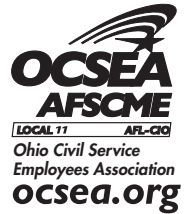




NEW DIRECTIONS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATES

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

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

Aug. 24-26, 32nd OCSEA Biennial Convention, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, OH

OCSEA Veterans Committee Conference, OCSEA Headquarters - Union Hall, 390 Worthington Rd., Westerville, OH

See all events at ocsea.org/calendar

New degrees added to Eastern Gateway free college program

OCSEA and Eastern Gateway Community College are proud to announce that new degree programs and certifications have been added to the free college benefit itinerary! In addition to the already available programs, OCSEA members and their families can now pursue online programs in **healthcare, paralegal studies, accounting and additional business concentrations** for ABSOLUTELY FREE.

The newly added **Healthcare Program** includes degrees in Healthcare Management (Business Management Degree Concentration) as well as a Patient Navigator Certificate, designed to train students for patient-centered work in healthcare.

- The **Paralegal Degree Program** is designed to prepare students for employment in a law environment in both public and private sectors.
- The Business Management Degree has been updated to include a degree in **Accounting** and a Business Management certificate option for accounting concentration. The Business Degree also includes additional **concentrations** in Human Resources, Health Care Management, Marketing and Finance.

The fall EGCC enrollment deadline is Aug. 21.

OCSEA's Eastern Gateway free college benefit is available to all active, dues-paying members, lifetime retirees, and their family members.

To be eligible for the free college benefit, students who are OCSEA members must use their Union Education Trust funds first. Non-member students (family members) must apply for federal financial aid and use any grants to pay the tuition first. Any remaining balance for tuition, fees, or books at EGCC will be covered by the OCSEA Free College 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!

Get answers to all your free college benefits questions at ocseaeducation.org/faq. Δ

Who is eligible for FREE college through Eastern Gateway Community College?

- OCSEA members in good standing, lifetime retiree members, and their families. Family is defined as spouses, children, stepchildren, dependents and grandchildren.

OCSEA's Convention to go paperless

OCSEA is doing things a little differently at its Biennial Convention in August. For the first time, the union and its delegates will hold an all-digital convention.

Instead of having reams of paper handouts and booklets and flyers, all convention delegates will be issued electronic tablets. Not only will delegates be able to follow all the proceedings from OCSEA's mobile convention website, they'll be able to take it all home on their tablet.

"It's going to be a really exciting and unique event for delegates," says OCSEA Pres. Chris Mabe.

The OCSEA 32nd Biennial Convention will be held Aug. 24-26 at the Duke



Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati.

Delegates, who are elected by their union peers, will join their chapter presidents to decide the rules and regulations of the union and will learn about how they can make a difference

(See **Convention** on back...)

Use UET benefits before July 1 reset



Union Education Trust

Spring is here. And it's the perfect time to use up those remaining or never used Union Education Trust (UET) union-negotiated education benefit dollars.

The 2017 UET fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017. Funds do not carry over to the next benefit year. To utilize the 2017 benefits, education and training events must begin before July 1. For college-credit courses, the term start date must be prior to July 1. Learn more at UEdTrust.org.

Use up to \$5,750 in UET education benefits before July 1, 2017:

- Career Improvement Program (CIP) - \$3,500 for college-credit courses, vocational training and specialty education.
- Computer Application Training (CAT) - \$750 for non-college credit computer training courses.
- Professional Enhancement (PE) Program - \$1,500 for non-college credit, short-term training opportunities that are not covered by CIP or CAT. Δ

WHAT'S INSIDE...

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Nominate your chapter, subordinate body for the HPI Award

OCSEA's High Performance Initiative (HPI) Award celebrates successful initiatives and gives chapters, assemblies and districts the opportunity to share their successes and best practices with others.

Nominate your subordinate body by June 12. To see all the categories, download the HPI Award brochure at ocsea.org/HPI OR contact Judi Ayers at 800-969-4702, ext. 2656 / jayers@ocsea.org.

To qualify, initiatives must have been performed in 2016 and must build union power, have measurable benefits to the membership and improve subordinate body performance. Winners will be recognized at the upcoming OCSEA Convention. Δ

OCSEA blows lid on IT contract abuse

OCSEA recently uncovered a pattern familiar to public workers in the IT field: the increased use—some would say abuse—of temporary IT workers in state government. In addition to the widespread use of overpriced IT contractors on large-scale IT projects, the state also “augments” their normal IT operations with high paid “temporary” employees. Some of these “temporary” employees have been working for the state for decades.

According to OCSEA's own research, “staff augmentation” in the IT field has more than doubled since 2012, while the payroll for permanent IT bargaining unit employees has decreased by more than 30 percent.

OCSEA member James Benedict, a steward and Infrastructure Specialist in the Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services, was recently interviewed for a *Dispatch* story about the increased use of temporary employees in IT under Governor Kasich.

“They are definitely costing more than a state worker would, and they are not doing anything different than a state worker,” Benedict said. “There's no reason for them to be contracting that work. We've made that point to management many times, and it's fallen on deaf ears.” See a link to the story at ocsea.org. Δ

(...from *Convention* on front)

state contract negotiations approach later this year.

Any member of a local chapter can run to be a delegate as long as they are an active, dues-paying member in good standing.

Several chapter delegate election notices are listed on pages 14-15 of the OCSEA spring magazine. All other chapter members should receive a postcard at home about their chapter's delegate election. Δ



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

OCSEA membership orientation packets to get an upgrade!

Chapter leaders and those charged with orientating new union members may have noticed that the union is no longer providing the old membership packet materials. Instead, leaders in charge of orientations are being given a smaller packet of informational flyers for the time being as the union transitions to improve its membership orientation materials over the next few months.

OCSEA's new membership packet will provide more detailed and current information on benefits and resources and will have a more agency-specific focus. This improvement is coinciding with OCSEA's massive membership outreach campaign, says said OCSEA Pres. Chris Mabe. “A more informed membership is a more active membership,” he said. Δ

Summer Family Fun discounts are here

Summer is just around the corner, and with summer comes some amazing member-only ticket deals to the hottest amusement parks in the world, located right here in Ohio.

Active, dues-paying members of OCSEA can now access daily general admission ticket deals for Cedar Point and Kings Island as well as special event tickets for even better deals on the attraction parks. And make sure you check out the Coaster Combo, which grants you entry for one day at Kings Island and another day at Cedar Point. And new this year, get discount tickets to Cedar Point's waterpark, Cedar Shores!

Also, get ticket discounts to Ohio zoos and aquariums, COSI and more. Check out these special prices and get tickets online by logging on to your member-only MyOCSEA account at ocsea.org/familyfun. Δ

Join union Facebook groups

The internet offers a ton of opportunities for activists to get involved in their unions through social media. Facebook Groups are a great way to meet union members, learn from other leaders and have productive conversations about union activism and the future of the labor movement.

Two active Facebook Groups are available to OCSEA members. Check them out and get involved in the online conversations. Join OCSEA's Steward Facebook Group [facebook.com/groups/ocseastewards](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ocseastewards) to stay in the know with other OCSEA stewards about the issues impacting them. Join new and newly-active members and their mentors as they talk about ways to grow the labor movement at the AFSCME Next Wave Facebook Group online at [facebook.com/groups/AFSCMNextWave](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFSCMNextWave). Δ