members and legislators both at our at-home dinners. We've had

15, 20 or more teachers and ESPs come lobby every week."

Engagement pays off

The result of all the engagement has shown up in the number of bad bills that have already been defeated or did not receive hearings, and the advancement of some very positive education policy measures.

More than a dozen voucher bills were filed, including a couple that would have created a universal voucher program. All but one – SB 1647 – fell by the way. Authored by Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat and pushed by Gov. Kevin Stitt, the bill would have allowed private school and homeschooled students to access public education funding to pay for "education expenses."

The voucher came with no accountability of the families that took the public money or the private institutions that accepted it. The cost of the voucher system was estimated to take \$120 million from public school funding.

Even after the language was amended to remove homeschoolers (at their request), SB 1647 barely passed out of the Senate Education Committee. It needed a heavy push from the governor and votes from ex-officio committee members Sen. Treat and Sen. Greg McCortney to get out

of committee by an 8-7 vote.

The bipartisan opposition to SB 1647 followed the bill to the Senate floor. Just a day before the deadline for all bills to pass out of the house of origin, Treat brought the voucher measure up for a vote. Treat once again amended the bill by including \$120 million to pay for the program. The funding would have come off the top of the budget, shrinking funding for all state agencies.

SB 1647 was placed on the agenda
See "SB 1647 suffers" on Page 4



President Katherine Bishop (center) with OEA educators (from left) Derrick Miller, Sharon Rose, Sonia Norton and Cathy Barker. (Photo by Doug Folks)

You are making a difference!

In a blink of an eye, the start of 2022 is flying by at warp speed.

The most precious memories I have was when I was in the classroom. I always viewed the school year in two chunks. The fall semester centered on getting back in the groove with back-to-school and the space and time built in for our fall and holiday breaks. I treasured the sounds of the high school band playing four blocks away from my elementary for their early morning practices, Friday Night Lights that brought our communities together and all the holiday events and programs.

The fall semester went quickly for me. Then came what seemed like the never-ending second semester. I tried my best not to focus on the calendar knowing that we were nonstop before we could catch our breath at Spring Break.

So here we are – it's after Spring Break and you are in the home stretch for the 2022 school year. However, before you look ahead to what's on the horizon, I want to point out the incredible work you have accomplished since the beginning of 2022.

OEA had the best laid plans coming into January with a multitude of Civication Dinners scheduled where members could just take some time and have dinner back home with their legislators. However, January started out with another surge of the COVID variant, there wasn't a substitute to be found and many schools needed to move to distance learning.

February brought an on slot of weather and for many it felt as if every Wednesday thru Friday was either a virtual or snow day. I'll be honest, it was starting to take a toll on this "glass-half-full" gal with many of our dinners and events needing to be rescheduled two and three times.

Through it all you have shown up! Every one of our dinners have had no less than 30 members and our Civication at the Capitol every Tuesday has been at capacity. I'm sure there are elected officials who were hoping that all the obstacles we have encountered would keep us away – not a chance.

As we head into the second half of the legislative session, your voice has made a difference. Case in point SB 1647, which would have given public funds to private schools. Sen. Greg Treat introduced his universal voucher bill the second week of session. Since then, every step of the way until it was defeated on the Senate floor, you made phone calls, wrote emails and made personal contact with your legislators.

You rallied parents and community members to take action because this bill affected every student in our state. I know that

many of you were like me and stayed up to watch the nearly four-hour debate and vote. I remember staring at my computer screen for the hour and forty-five minutes of silence while the vote was held open, watching the vote count flip back and forth and the overwhelming bipartisan support on display to defeat this egregious bill.

This bill was not about party lines, it was about our students and the schools they attend. It was about making sure that our public funds were not diverted to students already attending private schools. It was about protecting and securing that our rural schools continue to be the hub of their communities.

There was not a single way to amend this bill to make it palatable for our schools – our only resolution was to defeat this measure. As we celebrate this victory, we can't lose sight of what is on the horizon. We must remain vigilant to make sure it doesn't creep back in, or that other bills designed to attack and eliminate our power as an association don't show up.

As each day goes by, please take time to reflect on your accomplishments this year and the investments you have made with each of your students. Cherish the gains you have witnessed and the lives you have changed.

