



# Central News

February 2017 – News of the Ohio School Boards Association Central Region

## CENTRAL REGION'S DUSTIN WEAVER NAMED OHIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Central Region is proud to be home to the 2017 Ohio Teacher of the Year Dustin Weaver. Weaver, an English teacher at Chillicothe City's Chillicothe High School, was announced as the recipient of the prestigious award on Sept. 22, 2016. A graduate of Chillicothe High School, Weaver is passionate about his community and the teaching profession. To this end, he focuses on his continual professional improvement and the lifelong success of his students. This laser focus translates to high levels of student engagement and achievement.

Described by his students as high energy, committed, innovative and respectful, Weaver realizes students' personal and instructional growth by pushing them to be their best. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Ohio University and a master's degree in secondary English education from Ohio State University (OSU). Additionally, he holds a bachelor's degree in English and psychology.

According to the Ohio Department of Education website, "The Ohio Teacher of the Year award was created in 1969 to honor, promote and celebrate excellence in teaching and the teaching profession." Congratulations, Dustin!

Source: Weaver OTOY

<https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Media-Releases/2016-Media-Releases/Dustin-Weaver-Named-2017-Ohio-Teacher-of-the-Year#.WJ-STRiZNE4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtlKKGs44I>



Dustin Weaver,  
2017 Ohio Teacher of the Year

### State Legislative Conference Wednesday, March 15, 2017

The State Legislative Conference, held at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, provides school board members, administrators and treasurers a great venue to meet with their state legislators and discuss issues impacting public education. It is a golden opportunity to deliver a message about the importance of investing in a strong public school system while putting a local face on these issues.

School district leaders will hear briefings on proposed legislation and from legislative leaders about their views on public education and other priorities.

Register for this conference by using the following link:  
<http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/state-legislative-conference2>

A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart.



### IN MEMORIAM

Marysville EV board member Ed Pleasant passed away June 17, 2016. He began his term on the Marysville EV Board of Education in 2013 and was actively serving at the time of his death. A former teacher and administrator he was known for his calm and common sense approach to leading, and gained the respect of the Marysville and surrounding communities because of his leadership and commitment.

Pleasant served the Marysville community as a chemistry teacher, athletic director, assistant principal and principal. He retired from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services in 2013.

We are grateful to Ed Pleasant for his dedication to public education, his passion for children and his service to students and families.

## SPRING CONFERENCE 2017 IS FAST- APPROACHING – ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Reserve your seat today for the OSBA Central Region Spring Conference on **Monday, March 6**. The event will be held at Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus.

Central Region will recognize outstanding schools, outstanding programs and board members with 10, 15 and 20 years of experience. Additionally, we will honor board members who have earned the Award of Achievement or Master Board Member distinction. The awards portion of spring conference provides the region's membership an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of fellow board members and instructional leaders.

Likewise, spring conference is a professional development opportunity for district leadership. OSBA's experts will deliver pertinent legislative and association updates and like other conferences, we will feature a keynote speaker as part of the professional development experience. **Our featured speaker is Ohio Teacher of the Year Dustin Weaver, an English teacher at Chillicothe City's Chillicothe High School** (see *related article*). We are very proud to have a teacher from the Central Region named the 2017 Ohio Teacher of the Year!

Reservation deadline is Feb. 27. Forms can be downloaded from the Central Region website at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/cr-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/cr-region) or contact Kim Miller-Smith at [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org)

We are looking forward to seeing you on March 6.

### Pickaway County ESC Leadership Academy Wednesday, April 5, 2017 | 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Best practices for booster and other extracurricular groups presented by OSBA Staff Attorney Megan E. Greulich

The Pickaway County ESC is located at 2050 Stoneridge Drive, Circleville, 43113. For more information, please contact Ty Ankrom at (740) 474-7529 or [ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org](mailto:ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org).

## Committee Spotlight Arrangements and Hospitality Committee

The Arrangements and Hospitality Committee consists of five school board members from the Central Region: Nadia Long, Hilliard City; Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center; Mary Pierce, Fairfield County ESC; Sheryl Weber, Mansfield City; and Judy White, Lakewood Local. These committee members assist at regional events such as spring and fall conference and serve as a regional liaison at the Region Resource Center during OSBA Capital Conference in November.

