



Central News

February 2020 – News of the Ohio School Boards Association Central Region

DR. NORMAN JONES SPRING CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

We are delighted to welcome Dr. **Norman Jones**, dean and director of the Ohio State University at Mansfield, as our spring conference keynote speaker.

Jones earned a bachelor's degree in humanities from Yale University, and a master's degree and doctorate in English from the University of California at Los Angeles. He joined Ohio State's faculty in 2004 and has taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses on American literature, the Bible and film.



Dr. Norman Jones

He is the author of several books and essays that explore intersections between the Bible and literature. The Mansfield campus has recognized his contributions with its Award for Excellence in Scholarship and its Award for Excellence in Service.

Recently, Jones announced a partnership between Ohio State Mansfield and Mansfield City Schools that promises to make a big impact for African American students in the Mansfield City School District. The organizations

are collaborating to create a pipeline for African American students to earn a Bachelor's degree with licensure in Education through Ohio State.

Make it a point to attend the OSBA Central Region Spring Conference on March 11 (see related article) to hear his engaging keynote presentation.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The State Legislative Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at the Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square. The event provides district leadership teams a great venue to meet with their state legislators and discuss issues impacting public education. It is a perfect opportunity to get the message out on the importance of investing in strong public schools and putting a local face on these issues.

During the morning session, school district leaders will hear briefings on proposed legislation that can be used in discussions with their legislators during lunch and in office visits later that day. Participants will also hear from legislative leaders about their views on public education and other priorities.

Reservations for this conference are made by using the following link:

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/94491>

BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE MAY 1-2



Make plans to attend the only two-day (Friday-Saturday) professional development event in the state designed by and

exclusively for school board members. The Board Leadership Institute (BLI) provides new and veteran board members across Ohio information to help guide their districts forward. Attendees receive up-to-date information on topics such as student achievement, finance, school law, legislative issues and board development.

The institute also features enlightening keynote speakers, networking luncheons, an on-site OSBA Bookstore and plenty of opportunities to share ideas and best practices with other board members and association staff.

To register for BLI, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/BLI> or contact OSBA Events Manager Laurie Miller at (614) 540-4000, (800) 589-OSBA or Lmiller@ohioschoolboards.org. The event is held at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. Look for more information in upcoming editions of the *Briefcase*.

SPRING CONFERENCE 2020

Reserve your seat today for the OSBA Central Region Spring Conference on **Wednesday, March 11**. 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 the spring conference provides the region's membership an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of fellow board members and instructional leaders.

Further, spring conference is a professional development opportunity for district leadership. OSBA's experts will deliver pertinent legislative and association updates and a keynote speaker will be featured. Dr. **Norman Jones**, dean and director of Ohio State University at Mansfield, will deliver our keynote address. (See related article on front page.)

Reservations will be made online at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/crspring2020/>

Registration deadline for this event is March 2.

We are looking forward to seeing you on **March 11**.



WILSON TO BE TAPPED NSBA PRESIDENT

Central Region's **Charlie Wilson** will be tapped as National School Boards Association (NSBA) president in April of this year. Wilson is an emeritus professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law where he teaches Education Law, Education Policy, School Funding Law, Comparative International Education Policy & Law, Labor Law, and Civil Procedure. Charlie is a 33-year resident of the Worthington school district and has been a Worthington school board member for 12 years. He also serves on the McConnell Arts Center's board of trustees.

Wilson's term as president will be the highest NSBA office achieved by an Ohio school board member. He will become NSBA president on April 3rd in Chicago during the NSBA Annual Conference & Exposition. Wilson was elected as a Central Region representative to NSBA's Board of Directors in 2014 and has held several other NSBA posts. He was OSBA's president in 2013 and has served on the OSBA Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and numerous other regional and state committees.



Charlie Wilson

He has been on the Worthington City Board of Education since 2007.

Charlie has been awarded OSBA's and NSBA's Master Board Member Awards and NSBA's Distinguished Service Award for Extraordinary Commitment to America's Children.

Wilson's goals for his presidency include increasing our voice in Washington for 50 million public school children, continuing the Equity Initiative by reviewing all NSBA policies, resolutions and practices to ensure that they do not hinder or obstruct the promotion of equity, ensuring a student-centered focus and finding ways that will better engage the 90,000 locally elected school board members in NSBA's advocacy.

We congratulate Charlie and wish him well as he represents OSBA and our Central Region.

EVENTS

Feb. 19
Urban Network Winter Meeting

Feb. 25
Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Summit

Feb. 28
School Finance 101: What school board members should know

March 6
Special Education Law Workshop

March 11
Central Region Spring Conference

March 13
Cyberlaw Workshop

March 14
OSBA Black Caucus Workshop: Trauma Informed Education

March 18
State Legislative Conference

May 1-2
Board Leadership Institute

Check out details for all training events at
<https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events>

CENTRAL REGION EXCELLENCE – FALL CONFERENCE 2019



Full house Fall Conference 2019



Reynoldsburg City, Robert Niedermeyer and Cecelia Peirano, Ohio School for the Deaf, Outstanding Teachers with John Halkias 2019 OSBA President and Stu Harris 2019 Central Region President.