Thank you for all that you do, staying strong and fighting the good fight for our students, families and profession.



Katherine Bishop
OEA President

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

Eight board seats filled by acclamation

W

With only one candidate for every open position, eight seats on the

OEA Board of Directors and four positions for this summer's NEA Representative Assembly were filled without holding an election.

The OEA Board of Directors is designed to represent members at the grass-roots level. Each zone is made up of at least 1,000 Association members who elect their representative on the board. Zone Directors elected this spring will take office July 7.

Winning board seats for three-year terms expiring in 2025 (NEA Delegates in 2023 and 2024) are:

Jennifer Esau, Claremore CTA, Northeast B. Representing Osage, Pawnee, Rogers, Wagoner and Washington counties.

Mark Webb, Mustang EA, Northwest C. Representing Blaine, Canadian and Kingfisher counties.

Tiffany Johnson, Shawnee ACT, Southeast A. Representing Lincoln, Murray, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

Angela Baumann, Professional Educators' Association of Lawton, Southwest A. Representing Beckham, Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Roger Mills and Washita counties.

Derrick Miller, Association of Duncan Educators, Southwest C. Representing Bryan, Carter, Jefferson, Grady, Garvin, Love, Marshall and Stephens counties.

Meagan Barth, Professional Educators of Glenpool (PEG), Tulsa Metro C. Representing Creek and Tulsa counties.

One candidate was elected to a two-year, unexpired term, expiring in 2024 (NEA Delegate in 2023):

Kamber Clark, The Education Association of Moore (TEAM), Oklahoma

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

Dr. Anthony Rose, Edmond, won a two-year term expiring in 2024 as the Administrator-at-Large on the OEA Board. This position does not serve as an NEA Delegate.

Stephen Smallwood, Rattan ACT, was unopposed for a successor delegate as the NEA Retired Delegate-at-Large to the NEA Representative Assembly, which is scheduled for July 1-6 in Chicago.

There were three Category I at-large delegate positions won by acclamation:

Kandee Almgren, Alva EA, Northwest Region

Tiffany Johnson, Shawnee ACT, Southeast Region

Toni Parrie, Norman SPA, Southwest Region

There were no NEA Category I Delegate-at-large positions open in Northeast, Oklahoma City Metro and Tulsa Metro regions.

No candidates filed for the administrator, NEA Retired or ethnic minority at-large positions to OEA's 2022 Delegate Assembly.



Jennifer Esau, NE-B



Mark Webb, NW-C



Tiffany Johnson, SE-A



Angela Baumann, SW-A



Derrick Miller, SW-C



Meagan Barth, Tulsa Metro-C



Kamber Clark, OKC-A



Dr. Anthony Rose, Administrator-at-Large

SB 1647 suffers bipartisan defeat



Rep. Steve Bashore (center) visits with educators Hailey Gilmore, Jeff Gilmore, Kaci Hoffer, and Elaine Wurst during a recent Civication lobbying event at the Capitol. (Photo by Joe DuVall.)

Continued from Page 1

after a dinner break. It was debated heavily for nearly two hours and the vote was left open for nearly two more hours. Just before midnight, and even with heavy pressure from Treat and Gov. Stitt, the bill failed 22-24 with 17 Republicans and seven Democrats voting no.

“OEA members help defeat the bill with their phone calls, emails and personal lobbying at home and at the Capitol,” Bishop said. “The Public Funds for Public Schools Coalition, the Education Coalition and the Oklahoma Rural Schools Coalition added heavy opposition to the bill as well. It was a total team effort.”

Other outside groups made their opposition to vouchers known as well, including the American Farmers and Ranchers Cooperative.

A scientific poll conducted by The Tarrance Group (*see page 5*) between Feb. 28 and March 3 was instrumental in turning the tide of what many expected to be a win in the Senate. The poll, commissioned by OEA, found 68% of all voters are opposed to spending taxpayer money on private schools. After hearing that vouchers are given without any accountability for how the money is spent, every demographic opposed the idea – rural, urban and suburban; Republican, Democrat, and Independent.

A poll released earlier this year by pro-voucher organizations claimed big support from rural voters for “parental choice,” a term used to hide the true meaning of vouchers. But when the Tarrance poll asked respondents, “Do you favor or oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition?,” 66% of rural voters said they do not support the idea.