As with all OSBA and Central Region committees, involvement provides an opportunity to meet and



Judy White, Lakewood Local greeting her colleagues – Superintendent Mary Kay Andrews and board member Bill Gulick

network with other school board members and to see how one committee functions as part of OSBA's larger governance structure.

Make a point to meet our Arrangements and Hospitality team at the spring conference on March 6.

*All conference photos courtesy of Gary Motz,  
senior editorial manager, OSBA*

## NSBA TRANSGENDER RESOURCE GUIDE — TRANSGENDER STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS

As many boards of education have discovered recently, the issues facing public schools and school leadership regarding transgender students are very sensitive and complex — socially and legally. (NSBA, [www.nsba.org/resource-library/reports](http://www.nsba.org/resource-library/reports))

A free downloadable guide from the National School Boards Association (NSBA) entitled Transgender Students in Schools is intended to provide school boards and their communities with a balanced, objective resource to use in community conversations and to support the mission of public schools to educate children in safe learning environments.

The document is available at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/89508>.

Watch for the June edition of Central News. We will run a feature article on Lexington Local's Robert H. Whitney, a board member who has served on the Lexington Board of Education for 53 consecutive years.

## GIBBS NAMED CENTRAL REGION ALL-OHIO SCHOOL BOARD



W. Shawna Gibbs, Columbus City – CR All-Ohio Board recipient

The Central Region Executive Committee selected W. Shawna Gibbs, Columbus City, for the All-Ohio School Board, OSBA's most prestigious award.

All-Ohio winners are selected from the region's Outstanding Board Member nominations. The selection committee evaluates nominees who are obviously concerned for the education and welfare of children, invest in their own ongoing professional development, practice good decision-making, work with their fellow board members as a team and follow OSBA's code of ethics. As stated in the Columbus City Board of Education nomination, "Ms. Gibbs' greatest attribute is her steadfast commitment to families and community engagement. She leverages all of her resources to help students achieve personal and academic success. W. Shawna Gibbs is a true public education advocate

who has used her time on the Columbus City School Board to ensure that all children have a voice in their destiny. She has worked to keep CCS engaged with OSBA and she has emphasized the importance of board development to guide our work."

Accepting the award, Gibbs said, "I am humbled to be recognized for this award and believe that public education is worth such a commitment. It is an honor to represent my colleagues in the Central Region and all the amazing students in the great state of Ohio."

## THE CENTRAL REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SERVES YOU

Lee Schreiner  
South-Western City  
President

Amy Eyman  
Lancaster City  
President-Elect

Kevin Crosthwaite  
North Union Local (Union)  
Immediate Past President

Kevin Archer, Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)

Dr. Marguerite Bennett, Mount Vernon City  
and Knox County Career Center

Edward Bischoff, ESC of Central Ohio and  
Delaware Area Career Center

Renda M. Cline, Mansfield City

Mindy Garverick, South-Western City

W. Shawna Gibbs, Columbus City

Stu Harris, Dublin City and Tolles Career &  
Technical Center

Paul Wayne Hinkle, Highland Local (Crawford)

Dr. Paul Johnson, Bucyrus City and Pioneer  
Career & Technology Center

Brian Luke, Marysville EV

Jennifer Lynch, Washington Court House City

Jane McGinty, Madison Local (Richland)

Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox  
County Career Center

Ray Storts, Union Scioto Local (Ross)

Judy White, Lakewood Local (Licking)

Charlie Wilson, Worthington City

Kim Miller-Smith, Region Manager



Kevin Crosthwaite, Past President  
North Union Local



Lee Schreiner, President  
South-Western City

## CENTRAL REGION LEADERSHIP

Under the leadership of Kevin Crosthwaite, North Union Local (Union), the Central Region focused on increasing our connections with state level decision makers. State Board of Education member Stephanie Dodd attended region executive committee meetings and region conferences, where members enjoyed talking about the direction of public schools and the challenges we face.

The region held a legislative open house to provide our membership a face-to-face opportunity to learn more about state issues impacting Ohio's public school districts. Crosthwaite encouraged the event, a first in many years.

Finally, Crosthwaite was responsible for the new Champion of Education award. The award recognizes leaders at the state level who have a long history of advocating for students and public education. We thank Crosthwaite for his excellent service to the Central Region.