Marysville EV, Exemplary Employee Vera Spencer



Dublin City, Friend of Education Chris Groomes

Region president **Stu Harris** presided over the 2019 Central Region Fall Conference held on September 25th. **286 people registered for the event with 13/14 region counties represented.** Villa Milano served an excellent lasagna dish and participants enjoyed the social hour prior to dinner. Attendees were entertained by the Karrer Middle School Chamber Orchestra (Dublin City) and heard presentations from OSBA Executive Director, **Rick Lewis**; OSBA President **John Halkias**, and OSBA Lobbyist, **Will Schwartz**. **Robert Post**, actor and comedian, presented an intriguing performance related to middle school and social emotional learning.

Two **Outstanding Teachers** (region nominations for the Ohio Teacher of the Year) **Cecelia Peirano**, Ohio School for the Deaf and **Robert Niedermeyer**, Reynoldsburg City, were awarded the Central Region Outstanding Teacher award.

Additionally, the region awarded the following:

Exemplary Employee — **Carolyn Smith**, Columbus City; **Doug Baker**, Dublin City; **Tami May**, Hamilton Local (Franklin); **John Tim Dufner**, Lancaster City; **Vera Spencer**, Marysville EV; **Amy Spriggs**, North Union Local (Union); **Irene Hunt**, Upper Arlington City; **Tracey Forcum**, Union-Scioto Local (Ross); **Patricia Zollinger**, Walnut Township Local (Fairfield).

Friend of Public Education — **Monica Kridler**, Columbus City; **Chris Amorose Groomes**, Dublin City; **Richard Szabrak**, Fairfield County ESC; **Mayor Ray DeGraw**, Grandview Heights City; **Stewart Family**, Hamilton Local (Franklin); **Tim Phillips**, Lakewood Local (Licking); **Lisa Pressdee**, Lancaster City; **Amy Zwiezinski**, Marysville EV; **Deputy Shawn Dyer**, North Union Local (Union); **Stacey and Mel Duzan**, Northridge Local (Licking); **Sue Mahler**, Olentangy Local (Delaware); **Debbie Wilder**, South-Western City; **Joe Watson**, Union-Scioto Local (Ross); **Robert Slater, II**, Walnut Township Local (Fairfield); **Rick Bannister**, Westerville City.

Outstanding Board Member — **Gary Baker III**, Columbus City; **Jennifer Best**, Worthington City; **Bernard Snow**, North Fork Local (Licking); **Robin H. Comfort** (posthumously), Upper Arlington City.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

25, 30 and 45 YEARS STRONG

Being a school board member is rewarding and challenging. Effective board service requires skills and effort not always apparent to some onlookers and serving a district as a board member for 25 or more years is certainly not a common occurrence. Congratulations to the following board members:

25 -year recipients

William Short of Highland Local (Morrow), was recognized at Capital Conference for reaching the 25-year board service milestone.

30 -year recipients

James F. Hildreth, Delaware Area CC; **Ted M. McKinniss**, Marion City and Tri-Rivers CC; **Bernard Snow**, North Fork Local (Licking); **Carlyle Smith**, Northmor Local (Morrow); **Mary Jean Theaker**, Pioneer CTC and Knox County CC.

45 -year recipient

Doug Theaker of Mid-Ohio ESC and Pioneer CTC was recognized for 45 outstanding years of board service.

Thanks to all of our veteran board members for your service to our students and communities.



Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns and allow me to connect you with fabulous OSBA services!
kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org
(614) 635-1926

THE CENTRAL REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lee Schreiner
South-Western City, OSBA President

Renda M. Cline
Mansfield City, president

Stu Harris
Dublin City, immediate past president

Kevin Archer
Teays Valley Local (Pickaway), president-elect

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

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

Kevin Butler, Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)

Amy Eyman, Lancaster City, president

Robert Haas, Tri-Rivers Career Center

David Harper, Jefferson Local (Madison) and Tolles Career & Technical Center

Paul Wayne Hinkle, Highland Local (Morrow)

Dennis Long, Galion City and Pioneer CTC

Brian Luke, Marysville EV

Jane McGinty, Madison Local (Richland)

Ted McKinniss, Marion City and Tri-Rivers Career Center

Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center

Leslie Schneider, Marion City

Ray Storts, Union Scioto Local (Ross)

Charlie Wilson, Worthington City

Roger Zeune, Southwest Licking Local (Licking)

Dr. Tina Pierce, Columbus City

Robert Ragland, South-Western City

TOM ASH CHAMPION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

2016 marked the creation of Central Region's Champion of Public Education Award. The Central Region Executive Committee established the award to recognize public servants who have a demonstrated career history of supporting and advocating for public education.