For rural legislators in both parties being heavily pressured to support SB 1647, the Tarrance poll provided full validation of what they were hearing from constituents.

“Passage of SB 1647 would devastate our rural schools,” Bishop

Public School Champions

Senate leadership, Gov. Kevin Stitt and out-of-state dark money, put a great deal of pressure on Republicans to vote in favor of SB 1647. But even with threats of losing committee chairmanships and not having bills heard, 17 republicans and seven Democrats voted no, effectively killing the bill for 2022.

Below are the 24 senators who voted no. With the continuing threat of universal vouchers still possible this session, please reach out to these “public school champions” and thank them for their courage.

- Sen. Mary Boren (D-Norman)
- Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant)
- Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard)
- Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City)
- Sen. J.J. Dossett (D-Owasso)
- Sen. Jo Anna Dossett (D-Tulsa)
- Sen. Tom Dugger (R-Stillwater)
- Sen. Kay Floyd (D-Oklahoma City)
- Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan)
- Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry)
- Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain)
- Sen. Carri Hicks (D-Oklahoma City)
- Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher)
- Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Waurika)
- Sen. Julia Kirt (D-Oklahoma City)
- Sen. Jake Merrick (R-Yukon)
- Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt)
- Sen. Roland Pederson (R-Burlington)
- Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee)
- Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City)
- Sen. Blake “Cowboy” Stephens (R-Tahlequah)
- Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore)
- Sen. George Young (D-Oklahoma City)

said. “Giving state funding to private schools shrinks the education funding pie, and that means smaller pieces of the pie for rural schools. Most rural students have no access to private schools.”

Speaker of the House Charles McCall has been adamant from the beginning of the 2022 session that he will not allow any voucher bill to be heard in his chamber. So, with McCall’s pledge and a bipartisan failure on the Senate floor, SB 1647 should be considered dead for this session.

Even so, Treat and Gov. Stitt have both pledged to keep working to get the universal voucher bill passed this session. Without suspending the rules in the Senate (which is always possible), the language of SB 1647 could only be brought up as part of budget negotiations, perhaps as a line item expenditure.

“While we hope we won’t have to hear any more about vouchers this session, we need to stay engaged and continue to pay attention to what’s going on at the Capitol,” Bishop said. “Until that final gavel falls on 2022, we must continue to support the legislators that stood up for public education.”

Poll: Voters are a hard no on vouchers

No matter who you ask, Oklahomans are clearly opposed to tax dollars going to private schools. A majority of rural, suburban and urban parents; men and women, as well as Republicans, Democrats and Independents, are a hard no on vouchers.

The poll was commissioned by the Oklahoma Education Association and released on behalf of the Oklahoma Education Coalition in mid-March. The scientific poll was conducted between Feb. 28 and March 3 by The Tarrance Group, a conservative polling firm that has conducted research for former Gov. Mary Fallin, U.S. Sen. James Lankford and Gov. Kevin Stitt.

When respondents were asked if they favor or oppose using tax dollars for private school tuition, 61% were opposed. After

learning vouchers mean less money for public schools, that private schools do not have the same testing requirement or teacher accountability as public schools, and that only about a third of state has access to private education, those who oppose vouchers jumps to 68%.

Drilling a little deeper into that 68%, the poll found high percentages of opposition to vouchers among all subgroups, including

- 66% of rural voters
- 70% of urban voters
- 72% of suburban voters
- 65% of Independents
- 86% of Democrats, and
- 59% of Republicans.

“This poll clearly shows that Oklahomans, across the board, do not want public dollars taken away from public schools,” said OEA President Katherine Bishop. “They love public school teachers and want their local schools properly funded.”

The Tarrance poll also asked what voters thought of public schools. 55% rated their local schools excellent or good, and 83% said the teachers in their child’s school are excellent or good.

