

December 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 OEA Representative Assembly Columbus 8:00-5:00
3	4 EYT Committee <i>Red Rees 3:30pm</i> BOE Meeting <i>BOE Meeting Room 7:00</i>	5 EYT meeting <i>Red Rees 3:30pm</i> DSDT committee <i>Red Rees 1:00-4:00</i>	6 Meeting Human Resources <i>BOE 10:00-11:30</i>	7 Insurance Committee <i>BOE Meeting Room 3:30</i> Chamber of Com- merce Meeting <i>11:00</i>	8 Arbitration Preparation Conference <i>9:00-1:00</i>	9
10	11 Policy Committee <i>BOE Meeting Room 1:30-3:30pm</i> Policy Committee Meeting <i>Board Meeting Room 1:30-300</i>	12 Faculty Meetings	13 Meeting Human Resources <i>BOE 10:00-11:30</i> FORUM <i>BOE 12:30-3:30</i> IPDP meetings <i>3:30</i> PTA - <i>11:30-2:00</i>	14 LPDC <i>Board Meeting Room 3:30</i>	15 Community Business Partner Meeting <i>8:00 - 11:00</i> Joint Executive Committee Building Rep Meeting <i>Church Basement 4:00-5:00</i>	16
17	18 BOE Meeting <i>BOE Meeting Room 7:00</i>	19 Curriculum Tuesday	20 Meeting Human Resources <i>BOE 10:00-11:30</i>	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30/31

Winter Break

The above dates/times are subject to change.



President's Viewpoint

by Maureen S. Neville

The holiday season is upon us! December is the month of the never ending "to do" list. We become immersed with progress reports, testing preparation, meetings, Secret Santa, holiday preparation, gift exchanges, and holiday parties! One may wonder if the Grinch wasn't on the right track?

While the rush to complete the "to do" list is on, let's remember to take a moment to count our blessings. After all the preparation for the coming weeks, we all breathe a collective sigh and sit back to celebrate the joy of the season with our friends and family. Our PEA family members also have cause to celebrate with a three-year contract, Academic Achievement pay, elected candidates who support public education, and the opportunity for virtual instruction in the hands of our membership. After celebrating our professional blessings, we need to give a little of our time to determine the path of our Association. The question is will we find the time to be part of the future?

Thomas Edison once stated that time was the greatest invention, because all the money in the world couldn't buy a single minute. This holiday season gives us all the perfect opportunity to give the gift of time not only to family and friends, but also to our profession. Certainly we can think of all the reasons why we can't participate, why not think of the reasons why we should! Add Parma Education Association to your "to do" list this holiday season; your profession is not only worthy of the extra time it requests of each member, it deserves the time well spent in making a difference.



Have a Merry Christmas!



PEA Building Representative Leadership Training was held on November 10 at the Doubletree in Independence

Thanksgiving Food Drive a Success

by Mary Ann Albaugh
Chairperson, Community Relations
Committee

On Friday, November 17, over 200+ cans and boxes of non-perishable food items were donated to the Parma Lutheran Church (our location this year) to be sorted and readied for the needy families that would arrive on Monday. Thank you go out to Sue Csatory, my co-chair, for all of her prep time and extra set of eyes, ears, arms and legs -- I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to the Friday "volunteers" (who worked like pack mules) Carrie Tymkewicz, Jennifer Wiles, Gayle Exton and Loran McEvoy. We finally had to quit when we ran out of boxes.

Come bright and early Monday morning, Sue and I were joined by Regina Bender and began the process of finishing the

sort (long, long story) and boxing up the bagged items. Relief came in the form of Kate Bellett and her AMAZING, AMAZING, AMAZING Art club -- oh to be young again ;-). The students filled the grocery carts to overflowing with a case of fruits, vegetables, soup, pasta, meat, vegetables and bakery along with a bag of misc AND \$20.00 in Giant Eagle Gift Cards. Thank you especially to George Prokopovich and Terry Bennett who, in addition to (Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT DATE:

The PEA Reverse Raffle will be held on February 3, 2007 at St. Michael's Woodside from 5-12pm. Save the date!

Important Appraisal Notice

Whenever you are appraised, never sign a rough draft of your final report. If corrections need to be made, they must be made before you sign the official copy. Additionally, you need to sign and date every page of a multi-page appraisal document. Sign each page even if there is no official place to do so. This must be done to ensure the integrity of the document. Signing the document only means you have received a copy and does not mean you agree with the content.

2007-08 School Calendar

During the month of November, our membership had the opportunity to vote on two versions of the 07-08 School district calendar. Our contract allows us the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process.

In August of each year we have representation on the committee that has the laborious task of designing at least two academic year calendars. This committee has representation from all major groups that comprise the school system, including parents. There are many variables that go into creating the versions of the yearly school calendar. Some we can control, but others we cannot. It can take about a month for the different calendars to be recommended.

Most often our membership is split in its vote for the different calendars. This year the votes for calendar B (the later start and later finish) totaled 265, with a total of 472 members voting.

OEA/NEOEA delegates

Heather Canzullo
Megan Laudonia
Dennis Lewis
Susan Messinger
Kim Porco

Jennifer Schumacher
Amy Fridrich
By virtue of office
Maureen S. Neville, president
Mike Jaszczak, VP

Thanksgiving Food Drive - continued

their strong bodies, made an unexpected delivery on Monday afternoon. Thank you also to Karen Howell and her two sons, and Jackie Scott and her son -- did I mention how good it would be to be young again --

Without all of you -- Gerri, our WONDERFUL secretary at the PEA office, the building reps, the people who promoted the food drive, boxed the food, delivered the food, e-mailed to help, signed up to help, signed up to help and then couldn't, those of you who gave and those of you who didn't, please know that

there are 80 families who had a better holiday because of all of you, and we were able to leave a nice donation to the Parma Hunger Center when we were finally done.

