



NEW DIRECTIONS

OCSEA
AFSCME
LOCAL 11 AFL-CIO
Ohio Civil Service
Employees Association
ocsea.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATES

April 29 - Basic Steward Pts. 1 & 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., OCSEA

May 6, Steward Conference, Crowne Plaza Columbus - Dublin, 600 Metro Pl N, Dublin, OH

May 16, Basic Steward Part 1, 6 - 9 p.m., OCSEA

May 18, Basic Steward Part 2, 6 - 9 p.m., OCSEA

June 2-4, WAC/CMCA Conference, Great Wolf Lodge, 2501 Great Wolf Dr., Mason, OH

July 8, Bargaining Advisory Council, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 175 Hutchinson Ave, Columbus, OH

See all events at ocsea.org/calendar

OCSEA leaders, staff participate in massive member outreach

OCSEA leaders and staff converged the weekend of March 17-19 to participate in the greatest member outreach that OCSEA has ever seen. With contract negotiations approaching later this year, and the election of the OCSEA Bargaining Team this summer, OCSEA's top goal is to reach out to every single member.

Over two days, OCSEA leaders reached out to nearly 5,800 members and spoke directly to 1,600 of them about bargaining priorities, benefits and the upcoming budget impact on state services. Union leaders will continue to reach out to the membership for a one-on-one dialogue throughout the spring and summer.

In years past, OCSEA has sent out bargaining surveys to gather the input of its members. But with only a 10% return rate, OCSEA Pres. Chris Mabe thought it would be more productive to call members directly to determine their bargaining priorities and to talk about all the issues impacting the membership.

"We've had so many meaningful and constructive conversations with our rank-and-file membership about the direction we should take this round of bargaining," said Mabe. "Our members really are in tune with their jobs and the improvements that need to be made. We're really inspired as we move forward to keep the conversation going."

OCSEA members will elect their Bargaining Team on

July 8 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Columbus beginning at 8 a.m. Any member in good standing can attend and run.

Sign the bargaining pledge at OCSEA.org/solidarity. Δ



Members can call with their bargaining input at 614-948-1036.

General Assembly wages attacks on benefits, agencies and unions

The attack on public employees and their benefits are well underway in the Ohio General Assembly. Several pieces of legislation attack employees where it hurts—the health care wallet.

Premium increase sought

State Representative Derek Merrin (R), District 47, is looking for co-sponsors to a bill that would require exempt employees to pay a premium for dental, vision and life insurance.

For years, OCSEA has successfully negotiated to keep dental and vision free of a premium payment from members. Now, if the bill picks up steam, the Ohio state legislature would require exempt employees to pay as much as 15 percent of their premium for these services. Merrin's legislation would also direct the state to seek an identical provision for OCSEA members and all unionized

state employees in their collective bargaining agreements.

Dangerous dental bill is back

A bill reintroduced in the Ohio Senate would prevent insurance companies from negotiating lower prices on non-covered dental services. Senate Bill 87—the Dental Bill—would have a direct impact on OCSEA members who get their dental benefits through the Union Benefits Trust.

SB 87 would prevent benefit administrators, such as Delta Dental, from offering savings to enrollees on non-covered services. In addition to negotiating fees for covered benefits, like fillings and cleanings, insurance companies currently have the right to negotiate lower prices on non-covered services, like laughing gas for children.

If the bill passes, those agreements would not

be permitted and dentists would be allowed to charge unlimited fees for non-covered services.

More attacks on workers:

- Sunset Review bills, Senate Bill 79 and House Bill 51, would give small committees of legislators the ability to eliminate or "sunset" entire state agencies if they feel that those agencies are inefficient or ineffective. The bills were introduced by Rep. Keith Faber (R), District 84, and Sen. Kris Jordan (R), District 19. This is Faber's second attempt to dismantle state agencies. Many attribute his hard-line on government efficiency to no more than resume building since it's likely he'll run for State Auditor in 2018.
- Both public and private "Right-to-Work" bills have been introduced by the Ohio legislature

(See **Attacks** on back...)

WHAT'S INSIDE...