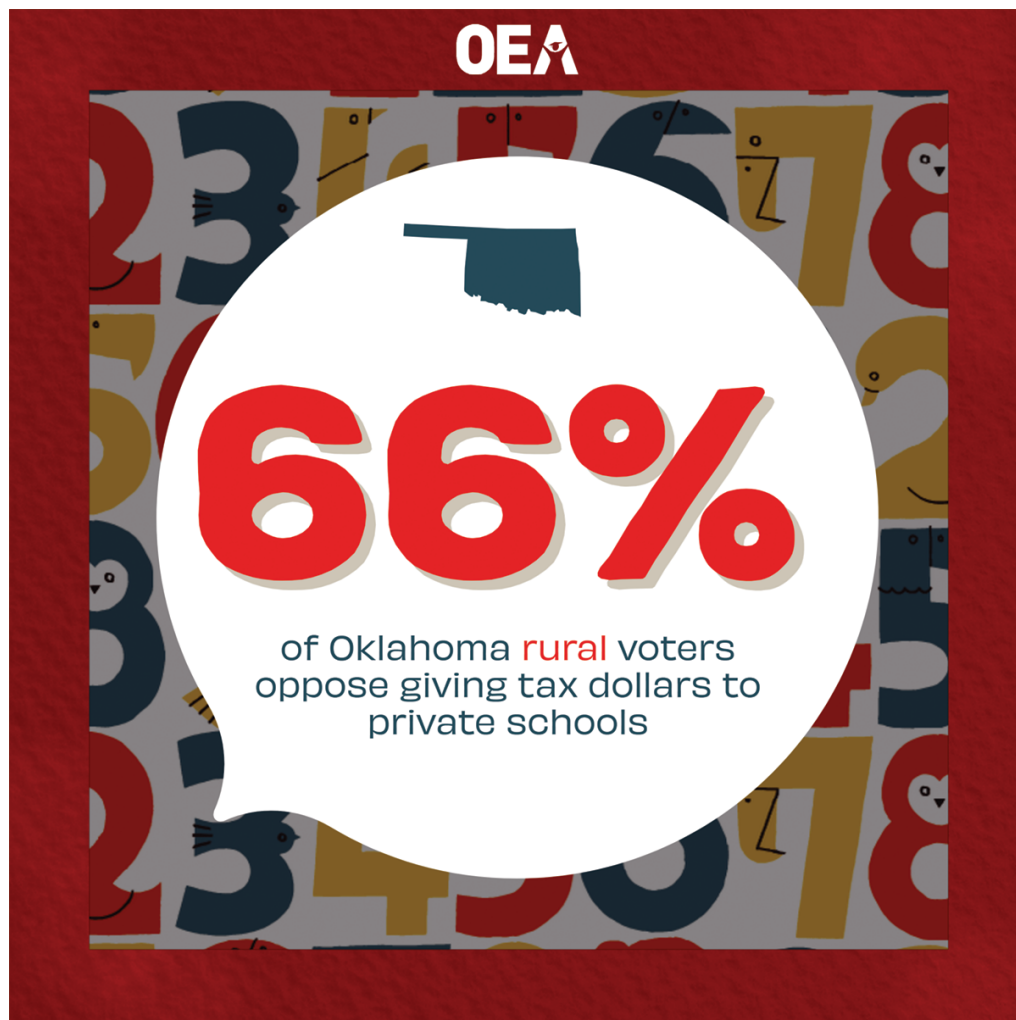
Oklahoma is currently 47th in the country in per-pupil funding, while ranking 16th in school choice. SB 1647 would hit rural schools the hardest, as they do not have the same private school options.

“Our teachers are doing incredible work, day in and day out, with limited resources and strapped funding,” said Jessica Eschbach, 2021 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year from Norman Public Schools and an OEA member. “School vouchers would be

devastating to an already-challenging situation by siphoning millions of public dollars into private schools. There are all sorts of concerns about school vouchers, but the most immediate is the real harm it would do to public education.”

Respondents to the poll shared what they wanted to see for public education:

- 82% – Increase state funding for pre-K through 12 education so Oklahoma is funding education programs at a comparable level to neighboring states
- 85% – Increase state funding for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education to enable districts to hire more teachers and decrease class size
- 85% – Increasing the pay and benefits of Oklahoma teachers to be more comparable to other professions with similar education and training requirements
- 89% – Increasing salaries for public school professionals like bus drivers, cooks, maintenance workers and secretaries in order to attract good candidates for these jobs



Pro-public education bills advance

While the education community and its allies have certainly had plenty of ugly bills to fight, there are a few positive bills still advancing this session.

