

Contact your local union leaders or the



OCSEA Member Resource Center at 888-OCSEA-11

Welcome to your

## Get INVOLVED!

**YOU** are an integral part of this union, and the more involved you become the stronger the union becomes. Here are some ways to get involved!

## **Chapter meetings**

To get involved in your union, your best bet is attending a local chapter meeting. Every chapter holds meetings at least quarterly and sometimes more often. There, your local leadership will talk about what the union is working on at your local level as well as what issues have arisen statewide. Chapter meetings are a great first step for new members to get involved.



### **Get connected with the MRC**

Not sure how to get in touch with your local union leadership? Want to attend a meeting or event and can't get in contact with the right people? Contact OCSEA's Member Resource Center (MRC). Your member customer service hub will put you in touch with the union reps in your workplace and local chapter elected officials. They will help get you on the road to union involvement and answer any questions you have. Contact the MRC at **1-888-OCSEA11** or **MRC@ocsea.org.** 



## OCSEA conferences & events

OCSEA holds many conferences and events throughout the year for skill building, networking and education. These events are great ways to learn more about the union's fights, get questions answered about recent contract interpretations and find out what's happening at the state and national level.



## Training

OCSEA is dedicated to providing educational opportunities directly related to developing skills to grow strong union leaders. OCSEA educational classes are provided throughout the state by skilled OCSEA staff and activists as well as online and include basic and advanced stewards training, new contract training and other offerings.



## Activism

Public employees have a special interest in what happens at the Ohio Statehouse and in Congress because their work is dependent on the laws crafted by each. That's why OCSEA has made it a priority to make the views of public employees known to policymakers and elected officials who make these decisions. It's also important that members understand the importance of connecting their work with political decisions that get made about agency budgets, safe workplaces, contracts, pension systems



and all sort of issues. There are all kinds of ways members can get involved in the political process, from attending a rally or town hall meeting, to participating in a lobbying activity or voting for elected officials that care about the work you do!

## **Voluntary political action**

In addition to the many events and activities union members engages in to call attention to the concerns of public employees, members may also donate to OCSEA's political action committee: PEOPLE. **PEOPLE stands for Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality** and is a **voluntary** legislative and political action committee. PEOPLE contribution makes it possible for public workers to elect politicians committed to maintaining vital public services and who believe in the ability of public workers to collectively bargain. To find out how to contribute to PEOPLE, go to **OCSEA.org/PEOPLE.** 



## **Get CONNECTED!**

By becoming a member you get access to the union communications network. Stay informed and connected by signing up to receive email and text updates, create a member-only MyOCSEA account on OCSEA's webpage to get access to your benefits, news and more.

- To receive email updates: go to **OCSEA.org** and click the blue "Sign Up For Email Alerts" button.
- To receive text alerts: text the word "OCSEA" to 237-263 and follow the text prompts.
- To create a MyOCSEA account: go to • OCSEA.org/sign-in. You will need your employee ID to create an account.
- Find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/OCSEA and on Twitter @OCSEA.

BENEFITS

CALENDAR

NEWS

TOOLBO







CONTACT

### Assistance • Easy Access Resources 1-888-OCSEA11 MRC@OCSEA.ORG OCSEA.ORG/MRC



To keep ahead of the challenges facing our members, OCSEA has launched the **Member Resource Center** (MRC) to give our union sisters and brothers easy access to union information and resources. An MRC helps connect union members directly with union experts who answer questions, work to resolve issues and help members get the information they need.



#### By contacting your OCSEA MRC, either through

**1-888-OCSEA11** or over email at **MRC@OCSEA.ORG**, members will get direct access to an OCSEA staff person to answer questions, direct them toward union resources, including trainings and events, connect them with benefits experts, and give guidance on how to become active in the union. And that's just our starting point.



### 1-888-OCSEA11 PHONE SUPPORT

- Call between the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Monday-Friday. (hours subject to change)
- Talk one-on-one with a union expert
- Ask questions
- Find out how to become a member
- Discuss workplace issues
- Update your contact information
- Get support for union resources
- Get help navigating the OCSEA website
- Ask membership questions
- Find out about benefits
- Get info on events, trainings
   and more...



#### MRC@OCSEA.ORG EMAIL SUPPORT

- Email a union expert anytime and get a response within 24 hours
- Update your contact information
- Ask questions
- Get support for union resources
- Discuss workplace issues
- Ask membership
   questions
- Find out about benefits
- Get info on events and trainings
- Get web navigation help
- And more...



### OCSEA.ORG/MRC WEB SUPPORT

- Get information on how to contact the MRC by phone or email
- Access the following resources:
  - Your union contract
  - New Member Packet
  - Benefits
  - Discounts
  - Fact Sheets
  - And more...

Welcome to your

# FREE COLLEGE



for <u>ALL</u> OCSEA members and extended family members!





### Sessions enrolling now. Hurry! Classes fill fast!

Thanks to your union, all OCSEA members and their extended family members can earn their associate degree from Eastern Gateway Community College—FOR FREE!