I know the jury is still out on how much good we are really doing running this drive this way and if you ever have any doubt that we are doing some good in our community, please e-mail me. I could go on and on (and we all know I can) about the phone calls I have received and the hugs and tears that were given out to the delivery people -- one family at a time is all we can do -- and boy did we do it --

Thank you again from the families we were able to help and from the bottom of my heart -- 17 days to go -- but who's counting --

Note:

This was reprinted from an email that Mary Ann sent to the membership for those who cannot or do not get school email. PEA Leadership wishes to acknowledge and thank Mary Ann for her extraordinary leadership and dedication working with the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Information From the LPDC - What is A PDU?

So what is a PDU, and how does it affect you? A PDU is a Professional Development Unit. It is equivalent to one clock hour of professional development.

On page 5 in the yellow Local Professional Development Guidelines booklet, equivalents are listed for PDU credit given for a semester hour, a quarter hour, and a TEPS credit.

One semester hour of coursework is equivalent to 30 PDU's.

One quarter hour of coursework is equivalent to 20 PDU's.

One TEPS credit is equivalent to 20 PDU's.

In order to renew a 5-year license, teachers and administrators need 180 PDU's. These PDU's must be verified by transcripts or signed certificates of attendance. The coursework and/or activities must be completed sometime in the 5-year period after the issuance of your most current license.

The options in obtaining those PDU's are as follows:

6 semester hours of coursework
180 PDU's earned through Approved Professional Development Activities
A combination of the two options

Keeping accurate records of PDU's needed for license renewal is the responsibility of each teacher and administrator. With some advance planning and organization, you can make the path to license renewal rewarding.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your contribution to pay your health insurance premium is paid by “pre tax” dollars. This has the least impact upon your take-home pay. Your Negotiations team fought for this “pre tax” status.

More on FORUM

As stated last month in the *PEA Monthly News*, the purpose of FORUM is to discuss issues that face the school system and to solve problems before they turn into grievances.

PEA members that serve on the FORUM are chosen by the PEA president and serve for three year, staggered terms. There is representation for each level and cluster. It is our interest to have a diverse membership to this committee. The FORUM meets monthly for 1/2 day.

Issues are brought to the FORUM by our members and by administration. When one of the members of FORUM is contacted with a possible topic for discussion, they forward it to either Lee Walker or Maureen Neville. The group then decides if an issue is not appropriate. This happens when it seems to be a problem in only one building or if a grievance is pending. FORUM decisions cannot be in conflict with the provisions of the contract. Soon the FORUM will have a searchable database for solutions that have already been made. This database, on the intranet, will make it possible for our members to look if something has been an issue in the past and what was the solution. This will help the FORUM to discuss only new issues and make it easier for everyone to have the answers they need on a timely basis.

2006-2007 Head Building Reps

Parma High	Dennis Lewis	John Muir	Kim Porco
Normandy	Matthew Bulgrin	Parkview	Annette Pollarine
Valley Forge	Greg LaGuardia	Parma Park	Audrey McHale
Greenbriar	Suzanne Weaver	Pearl Road	Lori Harlow
Hillside	Sharon Hotaling	Pleasantview	MaryAlice Klag
Shiloh	Beverly Dorson	Renwood	Karen Brucken
John Glenn	Renee Dzurnak	Ridge brook	Kris Shirak
Dag	Virgina Ekstrand	Thoreau Park	Gayle Exton
Dentzler	Amy Fridrich	State Road	Michelle Bender
Hanna	Audra Jantz-Oswald	Arlington	Isabella Zsebi
Green Valley	Carrie Turley	Plesant Valley	Jackie Scott

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Virtual Instruction Language

On November 27th PEA held a General Membership meeting for the purpose of explaining new language regarding Virtual Instruction. With a membership of approximately 930 teachers, we needed at least 139 members present to conduct business. While language would allow a vote to take place, the leadership is interested in getting the questions answered, suggestions to improve or delete, and the intent of the language clarified. The session was spent as a question and answer session regarding the proposed language. It was very productive in that those present have a better understanding of the intent of virtual instruction.

The Executive Committee voted last night to approve the language and present it to the membership for a vote. The building reps are to distribute copies of the proposed language to the members at the buildings or you may access the PEA website (www.peaoffice.org). Forward your questions, concerns, improvements, and deletions regarding the document, in writing/e-mail by Friday December 8, 2006 to the following:

1. High School teachers forward to Michael Ravanelli
high school representative on Executive Committee.
2. Middle School teachers forward to Sharon Hotaling
middle school representative on Executive Committee.
3. Elementary teachers forward to Sandy Roth
elementary representative on Executive Committee

President Neville will hold another General Membership meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2007 with the revised language given by the membership. Clarification and discussion will ensue with voting occurring at the PEA office and at Parma Senior High School.

In order to give PEA leadership direction, we must become involved in the process. Please take the time to look over the proposed Virtual Instruction language. Take the time to become involved by attending the next General Membership meeting. Finally, your vote does count.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen S. Neville, PEA President
Michael Jaszczak, Vice-president
Dennis Lewis, Treasurer
Barbara Kostya, Secretary