John Halkias, 2019 OSBA President, Tom Ash, Stu Harris, 2019 Central Region President

Tom Ash, was awarded the 2019 Central Region Champion of Public Education.

Thomas P. "Tom" Ash retired Sept. 30th from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators as Director of Governmental Relations after 14 years of serving in that post. In this governmental relations' role, he represented public school district leaders throughout Ohio, before the Ohio General Assembly and various state organizations and provided technical assistance to BASA members.

Ash and BASA have been strong partners with the Ohio School Boards Association and its members over the years coordinating lobbying initiatives, fostering collaboration among superintendents and treasurers and unifying the voice of the public school management team.

Prior to joining the BASA staff, Tom devoted 35 years to public education, with 21 of those as a superintendent at East Liverpool City Schools and Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and he served as the 30th president of BASA during the 1999-2000 school year.

He earned a sterling reputation as a recognized authority on school finance, special education and facilities. He has traveled the state as a speaker and presenter and came to be known as one of Ohio's most influential voices for public education.

Ash was named the 2016-2017 Hicks Executive in Residence at the Patton College of Education at Ohio University, an award bestowed by the university and the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools that honors outstanding educational leaders.

The OSBA Central Region extends our deepest gratitude to Tom for his dedication, service and devotion to Ohio's public schools and the students they serve.

There is no shortage of fun and learning when you attend OSBA and Central Region events. Consider joining us at the next region conference, Legislative Conference Day, Board Leadership Institute, our summer legislative update and the 2020 Capital Conference. Other ways to be involved include scheduling a board development or student achievement workshop in your district, attending an OSBA sponsored workshop, contacting your legislators when legislative alerts are sent and reading your newest copy of Central Region News. Best of all, we are always open to new ideas!



Members engaged at the Central Region 2019 Summer Legislative Update.

CENTRAL REGION LEADERSHIP



Stu Harris, 2019 Region President



Renda Cline, 2020 Region President

January signifies a change in the region's leadership as we greet a new president and set goals for the year ahead. We thank Stu Harris who served ably as the 2019 region president. Stu has served on the Dublin City board of education for 14 years and serves on numerous board standing committees. Harris is assistant general counsel at Nationwide Insurance.

Under Harris' leadership the region focused on social, emotional and mental health. Many members were delighted with Stu's articles about mental health and vaping published in Central News. Likewise, Region Manager Kim Miller-Smith and available executive committee members continued visiting districts at board of education meetings to present awards or meet and greet.

We look forward to Renda Cline leading the region in 2020. Renda has served on the Mansfield City Board of Education for 8 years, being elected as president for 6 of those years. Cline earned a Bachelor of Science in Allied Healthcare Management from Franklin University and has spent her career in the healthcare profession. She has served her community as a Girl Scout leader, Boy Scout den mother, past member of the Tyger Booster Club, PTO President, leader of Women of Destiny and a member of the Ohio State University at Mansfield Board of Directors. Renda has been an active member of the Central Region, OSBA Board of Trustees, Federal Relations Network and has served as a Legislative Liaison and past president of the Black Caucus.

Cline will focus her leadership efforts this year on equity and legislation.

NEWS AND NOTES . . .

REGION MANAGER ADDRESS

Send all correspondence to region manager, Kim Miller-Smith, 8050 N. High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43235.

CHANGE IN RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

In November of last year, the Central Region Executive Committee determined it will no longer recognize a school or district's overall grade rating for a regional award. Considering our long standing issues with the current report card and the inaccurate story it tells about our districts and our work, we decided the "Overall A" recognition was not aligned with the region's values.

Member feedback suggested this action and recommended honoring Schools of Promise, Schools of Honor, Momentum and Blue Ribbon Schools. While the measures used to determine these designations are part of the Local Report Card, the mark is achieved because of substantial progress in high achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap. The Executive Committee concluded progress, not grade attainment, would determine the Outstanding School Award.



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SEVEN KEY BOARD ACTIONS FOR IMPROVED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Kim Miller-Smith, OSBA senior student achievement consultant

Research conducted in Montana in 2013 (*Ivan J. Lorentzen and William P. McCaw*)

The Montana study found that items within the categories of responsible governance, high student achievement expectations, creation of conditions for student and staff success, district accountability and community engagement were related with high student achievement at a statistically significant level. If a school board wants to begin the journey to high student achievement, the following actions are imperative. Effective boards:

1. hold the school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations by evaluating the superintendent on clear and focused expectations.
2. set and communicate goals and plans for meeting those expectations.
3. hold the school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations by committing to a continuous improvement plan regarding student achievement.
4. provide responsible school district governance by conducting board and district business in a fair, respectful, and responsible manner.
5. engage the local community and represent the values and expectations the community holds for its schools.
6. model responsible school district governance by working as an effective and collaborative team.
7. require the board to create districtwide conditions for student and staff success