



NEWSLETTER

Beaverton Chapter #48

April 2007

Contacts:

Steve Specht, President
Beaverton High School
13000 SW 2nd St
Beaverton, OR 97005
503-219-5000
503-319-8190

Shawna Harris, OSEA
3635 SW Hood Ave
Portland, OR 97239
503-223-1807
503-819-2251 (cell)

OSEA Salem Office
4736 Liberty Rd. South
Salem, OR 97302
1-800-252-6732



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Last month in my President's Corner I addressed the important issue of Presidential time release. I know many folks have had an opportunity to read it because I'm getting some great questions from the membership. To be helpful, I'd like to clarify some of the main questions here.

How much of our current dues stay at the chapter level? Currently, one dollar per member per month stays right here in the Beaverton chapter. This is the money that is used to fund chapter general meetings, executive board meetings, conference expenses, Classified Employee Week donations, political donations (like the bond levy), student and employee scholarships and other chapter and local needs. For more detailed information, please take a look at the chart on the OSEA First Class Folder, which gives a breakdown of chapter expenditures & shows how we use our chapter funds.

Why do we need an additional dollar? The Executive Board carefully considered the amount that would be needed to fully fund Presidential time release. Historically, our Presidents have used two days per week. While I only take one day per week, I won't be President forever and we wanted to ensure that the next President could take the customary two days. By dedicating that extra dollar, we will ensure that whoever is President, regardless of what position they hold in the district (which dictates how much we need to reimburse the district), our chapter will have enough money to maintain time release so that he or she can continue to represent our members in the manner we deserve and have come to expect.

Why are we coming to you with this request now? The state time release fund that we have utilized in the past is \$40,000 for all OSEA chapters. We have made requests each year pursuant to board policy and have been granted varying amounts. As more chapters come to appreciate the benefits of time release they too have applied for and received funds. Normally time release is used for projects of limited duration such as membership drives or chapter building. Because of its inherent, ongoing value, some chapters have begun funding their own Presidential time release. This is precisely why we are having this conversation in Beaverton. We will still be able to seek funding through the state time release fund for member time release (VP Terry Graham's time release for member and Building Rep recruitment is a great example) but we will be able to independently ensure that we have the resources to continue our own Presidential time release.

Will it be used for anything other than time release? No, this money will be contained in a separate, dedicated line item solely for Presidential time release.

I hope the above has addressed these excellent questions for you. Your executive board takes this seriously and encourages your support. We looked long and hard at what we needed before we brought this to your attention. Our chapter has done so much good work these past years and we all want it to continue. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any other executive board member with questions you may have. We would love to help you. This vote will not be conducted at our April chapter meeting but will be sent out by mail to all members along with our officer and conference delegate ballots. I look for your support, urge you to vote and thank you for your input.

Steve Specht, President

Presidential Time Release Fund Vote Update!

Please be advised that rather than voting on the time release issue at the April chapter meeting, we will be voting by mail. Ballots will be sent to all members along with the balloting for chapter officers and conference delegates. In this way, more members will be given an opportunity to participate in the vote. Also, by sending the two ballots out together, we will conserve resources. If you have any questions about the presidential time release issue please contact an executive board member or Shawna Harris. If you don't know if you are a member, contact the Salem office at 1-800-252-6731.

Take a look at the OSEA folder on First Class or our chapter website for a Q & A regarding presidential time release as well as a pie chart explaining chapter expenditures!

OSEA CHAPTER 48 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for our employees (three \$500 scholarships), student applications (one \$1,000 and four \$500), and our new \$1,000 student scholarship in memory of our late Beaverton School Board Chairman, Mike Osborne may be downloaded from the First Class OSEA Online folder and/or the Chapter 48 web site and mailed directly to Kirk Wilkins at the address below:
(Note: these must be received by Friday, May 4, 2007)

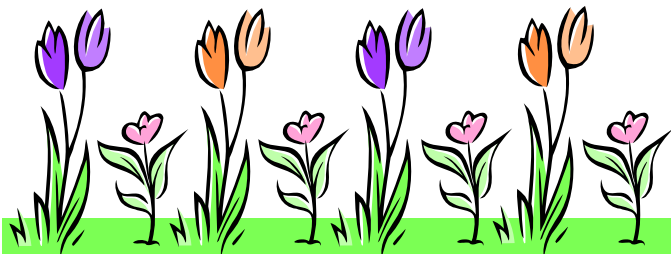
Kirk Wilkins
546 N. Buffalo
Portland, OR. 97217
Transportation Ext. 3729 or 503-285-8135 or via
District First Class

Former Chapter Presidents Speak About Time Release

Julie Case, 3 term President, says, "Presidential time release afforded the Beaverton chapter two days a week for chapter building. It was time I could personally spend with district employees that might otherwise have just been a phone call or email response. My responses to employees were surely more timely because of time release. By being out in the sites it put a face to a name and, in my opinion, made an unpaid, volunteer position worth doing. Had it not been for time release, school visits would not have happened and I would not have been able to be as involved as I was in representing employees at meetings. Time release is for chapter building. Be sure that Beaverton continues to build. I support President time release for chapter building."