In January we welcomed Lee Schreiner, South-Western City, as region president. He has served on the board of education for four years, leading as vice president and serving on numerous other community committees. He is a retired teacher who served South-Western City Schools for 37 years. Schreiner holds a bachelor's degree in education from Urbana University and a master's degree in education from OSU. Married for 40 years, he and his wife have two grown children who graduated from South-Western City Schools. Schreiner is looking forward to serving districts throughout the Central Region and his focus will be strengthening our commitment to *Kids PAC* (see *related article*) and supporting the arts in public schools.

## New Award — Champion of Public Education

Throughout 2016, Central Region leaders discussed the need to recognize those in public office who support and champion the cause of Ohio's public school students. At its July meeting, the executive committee approved the Champion of Public Education award.

To be considered for the award, a nominee must demonstrate significant and outstanding leadership, commitment and contribution to public education that has impacted the districts and/or students of the Central Region and Ohio or be/have been involved in public education and "made a difference" because of his or her involvement.

For the inaugural award, Rep. Mike Duffey, Worthington; former Rep. Bill Hayes; Rep. David Leland, Columbus; Sen. Jay Hottinger, Newark; and Sen. Charleta B. Tavares, Columbus, were honored.

Collectively, these state lawmakers have been accessible and willing to listen to constituents; helped districts facing tangible personal property tax losses; sponsored legislation regarding student discipline; represented the needs of their member districts; and worked to reduce Ohio's carbon footprint.

All five recipients attended the conference and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the recognition.



260 participants listening to OSBA updates

## REGION CONFERENCE – WE JUST GET BETTER

The 2016 Central Region Fall Conference, held Sept. 28, was a successful affair. It was our largest fall conference since 2010 (Dr. Gordon Gee) with **260 people attending and 12 of the 14 counties that make up the Central Region participating**. Attendees were entertained by Delaware City’s Hayes Players String Chamber Orchestra and heard presentations from OSBA Executive Director Richard Lewis; 2016 OSBA President Eric K. Germann, Lincolnview Local (Van Wert) and Vantage Career Center; and OSBA Director of Legislative Services Damon Asbury. LaChandra B. Baker, communications business partner, Cardinal Health, presented an informative and inspiring keynote address about communicating and engaging with diverse stakeholders.



Sen. Tavares (C) accepting her award. Kevin Crosthwaite (L) and Richard Lewis (R)

Two **Outstanding Teachers** (those nominated for the Ohio Teacher of the Year) were presented with leather journals. Teachers recognized were Dustin Weaver and Mary Jo Behrensmeyer, Mount Vernon City.

Additionally, the region awarded the following:



Mary Jo Behrensmeyer (C) with director Kathy Kasler (L) and superintendent William Seder, Jr.

**Exemplary Employee** — Larry Pritchard, Chillicothe City; Maurice Oldham, Columbus City; Dr. Jamie Lusher, Grandview Heights City; Chrysis Thompson, Hamilton Local (Franklin); Kelly Holbrook, Heath City; Cyndi Lavere, Lancaster City; Jason Hankinson, Licking County ESC; Rick Shaffer, Mount Vernon City; Dr. Ian Wei, Olentangy Local (Delaware); Mike Abbott, Upper Arlington City

**Friend of Public Education** — Andrew Vitatoe, Chillicothe City; PACT — Partnerships Achieving Community Transformation, Columbus City; Kathy Mowry, Fairfield Union Local (Fairfield); Dale Joiner, Hamilton Local; Dr. Chris Good, Huntington Local (Ross); Vivian Dernberger, Lakewood Local (Licking); Ric Leichliter, Lancaster City; Mark A. Zanghi, Licking County ESC; Dr. Jay Moodley, Marion City; Sherryl Sheets, North Union Local; Tracy MacDowell, Olentangy Local; Steve Ulrey, South-Western City Schools; The Stand Project, Jenny Ledman, Chair, Upper Arlington City



Thomas Beck celebrating 35 years of service.

