



## Dates to Remember

End of Semester/Students' Last Day  
June 5, 2008

Last day for Teachers  
June 9, 2008

School Board Meeting  
BAO  
June 9, 2008 @ 6:00 PM

School Board Meeting  
BAO  
June 23, 2008 @ 4:00 PM

NEA National Assembly  
Washington, D.C.  
July 1 – July 6, 2008

School Board Workshop  
BAO  
July 10, 2008 @ 9:00 AM

AFT Convention  
Chicago  
July 10 – July 14, 2008

School Board Meeting  
BAO  
July 14, 2008 @ 6:00 PM

School Board Meeting  
BAO  
July 28, 2008 @ 4:00 PM

Building Rep  
Back to School Training  
OCEA HQ  
August 5, 2008 8:00 AM – Noon

Teacher Pre-Planning  
August 11 – 15, 2008

Students Return  
Monday, August 18, 2008

## Special Edition

We have prepared a wrap-up edition of News and Views before everyone takes a much needed break! Some new information is included along with a few important repeats. Have a great summer!

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## OCEA Volunteers Needed!

We are always in need of OCEA volunteers to serve on our committees. The descriptions of the committee and frequency and amount of time you could expect to serve on each committee are listed below. If you have any questions about a particular committee, please contact us and we will try to answer your questions or we will put you in contact with the current committee chair. Please email [gulfcoast@floridaea.org](mailto:gulfcoast@floridaea.org) to let us know how you would like to be involved!

**Membership:** Promotes bringing new members to the OCEA. We also coordinate teacher rewards and the BR training day. We meet on an ad hoc basis, primarily in the two weeks before preplanning to prepare for BR training. Time involved: Approximately ten hours.

**Sick Leave Pool:** Reviews sick leave pool applications as they are submitted and makes decisions to approve or deny. All discussions in meetings are strictly confidential. Committee meets approximately once or twice a month, each meeting lasting about 30 minutes.

**Scholarship:** Reviews scholarship applications submitted by dependents of OCEA members. The OCEA Scholarship Award is based upon points determined by a scoring rubric created by the committee. The committee meets for two to four hours to select the scholarship recipient in April.

**Negotiations:** Bargains your master contract! It meets once or twice before going to the bargaining table with the school district. Negotiations sessions typically begin in June and will be

## Direct Links

[myocea.org](http://myocea.org)

[Master Contract](#)

[2007-08 Salary Schedules](#)

[Job Descriptions](#)

[OASIS Job Transfers](#)

[School Discretionary Funds](#)

[\\$4 Generic Prices](#)

## Contact Us!

### Okaloosa County Education Association

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[Sheila Olsen, President](#)

[Greg Butler, Executive Director](#)

[Diane Jenkins, Office Secretary](#)

[Mary Kirkland, Office Secretary](#)

[Tami Carty, Newsletter Editor](#)

scheduled until a tentative agreement is reached. Time involved: 20+ hours; When: June until ??

**Calendar:** Primary responsibility is to represent the teachers' interest in the development of the school calendar. The calendar committee meets approximately three times per year beginning in November.

**Constitution/ByLaws:** Reviews the by-laws to ensure they are in compliance with the NEA/FEA policies. The By-laws committee meets at least once a year. We also meet if there is need for modifications or additions. Meetings are typically held in the Fall.

**Election:** Prepares, disseminates, collects elections materials for contract ratification voting as well as for OCEA officer elections and verifies balloting and all vote totals. Meets once or twice for contract ratification in the Fall and again in April for officer elections. Time involved: three to five hours.

**Legislative:** Committee members are lobbyists for education in Tallahassee and locally! Meets once or twice before lobbying in Tallahassee from March through early May. Time involved: 20+ hours

**Retirement:** Plans and hosts the annual retirement reception held in conjunction with the May BR meeting. At the reception, we honor OCEA members who are about to retire or who have retired within the last school year. Planning begins in February and involves an average of seven hours.