OCSEA participates in member outreach
General Assembly wages attacks
Register online for Steward Conference
Les Best application deadline is April 30
Next free college session starts in May
"Selfie for Success" winners announced
Extras brochures mailed to presidents
Purchasing Power now includes appliances

Register online now for May 6 Steward Conference

Registration is now open for the 2017 OCSEA Steward Conference. Register online now at OCSEA.org/stewardconference. The conference is May 6 at the Crowne Plaza - Columbus in Dublin, Ohio.

All chapter leaders are encouraged to attend and send their stewards. The conference theme is *"Educating for Action...Pledging for Power"* and will focus on how contract negotiations have a direct impact on stewards and their power to protect their members. This is the event that will help leaders get ready for the bargaining fight later this year and enhance the ability to provide excellent representation for rank-and-file members.

By attending, stewards can renew their certification for another year. To verify the expiration dates of your stewards' certification, log in to the OCSEA Chapter Dashboard at OCSEA.org/sign-in and review your chapter's "Officer List." For assistance in accessing the dashboard call 800-969-4702, ext. 4716 or send an e-mail to kmiller@ocsea.org. Δ

Les Best application deadline is April 30

One of the many ways OCSEA improve the lives of its members and their families is through the Les Best Scholarship Fund. Each year, OCSEA awards a total of \$12,000 in scholarships to members, spouses and dependents. The deadline to apply for this year's scholarships is April 30, 2017. Get all the information on applying at OCSEA.org/lesbest. Δ

Next free college session starts May 30

Your members can take the education plunge. Classes for Eastern Gateway Community College's summer session begins May 30. OCSEA members pay absolutely no out-of-pocket costs for the two-year schooling.

Degree programs include Associate of Arts, Associate of Criminal Justice, Associate of Business Management, and Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education. All coursework is done online.

Get more information at OCSEAEducation.org. Δ

(...from **Attacks** on front)

within weeks of each other, showing that anti-worker legislators have their sights on dismantling union rights that help build the middle class. House Bill 53 targets public employee union membership. It was introduced by Rep. John Becker (R), District 65. House Bill 113 targets private union membership. It was introduced by Rep. Thomas Brinkman, Jr. (R), District 27. Δ



Ohio Civil Service Employees Association
AFSCME • Local 11 • AFL-CIO
390 Worthington Road, Ste. A
Westerville, OH 43082-8331

UET "Selfie for Success" video winners announced

The Union Education Trust (UET) and OCSEA appreciate the time and effort of those who participated in this year's "Selfie for Success" video contest. Annually, "Selfie for Success" lets OCSEA members share, through video, their UET experiences and how their union education benefits have advanced their careers and shaped their futures.

See the five featured video storytellers on the UET website now! Additionally two entrants were awarded brand new laptops, courtesy of OCSEA, to help pursue their education dreams. See the featured videos and laptop winners at UEdTrust.org. Δ

Extras brochures mailed to presidents

OCSEA recently sent copies of the 2017 Extras benefits brochure to all chapter presidents along with a benefits FAQ and information on requesting more brochures from Central Office.

Last year we tightened our belt by introducing a slimmed down version of the Extras brochure. We also began sending brochures to chapter presidents, instead of putting it inside our magazine, so that leaders could use them to talk one-on-one with members about the value of the union.

OCSEA is proud of its long-standing Extras Benefits program and the added membership value it represents. From FREE college, scholarships and education benefits to amusement park, travel and retail discounts, OCSEA members have valuable savings at their fingertips—simply for being union! See them all at OCSEA.org/extras.

To request more brochures, contact Brenda Rine at 800-969-4702, ext. 4733 or email brine@ocsea.org. Δ

Purchasing Power now includes appliances, available upon hiring

Purchasing Power helps OCSEA members buy name brand electronics, like computers, smart phones, and smart TV through payroll deduction. And now, members can also purchase appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, and washers and dryers, through the program.

OCSEA members are eligible for Purchasing Power from day-one of employment with the State of Ohio. Learn more about this program and all OCSEA discount programs at OCSEA.org/extras. Δ