### AREAS OF STUDY INCLUDE:

- Associate of Arts, General Studies
- Criminal Justice
- Healthcare-Patient Navigator Certificate
- Paralegal
- Early Childhood Education
- Professional Office Management
- Fire Science

#### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for these scholarships, interested students must apply for federal financial aid and use any grants to pay the tuition, fees and books. They must also use any employer sponsored tuition assistance, such as Union Education Trust. Any remaining balance for tuition, fees, or books at EGCC will be covered by the scholarship. This ensures that no student has to pay out-of-pocket for any tuition or fees at EGCC—resulting in cost savings of thousands of dollars!

- Accounting
- Healthcare Administration
- Health Services
- Social Work
- Discounted IT degree Program
- Business Management
   Optional Embedded Certificates
  - Optional "credentials-as-yougo" certifications are available in labor studies, IT, digital and data, entrepreneurship, environment and conservation, hospitality and so many more entry-level areas of business management.

## Find out more and apply at **OCSEAEducation.org**

## OCSEA Bachelor's Degree Program is TOTALLY FREE



for ALL OCSEA members and extended family.

## Sessions enrolling now!

OCSEA's TOTALLY Free for ALL Bachelor's Program is helping members and their family members get the education they need without breaking the bank. The OCSEA bachelor's degree program with Central State University is **now available to all dues-paying members and their family members, including children, dependents, grandchildren, spouses and extended family members** (including nieces and nephews, parents, aunts and uncles, and even in-laws).

As we face unpredictable times as a nation, it's important to know that your union, OCSEA, and our partners in free college are doing everything they can to open doors for our members and families and to give working families the help they need. This benefit is 100 percent FREE, including tuition, fees and textbooks.

This union-negotiated benefit is just another way that OCSEA is working hard to keep as much money as possible in the pockets of our members and their family members while pursuing their educational dreams. TOTALLY FREE College! Just one more benefit of being UNION!

## AREAS OF STUDY:

- Business Administration
- Teacher Education Licensure
- Criminal Justice
- Interdisciplinary Studies

   Humanities

### Eligibility

Dues paying OCSEA members in good standing (including retirees) and ALL of those family members listed are all eligible to receive the OCSEA Student Success Grant toward totally free college. Family members do NOT need to be financial dependents or living with the member to be eligible. An associate degree or 60 credit hours is required to enroll.

Find out more and apply at OCSEAEducation.org/CSU

Welcome to your Solution N

## Les Best Scholarship Fund



This annual fund grants educational financial-assistance scholarships to active, dues-paying OCSEA members, their dependent children and spouses. This year, a total of **\$12,000 in scholarships** will be awarded!



### Les Best Scholarships are awarded in three categories:

#### Dependents' College/Vocational Scholarship

For undergraduate students entering or already enrolled full-time in a college or university; or students entering or enrolled in a full-time vocational, trade or technical school or union apprenticeship. **Four \$2,000** scholarships OR **three \$2,000** scholarships and **two \$1,000** scholarships.\*

### Members' College Scholarship

For active members who are full-time or part-time undergraduate students, or who will begin classes in the fall; either **two \$1,000** scholarships OR **four \$500** scholarships.\*

### Spouses' College Scholarship

For active members' spouses who are full-time or part-time undergraduate students, or who will begin classes in the fall; either **two \$1,000** scholarships OR **four \$500** scholarships.\*

\*Distribution amounts determined by an independent panel of judges.

## **How To Apply**

**Applications are available online at ocsea.org/lesbest.** Completed applications, essays and supporting materials can be emailed to scholarship@ocsea.org or returned by mail to:

### OCSEA Les Best Scholarship Fund 390 Worthington Rd. Ste. A Westerville, Ohio 43082

The deadline for all materials is **April 30.** Required materials include:

- The Les Best Scholarship application, completed and signed.
- An official copy of the applicant's acceptance letter to a union apprenticeship program, vocational school or an accredited college or university for undergraduate studies.
- A 500-1,000 word essay on a new topic each year.
- An official high school transcript or an official college transcript, whichever is applicable. (Only required for the Dependent College/Vocational scholarship).
- The results of the applicant's **Scholastic Aptitude Test or American College Test** (Graduating high school seniors only. Not applicable for students enrolling in vocational, trade or technical schools).
- The academic/professional reference form completed and signed.
- The application period begins **Jan. 1** of each year.

# **Exclusive discounts for OCSEA members!**

OCSEA uses our large numbers and organization to provide exclusive discounts and additional benefits for members and their families.

OCSEA members get discounts on retail, travel, zoos, aquariums and other family entertainment venuesavailable year-round.

Log in to your MyOCSEA account to access member-only discounts at

### **OCSEA.org/Extras**











Available May-September! Get big discounts to the best theme parks, water parks and more in Ohio - exclusively for OCSEA members! Learn more at **OCSEA.org/FamilyFun** 





Welcome to your UNION