



# Central News

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



Miami Trace celebrates two Award of Achievement recipients. L-R: Kim Pittser, Asst. Supt.; Dave Lewis, Supt.; David Miller, Board Member; Charlie Andrews, Board Member; and Bill Franke, Business Manager.

## AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT and MASTER BOARD MEMBER RECIPIENTS

The region recognized its largest class of Award of Achievement recipients. 17 Central Region board members participated in extensive professional development and demonstrated leadership at the local and state level. The following board members received this distinct honor: Charlie Andrews, Miami Trace (Fayette); Larry Carfrey, Westfall (Pickaway); Renda M. Cline, Mansfield; Kevin Crosthwaite, North Union (Union); Sue Devine, Marysville EV; Ronald Rae Fowler, Bloom-Carroll (Fairfield); Nancy S. Gillespie, Groveport (Franklin); Jane McGinty, Madison (Richland); Richard McLarnan, Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center; Mindy Meyer, Big Walnut (Delaware); David Miller, Miami Trace (Fayette); Lee Schreiner, South-Western; Dick Smith, Marysville EV; Marlee Snowdon, Bexley; Ray Storts, Union Scioto (Ross); Don Swonger, former board member, Tolles CTC and Charlie Wilson, Worthington.

Finally, the distinction of OSBA Master Board Member was conferred to Larry Carfrey-Westfall, Richard McLarnan-Knox County ESC and Knox County Career Center and Lee Schreiner-South-Western City.

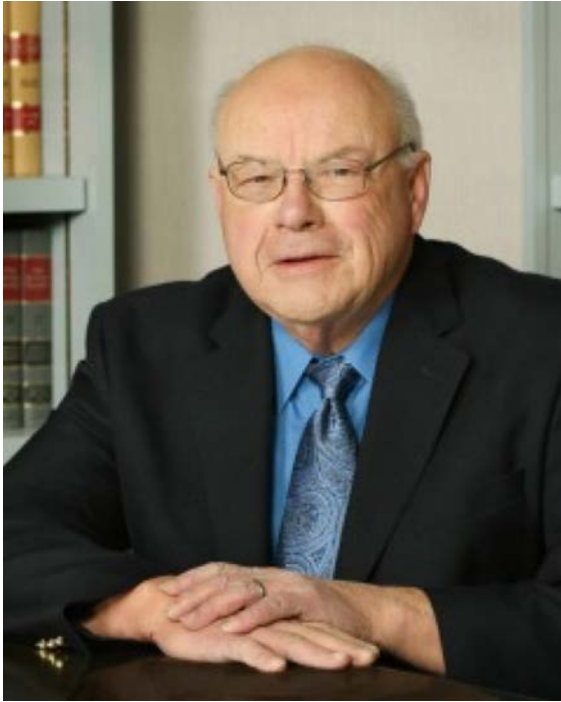
## FALL AWARDS – RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE!

Central Region award applications are due July 1. The Central Region executive committee has been intentional about who and how it chooses to honor excellence in the region.

The Friend of Public Education award and the Exemplary Employee award epitomize what the region's board members believe to be the heart of effective districts. Please consider nominating an outstanding employee (non-teacher) for the Exemplary Employee Award or an invaluable community member for the Friend of Public Education Award. Forms are available on the Central Region web page.

Each district may nominate one individual for each award. The award process is simple and it's an opportunity to bring positive press and communication about people who go the extra mile for your district. Nominees are recognized at the Central Region Fall Conference.





## LEXINGTON'S ROBERT WHITNEY-OHIO'S LONGEST SERVING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Recently, I met up with Robert H. Whitney to talk with him about his tenure on the Lexington Local (Richland) Board of Education and his experiences over the last 53 years. Yes, you read that service correctly. Whitney has served the Lexington Board of Education for 53 consecutive years. Appointed to the board in 1964, Whitney's influence on the district has been significant.

Lexington's superintendent, Mike Ziegelhofer, recently described Whitney as follows: "He's a strong leader and there is no greater advocate for our kids."

When asked to describe his long-standing service, Mr. Whitney said, "It's been fun – especially when you have good board companions and leaders. Through the years, I've had the occasion to serve with my older son for several terms and now with my grandson who is serving his first term. I've

served with the former superintendent of Lexington who was the superintendent of schools when I graduated from high school and my high school history teacher."

Whitney says, he enjoys getting to know the students and follows them from grade school to high school. "It's a great feeling to run into them later in the community as adults and talk with them."

Born and raised in Lexington, Whitney has seen the community change from the approximate 300 K-12 students of his time to the approximate 2600 students the district enrolls, presently. "When I went to school, I could have gone from house to house and named each dad, mom, child, dog and cat – and back then, grandparents who came to live with families as they retired."