**Teacher of the Year:** Coordinates with the superintendent's office and the reception site to arrange the banquet and work out all details. Approximately 10-12 hours beginning in November until the banquet in January or February.

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## Sign Up for OCEA Email Alerts!

If you would like to be in the loop as things happen this summer, sign up for our special OCEA Email Alert System!

You must be an OCEA member, provide a personal email address, your name and current school. Sorry, we will not allow school district email addresses.

We promise not to bother you too much but we will keep you posted on important issues like contract negotiations. You will always have the opportunity to "unsubscribe" to the email list.

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR SUMMER OCEA ALERTS!\*\*](#)

## OCEA Executive Board

President – [Sheila Olsen](#)

Past President – [Karen Davis](#)

Chief Negotiator – [Greg Butler](#)

1<sup>st</sup> VP – [Carmen Marshall-Claude](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – [Carol Barlow](#)

Secretary – [Monica Miller](#)

Treasurer – [Carol Hansford](#)

District I - [Linda Peaden](#)

District II - [Janie Peterson](#)

District III – [Karen Peek](#)

District IV – [Bonnie Smith](#)

District V – [Noble Wyninegar](#)

District VI – [Barbie Stricklin](#)

District VII – [Tami Carty](#)

Minority – [Lilliam Walker](#)

### HELP US KEEP TRACK OF YOU!

*Please remember to contact the office when you have a change in name, address, or phone number.*

*More importantly, if you change schools this summer, please let us know!*



## OCEA Things to Remember

Before leaving for the summer, all schools should elect the following:

1. Elect your Building Representative(s) for next school year. The members at each school should elect one building rep for every ten members or major fraction thereof. One of those should be elected as the Senior BR. Call the OCEA office with the names of your BR's before June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Back-to-School BR Training is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5.
2. ELECT YOUR SCHOOL'S EQUITABLE DUTY COMMITTEE. All schools must have an equitable duty committee per the master contract. The election must be completed during post-planning according to Article V of the Master Contract:

*An Equitable Duty Committee comprised of five (5) teachers in each school shall be formed during post-planning each year. The committee shall be formed in the following order: One (1) member shall be appointed by the principal, then two (2) members shall be elected by total faculty ballot, one (1) member shall be an Association member elected at large by the Association members within that school, and then one (1) member shall be appointed by the principal.*

## Meeting-Free Pre-Planning Days

Please remember (and remind your administration) Tuesday, August 12 and Wednesday, August 13 are designated by a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and OCEA as days for teachers to work in their classrooms to prepare for their students. No meetings, conferences or open houses may be scheduled on those two days. All principals received a copy of the MOA at a meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008.

## Unemployment Compensation

Some of our members qualify to file for unemployment compensation. For teachers that were non-renewed, you may file your unemployment claim on June 10.

*The Okaloosa County Education Association is the exclusive bargaining agent for all teachers of the Okaloosa County School District. OCEA bargains the master contract for all teachers (instructional personnel), but we do not enforce the provisions of the contract for non-members.*

*OCEA has a policy that restricts its officers, staff, building reps, and other employees from providing services for non-members or for those who join after experiencing a job-related problem. As a result, we are unable to provide professional protection for non-members.*

If you are a teacher who was no-positioned, you may file for unemployment compensation, **only if you have not turned down a job offer from the District.** If you have been offered a position and you declined it, the District will probably deny your claim. Even if you know you will be offered a position, it is still your option to file!

The easiest method for most to file a claim is via the internet. Go to [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org) and click "File an Unemployment Claim."

You may file the last day of your contract even though you will be receiving paychecks in June. Please remember the checks received at the end of June are 2/12 of your salary that has been held back during your 10-month employment.

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## A Survivor's Guide

FEA and OCEA have prepared a helpful booklet "Non-Renewals and Layoffs: A Survivor's Guide" for our members. The guide includes many steps that can be taken to ensure all benefits are received from the school district and state if you have been non-renewed or no-positioned. The Survivor's Guide may be [downloaded here](#).

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