**Outstanding Board Member** — W. Shawna Gibbs, Columbus City; Robert Whitney, Lexington Local (Richland); and Randy Reisling, South-Western City

## Board Leadership Institute – April 21-22, 2017

Make plans to attend the only two-day (Friday-Saturday) professional development event in the state designed exclusively for school board members. The Board Leadership Institute (BLI) provides new and veteran board members across Ohio information to help them guide their districts forward. Attendees earn 20 points toward their Award of Achievement status and receive up-to-date information on topics such as student achievement, finance, school law, legislative issues, curriculum and board development.

BLI is April 21-22 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. The hotel is located in north Columbus and parking is free at this facility. Registration is \$255 and includes breakfast and lunch on both days and workshop materials from each of the 18 breakout sessions.

Call (614) 885-1600 for hotel reservations or visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/36593>. Mention OSBA to get a rate of \$131 for a single or double room. Room reservations must be made by March 31 to receive the special rate. To register for BLI, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33166> or contact OSBA Events Manager Laurie Miller at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or [Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org).



## CENTRAL REGION AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT and MASTER BOARD MEMBER RECIPIENTS

The Award of Achievement and Master Board Member honors are presented to board members who have participated in extensive professional development and have shown leadership at both the local and state level. To receive this recognition, a board member must document his or her participation in learning and his/her leadership positions. Specifically, one must accumulate 100 professional development and/or leadership credits over a two-year period to receive the Award of Achievement, while 300 credits over a four-year period earns the designation of Master Board Member. The Award of Achievement may be attained repeatedly, while the Master Board Member designation is granted as a lifetime distinction.

Congratulations to our 2017 Award of Achievement and Master Board Member Recipients.

Charlie Andrews, Miami Trace Local (Fayette)

**Larry Carfrey, Westfall Local (Pickaway)\***

Renda M. Cline, Mansfield City

Kevin Crosthwaite, North Union Local (Union)

Sue Devine, Marysville EV

Ronald Rae Fowler, Bloom-Carroll Local (Fairfield)

Nancy S. Gillespie, Groveport Madison Local (Franklin)

Jane McGinty, Madison Local (Richland)

**Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center\***

Mindy Meyer, Big Walnut Local (Delaware)

David Miller, Miami Trace Local (Fayette)

**Lee Schreiner, South-Western City\***

Dick Smith, Marysville EV

Marlee Snowdon, Bexley City

Ray Storts, Union Scioto Local (Ross)

Don Swonger, Tolles Career and Technical Center

Charlie Wilson, Worthington City

**\*Master Board Member distinction**

## POLITICALLY SUPPORTING OHIO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Do you ever wonder how can we elect state legislators who truly understand and support public education? The answer is simple. Help such people get elected to office. You can aid that cause by contributing to *Kids* PAC.

Political action committees (PACs) are accounts from which contributions to political campaigns can be made. Established by the OSBA Executive Committee to give board members the opportunity to belong to a PAC whose membership is aware of the problems facing boards of education and whose goals were aimed at dealing with those issues, *Kids* PAC provides a way for members to focus attention on the legislative agenda and support lawmakers who believe in these same goals.

As we advocate for the future of public education, it is important to understand that political action committees are part of the process.

Kids PAC contributions can be made by check for any amount or by cash for up to \$100. By law, school district and corporate checks cannot be accepted. Credit card donations for any amount can be made at [kidspac.org](http://kidspac.org), and all contributors will be recognized in the OSBA Journal.

*Please note that contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

For more information or to obtain a membership form, contact OSBA Senior Administrative Assistant of Legislative Services Marcella Gonzalez at [mgonzalez@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:mgonzalez@ohioschoolboards.org) or (614) 540-4000.

Source: [www.ohioschoolboards.org/kids-pac-5](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/kids-pac-5)

## LONGSTANDING SERVICE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

While we recognize that being a board member is rewarding, we also agree that it has its challenges. Serving a district as a board member for 30 years or more is not a common occurrence. In fact, only 2 percent of OSBA's board members reach such a service milestone. Three Central Region members recently accomplished this very feat. Congratulations and thank you to these skilled and dedicated board members for their service.

35 years	Thomas Beck, Ontario Local (Richland);
40 years	Dr. Marilyn Carnes, Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center, Ross-Pike ESC and Zane Trace Local (Ross);
50+ years	Robert H. Whitney, Lexington Local (Richland)