Kristi Crooks, 2 term President, says, "I want to share with our members how important I found Presidential time release. The time I was given during my term as President allowed me to hold classification meetings twice a year to gather information for the 2003-2006 bargaining agreement. It is a yearlong process to gather information pertinent to going into bargaining. Time release also offered me the time to do numerous site visits, sit on many committees, build a rapport with BEA, meet with our school board members individually, make sure we put out a monthly newsletter and more. Without time release available to attend to all of these things, I doubt I would have had the energy or time to attend all the school board and District Insurance Committee meetings and hold our own monthly chapter and executive board meetings. Being a President is a volunteer position and we all realize that going in, but time release provides some additional time to make sure everything gets done. If I would have had to rely solely on my own time after work and on weekends, I don't see how the job could have been done thoroughly. With over 1600 members, being the President is a huge job. Our members deserve a President who has the time to give it their all. President's time release is essential to enable the President to represent our Chapter 48 membership and keep the organization running smoothly. We've made significant organizational progress over the past 10 years and I'd like to see it continue."

Glenna Volk, 2 term President, says, "With a chapter of over 1600 members, we continue to need stronger representation. Release time gives our members another set of eyes and ears as different issues come up. Release time gave me more opportunities to meet with different classified groups, to be proactive about issues and to be a more accessible leader."



Great News on Insurance for '07-'08

The District Insurance Committee met recently and was provided with some very positive news regarding our renewal premiums for next year. Both our Kaiser plan and our Blue Cross Orange plan continue to come in under the employer capped contribution and remain a no-cost option to folks 6 hours and up. Our Blue Cross Blue plan will only go up a few dollars and only because we made an important and inexpensive alteration to our Blue Cross plans. On both Blue Cross plans we changed the lifetime maximum from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00. While we fortunately haven't had any of our employees reach the \$1,000,000.00 lifetime maximum yet, with today's health care costs it is possible so it only made sense to make the change to protect our members. Many of our employees stay with BSD for a long time and those annual benefits paid out can really add up over a lifetime!

Another positive change you will see is that after July 1, unmarried, opposite sex domestic partners can now be covered on all of our plans. There are some minor tax implications involved in covering your partner under your plan so just be aware. However, the benefit to most people will far outweigh any potential tax implications.

As a special reminder to our 4-6 hour employees, please remember that we negotiated a new benefit for you in the last round of negotiations. If you work 4-6 hours and qualify for 1/2 benefits but ONLY want to select dental, the premium is ENTIRELY paid by the employer; you will not have to pay anything toward the premium. If you are not currently enrolled, you can only sign up for the benefits during open enrollment in May. If not, you will have to wait until next year to enroll.

Look for upcoming information from the district regarding these changes and more as we approach our open enrollment in May.

Remember the OSEA web address:

http://www.osea.org/pages/Chapter_Websites/48/index.htm

Greg Poulin/Webmaster/Ridgewood Elementary

BSD Staff Development Updates

Summer Institute 2007:

Summer Institute will be held June 19-29th and again August 13-17th. This year's catalog will be available the 2nd or 3rd week of April with a tentative registration deadline of June 1, 2007. The catalog will be sent to all BSD personnel via e-mail. Hard copies will also be made available to the schools.

Classified New Hire Academy:

We are excited to be able to offer this academy to all of our newly hired classified employees. This academy will coincide with the New Teacher Academy and is scheduled for August 20-21st. The academy is in the planning stages. More information will follow.

April Calendar of Events

- 7 OSEA All Committee Meetings, Salem Office
- 9 Time Release Proposal Informational Meeting, 5:00pm, Mountain View Middle School
- 10 Chapter 48 Executive Board Meeting, 5:15pm, Village Inn Pancake House
- 11 BSD School Board, Regular Meeting, 7:00pm, Oak Hills Elementary School
- 14 OSEA State Executive Board Meeting, 9:00am, Salem Office
- 16 **Chapter 48 General Meeting, 5:00pm, District Office Conf. Room 11**
- 23 BSD School Board Study Session, 6:00pm, Administration Center



Hearts and Flowers help....

Hearts & Flowers need your help! If you know of an OSEA member or member's family who could use a card letting them know we're thinking of them, then contact Kirk Wilkins through district e-mail, with contact info, so we can let them know they're in our thoughts. Thanks.

Letty Anderson/Newsletter Editor/Elmonica Elementary