H.B. 3374 (Rep. Tammy West, R-Oklahoma City; Sen. Dewayne Pemberton, R-Muskogee) would establish a community schools pilot program in which school districts would apply to the State Department of Education to be eligible for federal funding.

Community Schools are public schools that provide services and support which fit each neighborhood's needs, created, and run by the people who know our children best – families, educators, community organizations, local governments, and the students themselves – all working together. They are locally controlled and empower school and community stakeholders to combine existing resources to meet the needs of families and students.

State employees currently have access to an employee assistance program. **H.B. 4109** (Rep. Mark Vancuren, R-Owasso; Sen. John Haste, R-Broken Arrow) would establish a similar program for education employees within the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The program would provide for assessment, referral, consultation, and problem resolution assistance to school district employees and their family

members seeking corrective help with medical or mental health problems, including alcohol or drug abuse and emotional, marital, familial, financial, or other personal problems.

HB 3364 (Rep. Mark McBride, R-Moore; Pemberton) would incentivize students to earn a degree in teacher education, giving Oklahoma a path to improve the teacher shortage issue. The bill would reward students who complete a degree program leading to a standard teaching certificate by paying them \$1,000 per academic year for up to 3 years for full-time students with less than 90 credit hours and \$2,500 for the final academic year for full-time students with 90+ complete hours.

In addition, the Oklahoma State Regents would be authorized to make employment incentive payments to employed, traditionally certified teachers up to \$4,000 per year for up to five years upon their graduation from an Oklahoma teacher prep program. (If the state regents have insufficient funds for the program, the chancellor would be allowed to make reductions to the payments.)

HB 3658 (Rep. Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh; Pemberton) would remove the requirement of passing the Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET) for alternative placement teaching candidates in order to be certified.

Image campaign paying off in value, public support

A partnership with the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University sports programming has exceeded expectations in its return on investment, both monetarily and in public support for OEA.

OEA is nearing the end of its second year of state media assistance grants from NEA. The initial grant began with a partnership with the OU athletic department, but for 2021-22 we added OSU.

Oklahoma State was contracted to produce \$100,000 worth of advertisement value, but OEA received \$124,000 worth of spots. Oklahoma was contracted to produce \$150,000, but the promotion generated \$226,477 of advertisement value across OU platforms.

Together, the investment brought a net return of \$100,477, which is 40.2% above the original grant.

OEA's message was heard not just throughout the state, but broadcast to over nine million homes across the Midwest through Bally Sports. Scripts written by OEA staff were read thousands of times throughout baseball, softball, wrestling, gymnastics, basketball, and football broadcasts. The also ran during coaches shows and co-branded television spots with coaches – some of the most recognizable figures in our state – delivering pro-public education content to homes far and wide.

OEA messaging aired three times during the Fiesta Bowl and during the Big 12 Football Championship.



Pres. Katherine Bishop and VP Cari Elledge present Olivia Spruill a \$1,000 check during the OU vs. Michigan gymnastics meet. (Photo provided.)

Twelve education professionals were recognized as the “Educator of the Game” in front of live audiences, each receiving \$1,000 check for classroom supplies from OEA. Promotional materials on social media for this campaign generated more than 1.8 million impressions. President Katherine Bishop and Vice President Cari Elledge attended these events and made unforgettable connections.

At a recent presentation during a game of OU's undefeated, No. 1 ranked softball team, every player came over to say thank you and shake hands with Katherine and Cari. Head coach Patty Gasso, who will be recording her OEA spot shortly, generously gave her time and encouragement in a lengthy conversation with the officers.

The energy and support from the community was palpable. For a grant specifically designed to improve the public image of OEA and public education, what more could we ask?

Union's Rebecka Peterson named State Teacher of the Year

Rebecka Peterson, a mathematics teacher from Union Public Schools, was named the 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year at a ceremony at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in early March.

Peterson, an immigrant of Swedish-Iranian descent, teaches pre-calculus/trigonometry and Advanced Placement Calculus to grades 10-12 at Union High School. She was also recently named one of six state-level finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Oklahoma's State Teacher of the Year title comes with \$10,000 in cash and prizes from community sponsors, including the use of a vehicle for a year to tour the state as Oklahoma's next teacher ambassador.