Like all school districts, over the years, Lexington had its share of rough times. Mr. Whitney remembers school board meetings that lasted until 4 a.m. New laws and regulations came from the federal and state government and much discussion and debate followed as the board put law into policy. However, those debates were settled, and Whitney claims, "We got into the groove of doing what was right by the children and at the same time, we enjoyed (and still do enjoy) great parental and community support."

That "groove" has carried on for decades and it may not be a coincidence that Whitney has served as board president for over 30 years.

A key element to doing what is right by children, is hiring the best staff possible. "We recognize our people and appreciate the fact that everyone on staff connects with our kids. We hear the phrase, it takes a village, and it does take the gamut of staff to help our children. Our maintenance workers, administrators, teachers, bus drivers, custodians, food service employees – all of them make an impression on our children."

When asked what advice he would give to new board members or to those who are thinking of running for the board of education, Whitney shared the following. "Be prepared to put some time in. Do what you think is right and listen to people, let them get their feelings off their chest, hear what they have to say. You are elected by the community to do a good job in public office – all people deserve the right to say their piece. Return phone calls, answer emails, etc. and if you are going to run, keep uppermost in your mind, what you are going to do and what you are there for – it's not for you, or what you think things should be, it's for whatever is best for those youngsters."

## CENTRAL REGION LEGISLATIVE OPEN HOUSE EVENT

Plan to join us on Aug. 23 for our region's second summer legislative open house.

The topic of this event will be "a legislative update for school leaders." Pickaway Ross CTC will host the open house. The event will be held in the Adult Education Center located at 1410 Industrial Drive, Chillicothe, 45601. This is a free event, which will begin with social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. We will end by 8 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to hear the latest important legislative news as we start into the 2017-2018 school year. We hope to see you there.



### WE NEED YOU!

Nomination forms have been delivered to your mailbox. Please consider becoming a member of the Central Region Executive Committee. To represent each county in our region, we especially need members from Delaware, Fayette, Marion and Madison counties. If you need help with the application or want more information, call Kim Miller-Smith @ 614-540-4000.

## IN MEMORIAM

We extend condolences to the Liberty Union – Thurston Local Board of Education on the passing of their treasurer, David Butler, on April 4, 2017. Butler served as treasurer of Liberty Union Schools since 1991 and he worked previously as a State Examiner, auditing public schools and libraries and was a longtime member of OSBA.

Butler is remembered for his incredible dedication, his attentiveness to details and his wealth of knowledge and history about every operation of the district. On April 10, 2017, Mr. Butler received his third consecutive Auditor of State Award, a testimony to the accuracy and organization of the district's financial records.

We are indebted to Mr. Butler for his service and dedication to public education.

### PLEASE NOTE:

All correspondence to region manager, Kim Miller-Smith, should be sent to 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43235. Please share this information with appropriate district personnel and change your records.

## NEW OSBA WEBSITE – YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS

If you visited the OSBA website lately, you probably noticed significant changes! The website features a great search feature. Use the search icon to quickly find the information you are used to accessing.

Check out Central Region news, photos, forms and applications by clicking the Information Center tab and then selecting OSBA Regions. Central Region is listed on the left side of the page.

Fillable nomination forms for Exemplary Employee and Friend of Public Education are listed under Resources on the Central Region page.

Contact Kim Miller-Smith if you have comments or ideas about our web page.





Richard Lewis, OSBA Executive Director; Richard McLarnan, Master Board Member recipient from Knox County Career Center and Knox County ESC; OSBA President, Denise Baba

## OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER

Five Ohio school board members, one from each region, will take center stage in November to receive the Ohio School Boards Association's most prestigious honor, the All-Ohio School Board Award.

Consider nominating your outstanding board member. The deadline is June 30. **All board members who are nominated will be recognized as outstanding board members at the Central Region Fall Conference on Sept. 27.** One outstanding board member will be selected by the region's award committee as the All-Ohio recipient.

**This nomination requires board action so ACT NOW!** We have many deserving candidates in our region – let's recognize them for their dedication to our schools and the communities they serve. A link to the brochure follows: <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sites/default/files/17AllOhioNominationForm.pdf>

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSULTANT

Region Manager Kim Miller-Smith has assumed additional duties with OSBA as OSBA's new senior student achievement consultant. In this role, she will help school board members and others to understand their roles in closing the achievement gap and advancing the instructional needs of *all* students.

Because school board members make decisions that impact instructional programs and distribute resources that improve learning opportunities, understanding student achievement is important. OSBA's goal is to make improved student achievement an ongoing and visible part of every Ohio school board's mission.

