



NEWSLETTER

Beaverton Chapter #48

November 2009

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1746

Beaverton Classified
Employees!!

The Prez Sez!

by Terry Graham

Hello everyone, looks like Fall is here. The Holidays will be upon us before you know it. That means snow, hopefully not like last winter.

Our chapter has a By-laws Committee to review and propose changes in our Chapter's Constitution (by-laws). They have not been reviewed by a committee since 2001. The Committee consists of Kerin Larson, Julie Case, Dianna Hess, Kelly Weidrich, Shelly Critchlow, Barbara Tannock Newman, Jim Campbell, and Kirk Wilkins, with Terry Graham sitting in on the discussions. The committee is hoping to have proposed changes ready for presentation by the February Chapter Meeting. They will be posted in the First Class folder, presented at the Chapter meeting, and then sent out to the chapter membership for their vote. If you'd like to have anything brought up for review or have suggestions, please contact any of the members of the committee.

New membership cards for OSEA /AFT have been sent out. If you have not received yours in the mail (or threw it out by mistake) please contact your friendly OSEA office in Salem at 1-800-252-6732.

There is an upcoming special election in January that could have a very major impact on school employees across the state. This last year your elected officials passed a bill to raise the corporate tax and income tax on high wage earners to help shore up the budget shortfalls the schools were facing. If this tax increase fails, the Beaverton School District alone could see a \$10M shortfall. This could lead to possible staffing cuts or school days cut to make up the lost revenue. You will be hearing more about this from your GRO committee.

With it getting darker earlier in the evenings and later in the mornings, be sure to drive safely and turn those lights on. See you at the next general meeting on Nov. 14th @ Elmonica!

Terry

Blazers tickets -- Don't forget to order your Blazers tickets for this year's OSEA nights at the Rose Garden. To order tickets online, go to <http://tickets.trailblazers.com/deals>.

Catching Flies with Honey

By Shawna Harris / OSEA Rep

Remember that old phrase your mother used to tell you, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar?" It turns out that she was right, at least in terms of staying out of hot water with your co-workers and your employer.

A common theme in many of the investigatory and disciplinary meetings I attend comes down to basic ideas about **professionalism** and treating others with respect. The Beaverton School District takes these ideas very seriously and I believe employees and students are better off for it.

Take some time to read through the "little blue book", the Code of Professional Conduct, to review the district's expectations of all employees. Each of us can benefit from putting some thought into our workplace behavior and how we treat people. By pondering it ahead of time, it might make a difference in how you react in a future difficult situation. While you have no control over how others choose to act toward you, you always have control over yourself and how you deal with a situation. You can sink to someone else's level or you can model good practices and behavior, just like you often do for students. Other people's inappropriate remarks or behavior do not provide a license to act in kind.

However, if you are experiencing frustrating, hurtful or unprofessional behavior in your work environment you don't need to suffer in silence. If you feel comfortable discussing the issue with the person involved, do so. Make sure you find an appropriate time and location so that your message has the best opportunity to be heard. Try to use "I" statements rather than "You" statements. If you aren't comfortable discussing the issue directly or you have already tried and you haven't felt successful, try speaking with an administrator, a Work Site Rep, a chapter executive board member or your field rep. **Everyone deserves to be treated respectfully at work.** Just like family, we don't get to choose with whom we work. However, if we all make every attempt at professionalism, it can make those hours we do spend at work a little more satisfying and enjoyable.

The next General Meeting
Nov 14th 5pm @ Elmonica

Update from Lawrence

By Lawrence Rajotte

Greetings fellow classified employees. Allow me to introduce myself as your newly appointed Government Relations Chair, for a newly forming **Government Relations Committee**. My name is Lawrence Rajotte. I am currently the Head Custodian at Cedar Park Middle School. Some of you may have known me from my previous incarnation when I was the Night Foreman at Southridge High School.

The purpose of this new Government Relations Committee is to build an open channel of communication between our own classified union and the local, state and federally elected officials who have an enormous amount of influence on matters of great importance to us.

The most obvious locally elected officials would naturally be our very own Beaverton School Board. Last spring I was a participant in an ad hoc committee of five classified employees who had the very educational task of personally interviewing seven prospective school board candidates. Of those seven we interviewed, three are currently members of the 2009-10 School Board. I have attended two School Board meetings since the start of the new school year, and I have just attended one small, intimate, School Board Development meeting, where I was able to formally introduce myself to two other members of the board that I had not previously had the pleasure of meeting. There are two board members to whom I have not yet introduced myself – as one was not in attendance at the first board meeting, and the other was not in attendance at the second. This little detail will be corrected at our next school board meeting.

In addition to developing relationships with Beaverton School Board members and locally elected officials, we would like to open up greater channels of communication between our own classified members in order to actually build a Government Relations Committee with interested and engaged members. I can visualize implementing a program or campaign

to engage local businesses in pledging their support for what can only be described as 'living wage jobs.' In tough economic times, classified jobs are never immune from budgetary consideration, but real support from local businesses can go a long way to help 'dissuade' such an option from ever seeing the light of day in the first place. There will also be an ongoing opportunity, for those with a desire to do so, to become more actively engaged in local political campaigns or issues. The most important issue that is of concern to classified employees are the new, upcoming Ballot Measures which are 66 and 67. A 'Yes' vote on these measures would greatly reduce the risk of losing classified jobs. A 'No' vote would all but guarantee those very job loses.

I hope to initiate a grassroots campaign amongst our members – and even beyond - incorporating the slogan "Fair is Fair, Pay your Share" vote 'yes' on 66 and 67... I hope you will join me in making sure these measures pass, so that the funding the BSD is relying on this year and next will not be cut further.

Contact Lawrence at Cedar Park for information about joining this important committee.

November Calendar of Events

By Dianna Hess

Nov 11 - Veterans Day-No School for BSD Employees

Nov 14 - Chapter 48 Mtg 10am @ Elmonica Elementary

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving- No School for BSD Employees

Nov 27 - No School for BSD Employees

Those Furlough Days

By Jean Gorton & Shawna Harris

Classified employees have different work calendars, depending on their positions. Calendar assignments are noted on your classified staffing assignment sheets.

Employees on 180 and 185 day calendars are not paid and not scheduled to work on licensed furlough days.

Employees on 210 and 260 day calendars are paid and scheduled to work on licensed furlough days.

If you have questions, contact Joan Lattner x4338.

2009-10 Chapter 48 Executive Board:

President:	Terry Graham
1 st Vice President:	Kirk Wilkins
2 nd Vice President:	Jim Campbell
Treasurer:	Jean Gorton
Secretary:	Dianna Hess

Web addresses:

<http://osea.org/48>

<http://aft.org>

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