"I am who I am because of teachers – both my own and my colleagues," Peterson said. "Thus, first and foremost, I would say, 'Thank you. Thank you for inspiring me to bring my best every day. Thank you for modeling grace, love, kindness, gentleness and perseverance in the classroom.'"

Beginning July 1, Peterson will assume full-time Teacher of the Year duties, which include speaking engagements and encouraging others to enter or remain in the profession. She will succeed Jessica Eschbach of Norman Public Schools, who will continue to tour the state until July as the 2021 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

Seven of the state finalists are OEA members:

Tina Dewey, Special Education



State Teacher of the Year Rebecka Peterson (second from right) is congratulated by (from left) NEA Director Zach Grimm, VP Cari Elledge, Pres. Katherine Bishop and State Supt. Joy Hofmeister (Photo provided.)

Teacher, L.W. Westfall Elementary School, Choctaw/Nicomapark

Emily Freise, Speech Language Pathologist, Greenwood Elementary School, Tahlequah

Cindy Johnson, 10th-12th Grade Mathematics Teacher, Collinsville High School

Donna Ross, Fourth Grade Teacher, McKinley Elementary, Tulsa

Shelley Self, Ninth-12th Grade Art Teacher, Coweta High School

Kortni Torralba, Therapeutic Educator, Moore Alternative School and Treatment, Moore

Lauren Vandever, Seventh Grade Reading Teacher, Bristow Middle School
The remaining finalists were:

Shannon Altom, 11th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, Bixby High School

Kerry Ingersoll, Kindergarten Teacher, Bethel Lower Elementary School

Juan Renteria Jr., Fifth Grade Teacher, Truman Elementary School, Norman

Sheila Treadwell, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, John D. Moeller Primary School, Snyder

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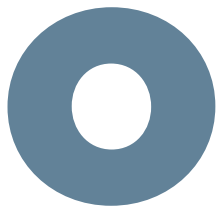
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Meet the newest OEA staff



OEA has added six new staff members since the first of the year and three others has moved into new roles.

Scout Anvar, former assistant for the Legislative and Political Organizing and Communications centers, has joined the professional staff as research/campaign organizer. The position was made possible by an NEA grant to establish OEA's new Center for Research & Campaign Organizing. Scout's responsibilities will include research and campaign planning on a variety of issues, including the promotion of transformational community schools, research to help locals designate American Rescue Plan (ARP) state funds, and helping back legislation to improve public education for both students and staff.



Scout Anvar

Mary Dikes is a teaching and learning specialist for the western side of the state and as a member of the Northwest Regional Team. She has a bachelor's in vocal music, with a minor in psychology, from Phillips University in Enid, and a bachelor's in vocal music education from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Mary taught elementary music in Enid for 15 years and served as a mentor teacher and worked with students at the Enid Learning Academy, focusing primarily on improving their reading and math skills. She serving as a



Mary Dike

building representative, on the organizing committee and on the bargaining team of the Enid Education Association.

Tyler Outlaw is a legislative and political organizing specialist and a member of the Southwest Regional Team. He taught eighth grade U.S. History, Oklahoma History, and Current Events at Alcott Middle School in Norman before coming to OEA. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Tyler was the social studies department head and a member of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies Writing Team (Oklahoma History) for the State Department of Education. He was a building representative a member of the organizing team for the Professional Educators of Norman.



Tyler Outlaw

Sergio Martinez joined OEA as the assistant for the Legislative and Political Organizing and Communications centers. He brings a good deal of political staff experience, having served as an intern for State Sen. Michael Brooks, a congressional intern in U.S. Rep. Kendra Horn's district office in Oklahoma City and as a canvasser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the 2020 elections. Sergio is a student at Oklahoma City Community College where he is working toward an associate's degree in diversified studies. He is president of the Student Government Association and served on the college's presidential search committee.



Sergio Martinez

Joshua Frazier is an early career/equity organizer, a new position created by an NEA grant. His position is part of the Teaching and Learning Center. His responsibilities include working with early career educators in the western half of the state as well as aspiring educator organizations on college campuses in the association's Oklahoma City Metro, Southwest and Northwest regions.