## FALL CONFERENCE

Mark Sept. 27 on your calendar today! You will not want to miss the Central Region Fall Conference. Friends of Public Education, Exemplary School Employees, Outstanding Teachers, board members with more than 30 years of service and the All-Ohio School Board nominees will be honored.

Additionally, our association president and executive director will provide OSBA news and important legislative updates will be shared. A keynote speaker will be announced soon.

The event will be held at Villa Milano and the social hour will begin at 5 p.m. **Reservations will be taken until Sept. 18.**

Individual reservations are \$40 and tables of eight can be reserved for \$320. Registration will open in August – look for more information in the Central Region Summer Newsletter and upcoming editions of the *Briefcase*.

## SPRING CONFERENCE 2017

Region President Lee Schreiner board vice president South-Western City Schools, presided over the 2017 Central Region Spring Conference on March 6, 2017. 348 people registered with all of the region's 14 counties represented. Villa Milano hosted the event and participants enjoyed the social hour and meal. Grove City High School's String Quartet provided an excellent dinner performance.

Attendees heard association and legislative updates from OSBA Executive Director Richard Lewis, OSBA President Denise Baba, and OSBA Deputy Director of Legislative Services Jay Smith. Ohio Teacher of the Year, Dustin Weaver, an English teacher from Chillicothe High School, presented an insightful address about the value of good teachers, their significant impact on student achievement and how district leaders can support meaningful instruction. The presentation was outstanding.

The following school districts were recognized for their outstanding programs as exhibited at the 2016 Student Achievement Fair: Big Walnut (Delaware), Bloom-Carroll (Fairfield), Columbus, Dublin, Eastland-Fairfield CTC, Hamilton (Franklin), Liberty Union-Thurston (Fairfield), London, Marion, Olentangy (Delaware), Union Scioto (Ross) and Shelby.

Central Region's two 2017 Blue Ribbon School recipients were honored. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a national recognition program, honoring elementary and secondary schools in the United States that make significant progress in closing achievement gaps or whose students achieve at the highest levels in their state. We were pleased to award the outstanding school Blue Ribbon Award to the boards, administration and staff of Scioto Ridge Elementary School-Olentangy and Summit Road Elementary School-Reynoldsburg.

Ten schools were recognized for their *All-A* designation from ODE for 2015 and 2016: Galion Primary School, Galion; Olentangy High School, Olentangy Liberty High School, Olentangy Orange High School, Olentangy; Bexley High School, Bexley; New Albany K-1 Elementary School and New Albany High School, New Albany Plain (Franklin); Granville High School, Granville EV; Lexington High School, Lexington (Richland); and Stevenson Elementary School, Grandview Heights.

Three schools earn the Ohio Department of Education *School of Promise* for 2015 and 2016. Recognized for their designations were Westfall High School-Westfall (Pickaway), Mansfield Spanish Immersion School-Mansfield, and Plymouth High School-Plymouth-Shiloh (Richland).



OSBA President, Denise Baba, greets Miranda Cline, daughter of CR Executive Committee Member, Renda Cline



Spring Conference Social Hour – Mike Ziegler, Supt. Lexington Local, Rob Delane, OSBA Deputy Executive Director and Jason Whitesel, Lexington Local Treasurer



Reynoldsburg City School District – Outstanding School, 2017 Blue Ribbon School  
Melissa Drury, Principal Summit Road Elementary School and Debbie Dunlap, board member



School of Promise – Outstanding School  
Ashley Kelly, Westfall High School Dean of Students and Lee Schreiner, Central Region President

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FAIR

The OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair highlights outstanding student performance groups and innovative programs from school districts across the state. Generally, 20 instructional programs from each region are selected to showcase their programs. The fair will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017, during OSBA Capital Conference.

One performing group per region is selected to perform at the Student Achievement Fair. If you believe you have an exceptional choir, band, orchestra, percussion ensemble, cheerleaders or an acting group, nominate them for the region's Capital Conference performing group. Performing at Capital Conference is an outstanding learning opportunity for students and it is repeatedly evaluated as a top conference event by our attendees.

### **Nomination deadline is June 23.**

Nominate a student-performing group or district program today! For more information visit

<http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/2017/saf-program-nomination/>



## REGIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSOR

Participants who attended the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 region conferences noted a new partnership. The Limbach Company has graciously sponsored our semi-annual event and we look forward to continuing this partnership. Not a stranger to many districts in the Central Region, Limbach delivers facility upgrades and key energy renovation projects (HB 153, HB 264 and PACE) to create energy-efficient and sustainable buildings.

Why a sponsor? The reservation fee for Central Region Conference has not increased since 2009. However, (and as you may imagine) conference expenses have increased – total per person expenses average \$35.67. The Central Region Executive Committee must increase revenue to cover conference expenses and provide enough profit to reinvest in other activities such as the summer legislative open house.

We have a choice - we can add revenue with sponsors or increase the event price for conferences. Presently, the Central Region Executive Committee has opted to keep the cost of our region conference at \$40 per participant and accept a financial commitment from a sponsoring partner.

If you have any questions or concerns about the sponsorship, please let us know. Likewise, if you know of a group that would like to sponsor one of our events, please contact Kim Miller-Smith – [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org)

## PRE-BOARD CANDIDATE WORKSHOP

**Where:** OSBA, Columbus  
**When:** Saturday, July 15, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** FREE

The OSBA office is located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43235.



## MILESTONE SERVICE RECOGNITION

Board members received well-deserved recognition for their years of service at Spring Conference.

Ten year awardees included: Tim Bachelder, Northmor (Morrow); Ted Backus, Delaware; Gary Baker II, Columbus; Patrick Ballenger, Ridgedale (Marion); Chris Blacka, Jonathan Alder (Madison); Robin Comfort, Upper Arlington; Dan Cryder, Ross-Pike ESC; Greg Deal, Huntington (Ross); Amy Deeds, Granville; C. Amy DeLong, Circleville; Amy Eyman, Lancaster; Mindy Garverick, South-Western; Jody Goetzman, Mt. Vernon; Trisha Good, Lakewood (Licking); Pam Hallum, Hamilton (Franklin); Jamie Hartley, Huntington (Ross); David Huber, Fairbanks (Union); Joe Jankowski, Hamilton; Paul Johnson, Bucyrus; Julie Keegan, Worthington; Debra Kelley, Heath; Dennis Long, Galion; John Luedy, Madison (Richland); Roger Maglott, Lucas (Richland); Scott Melody, Dublin; Eric Park, Ridgedale (Marion); Vincent Popo, Walnut Township (Fairfield); Darrel Severns, Danville (Knox); Virgil Staley, Mount Gilead (Morrow); Jeff Stauffer, Southeastern (Ross); Ray Storts, Union-Scioto (Ross); Matthew Weller, Delaware; Lorie White, Shelby; Lisa Whiting, Hilliard; and Steve Williams, Marion.

15 year veterans: Daniel Bradhurst, Circleville; Eric Brown, Columbus; Dennis Hall, North Union (Union); John Hutton, Liberty-Union (Fairfield); Rhonda Rowland, Wynford (Richland); Gary Sims, Pleasant; and Keith Stoner, Lexington (Richland).

Board members celebrating 20 years of service included: Roger Clark, Centerburg (Knox); Dennis Cramer, Amanda-Clearcreek (Fairfield); Freddie Latella, Licking County ESC; Tim Ley, Colonel Crawford (Crawford); Jeff Meyers, Madison (Richland); Michael Pugh, Southeastern (Ross); and Lori Sanders, Pickerington (Fairfield).



L-R: Richard Lewis, Denise Baba, Gary Baker, II, Lee Schreiner



L-R: Richard Lewis, Denise Baba, Amy Deeds, Lee Schreiner



Board member, Julie Keegan with Superintendent, Trent Bowers

## THE CENTRAL REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SERVES YOU

Kevin Crosthwaite, North Union Local (Union) – Past President  
Lee Schreiner, South-Western City – President  
Amy Eyman, Lancaster City – President Elect  
Kevin Archer, Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)  
Margie Bennett, Mt. Vernon City and Knox County JVSD  
Ed Bischoff, ESC of Central Ohio and Delaware Area Career Center  
Renda Cline, Mansfield City  
Mindy Garverick, South-Western City – OSBA Board of Trustees  
W. Shawna Gibbs, Columbus City - OSBA Board of Trustees  
Stuart Harris, Dublin City  
Wayne Hinkle, Highland Local (Morrow)  
Paul Johnson, Bucyrus City  
Brian Luke, Marysville Exempted Village  
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) (Trustee-at-Large)  
Charlie Wilson, Worthington City



Region Manager, Kim Miller-Smith, presenting Amy Eyman of Lancaster City Schools her 10-year milestone service award.

## CENTRAL REGION BOARD VISITS

As an outreach to our region's school districts, Regional Manager Kim Miller-Smith, and Central Region Executive Committee members continue to visit school boards in their local districts. The visits provide an opportunity to present awards to board members who were unable to attend regional conference, allow school board members an opportunity to connect names and faces with their Central Region representatives and gives OSBA an opportunity to personally thank our school boards for their association membership and participation in the governance of public schools. If you are interested in a visit from your region manager, email [kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:kmillersmith@ohioschoolboards.org).