Joshua Frazier

In addition to providing professional development around the state, Joshua will provide equity training internally at OEA and for local associations and districts. Before joining OEA, he taught second grade for five years and served as robotics team lead coach at Mustang's Centennial Elementary. He has a bachelor's in elementary education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a master's in educational administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Melia Melton has three roles at OEA. She is the assistant for the Teaching and Learning and Organizing centers as well as receptionist at the association headquarters in Oklahoma City. Melia retired after 36 years as a court reporter in Oklahoma City and Cleveland County. She was instrumental in implementing a new court reporting curriculum and served as a program instructor at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee. She earned an associate's degree in applied science-court reporting from Amarillo (TX) College; was certified by the Oklahoma and Texas Su-



Melia Melton

preme Courts as a shorthand reporter and was registered professional reporter and a registered merit reporter by the National Court Reporters Association.

A.J. Stegall comes to OEA as the social media communications organizer. As a member of the Communications Center, he will manage the association's social media platforms and create content in other digital areas. A.J. received a bachelor's in music education from



A.J. Stegall

Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a master's of music from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He taught band for nine years, including two years in Sayre, five years in Clinton and two years at Gordon Cooper Middle School in Putnam City. He opened his

own photography business in 2008, leaving teaching to take it full time in 2019.

Heather Cody and Kim Littrell, both veterans of OEA's Teaching and Learning Center, have switched jobs. Heather is now working with aspiring educators in the eastern half of the state and providing professional development for active members. Kim will concentrate on professional development through the center as well as serving on the Northeast Regional team.



Heather Cody

Heather has been with OEA since 2019. She taught elementary school in Oklahoma City and Maricopa, Ariz., before teaching four years at the Mayo Demonstration School in Tulsa. She has a bachelor's in education from the University of Oklahoma and a master's from

Northeastern State University.

Kim joined the OEA as a teaching and learning specialist in 2008 after 10 years in the classroom. She taught secondary language arts at Jay (two years), Wagoner (one year) and Tahlequah (seven years). Kim earned a bachelors in English education and a master's in teaching at Northeastern State University, and is a National Board Certified Teacher.



Kim Littrell

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- Additional coverage if you purchase our Emergency Road Service coverage
- Liability coverage when transporting students in a vehicle we insure
- Up to \$1,000 in personal property coverage if items you use during your work as an educator are stolen or damaged while in your car
- Up to \$1,000 for veterinary bills or related expenses if your pet is injured or dies as a result of injuries sustained in a covered accident



With our home policy

Your lowest deductible will be waived if your home and auto(s) are damaged in the same occurrence.

You're covered if money or goods for a school-sponsored event are stolen while they're in your possession.

You'll be reimbursed for:

- The replacement of keys or rekeying of locks for your home and auto if your keys are stolen
- Your monthly mortgage or rent payment if your residence is uninhabitable due to a covered loss

You'll pay no deductible on the first \$1,000 of coverage:

- If your personal property is stolen from a vehicle that is parked on or near school property or at a school-sponsored event
- For a covered loss if your personal property is being used for educational activities away from home

Contact your local Horace Mann representative today to learn more or to get a no-obligation quote.



Horace Mann Insurance Company and its affiliates underwrite Horace Mann auto and homeowners insurance. The benefits listed are only general descriptions of coverage, do not constitute a statement of contract, are subject to terms and conditions and may vary by state.



Save on Everyday Essentials

Whether for school supplies or personal purchases, use your NEA Office Depot/OfficeMax Discount Program to help maximize your productivity, so that you can stay focused on what matters most to you.

From paper, ink and toner, copy and printing solutions, upgraded office furniture to classroom cleaning supplies, Office Depot is your one-stop-shop for your everyday essentials.



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and the flexibility to shop in-store and online.



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to 833-344-0228 and receive exclusive limited time offers.

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*Items on the Best Value List are subject to change. **Free Delivery: Minimum purchase required after discounts and before taxes. Orders outside our local delivery area and most furniture, oversized, bulk items, cases of bottled water and other beverages and special order items do not qualify. Non-qualifying orders incur a delivery charge (minimum charge of \$9.99). Many orders can be delivered next business day (between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM) if placed online or via phone by 5:00 PM or via fax by 3:00 PM, local time (In most locations). Other restrictions apply. See business.officedepot.com, call 888.2.OFFICE or ask your Account Manager for details.

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