



The Canton Professional Educators' Association

# RECAP

Retired Educators Caring About their Profession

Vol. 5 No. 1

May 2007

## YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN SAYING FAREWELL TO OUR PRESIDENT

Sam Dorts has announced he is retiring effective July 1, 2007 with 38.2 years of STRS service credit, 36 of those years being in the Canton City Schools. This current school year is Sam's 25th year to serve as CPEA President. He also attended and graduated from the CCS. His roots are deep in the Canton City Schools.

**We are inviting you to join us on Friday, June 1, 2007 from 2:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the CPEA office. 1327 Market Ave. N., as we host a retirement reception honoring Sam.**

We have been asked about gifts for Sam or if we are collecting for a group gift. Those of you who know Sam well know he is a very humble person who prefers to shun the limelight and gifts. We would like you to know we are confident your presence at his reception will suffice as present enough for Sam. However if you do wish to honor him with a gift we would like you to know we have established a new additional CPEA scholarship named the Sam Dorts Scholarship which will be awarded for the first time in the Spring of 2008. Sam will be involved in establishing the criteria for this new scholarship. Your contribution to that award would be welcomed and we believe appreciated by Sam although we do not pretend to ever speak for him. If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship, please make your check payable to "CPEA-Sam Dorts Scholarship" and send or bring to the CPEA Office.

Under Sam's leadership the CPEA has continued to grow and prosper and to truly "represent" the membership. Among Sam's many leadership strengths was his personal position to always want the TOTAL membership to be informed about issues impacting the CCS and members personally. Under his leadership he had many visions for what the CPEA was and could become and never faltered in providing the leadership to make positive things happen. One dream of his, and now very tangible evidence of that vision, is the current CPEA office building which the CPEA has purchased, no more annual contracts and rents to deal with. It is fitting that his retirement reception should be hosted in this very building which is one of his many visions become reality.

Additionally, we are requesting that if you have any special thoughts or a memorable event you shared with Sam that you would like to remind him of again, please bring those with you in writing to the reception for a scrapbook we will compile OR e-mail them to Sandy Rosetta no later than May 23, 2007 at [rosetta1427@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosetta1427@sbcglobal.net)..

The CPEA has become known, involved in, and respected by the community, both the city of Canton and beyond during Sam's tenure. His "up front", no nonsense approach to everything has been obvious and appreciated. With Sam Dorts, "what you see is what you get". He has stood up for members, both collectively and individually, and yes part of that WAS in his job description but Sam went beyond the "requirements" and put his heart and soul into all of his efforts. He always seemed to go "the extra mile" for both members and the Association and never backed down.

While the CPEA will sorely miss Sam's outstanding leadership, he believes the time is right for a new team to take over at the same time a new Superintendent will be leading the CCS next school year. They can have a new start together and hopefully build a good working relationship. He has total confidence in the newly elected Leadership team and believes the transition will barely be noticeable in philosophy and methodology.



## OFFICERS TO LEAD CPEA

CPEA Officer elections were held recently with the following persons being elected to offices beginning July 1, 2007. The CPEA Leadership Team for 2007-2008 is as follows:

President---Pam Jackson  
Vice President---Mary Beth Medford  
Secretary---Lisa Downard  
Treasurer---Bobbie Grimm

Executive Committee Members are these:

### **Pre-School/5th**

Rodney Conrad, Geneva Parker, Yvonne Parks, Tina Riley, Melissa Rimer, Barbara Spera, Patt Tercek, and Lynne Watson

### **Middle School**

Yolanda Curtis, David Kliem, and Greg Soper

### **High School**

Ken Brunner, Lou Ann Conant, Rachel Gibson, and Patricia Scheetz

### **Presidential Appointment**

Karen Brown



## TEACHERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For the past few years, former Canton McKinley basketball standout Ronnie Stokes has been present to speak at the OEA Spring Representative Assembly in Columbus. Ronnie serves as OEA's Honorary Chair Person for Read Across America. He and OEA President Gary Allen fully participate in this effort by traveling Ohio to read to students and preparing promotional materials and videos. Each year when Ronnie speaks from the stage he emphasizes how he is a strong proponent for

PUBLIC schools and the importance of reading. He always mentions CCS and the fine public education he received along with mentioning his family, especially his wife who was his childhood sweetheart in Canton and his children. At the OEA RA on April 18, 2007, he spoke of his three children and mentioned the book each is currently reading, along with the title he is personally reading. He then went on to mention how teachers make a difference in students lives, sometimes known or unknown. He singled out CCS retiree Penny Clark, mentioning that she was his teacher early in his school days and then went on to become his guidance counselor at McKinley. He proudly mentioned that the two still keep in touch via occasional phone calls. He did of course mention they share an "interest in Ohio State". Ronnie is currently the "Radio Voice of the Buckeyes" during basketball season after having played basketball for the Buckeyes and Penny is an OSU graduate.



## **SMALL INVESTMENT / HUGE RETURN NEA/OEA-R LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Knowing that even though you are retired there will still be political efforts for many years to come which could impact your retirement benefits, especially in the area of health care, you are being asked to once again consider the benefits of a Lifetime Membership in OEA/NEA-R(retired). A unified membership is required. If you are subbing, this membership provides liability insurance for you just as your active membership did. Also, any student has the right to sue ANY previous teacher for a time period of up to two years AFTER the student has graduated. Should such a thing happen and you were a member at the time the incident occurred and now are a Life-R member, legal help would be provided for you.

Your organization will continue to address health care issues in your best interest as this is a national concern. NEA/OEA will continue the fight to resist mandatory Social Security for all public employees. If you wish to have any NEA benefits such as their credit card or any of their insurance coverage, membership is required.

**At this time the OEA/NEA-R unified membership is a one time TOTAL of \$300---\$100 for OEA-R and \$200 for NEA-R.** You must be a unified member and join both. The NEA-R membership just increased this past year and OEA has not yet determined what their cost will be but there will be an increase. So the time to act is NOW. You can contact Carol Kinsey at [cskinsey@aol.com](mailto:cskinsey@aol.com) or leave a message at the CPEA office for her if you

need more information or a membership form. You may also join online with your credit card. Go to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and in the middle of the home page, click on **Info for Retired Members**. This is a good site to frequent for general information on issues of interest to retirees even if you are not interested in joining.



### **HELP THE CPEA TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL**

Another of Sam Dorts's visions which is now a reality is the establishment of the CPEA Teacher Resource Center to benefit members. Since the official opening of the Center in January, 2005 the activity level there has increased steadily with the teachers (both new and reassigned) at the beginning of this school year having an outstanding time "shopping" for things for their classrooms and whispering to each other that they can keep these things for free until they don't need them anymore. The Center is housed at the CPEA Office. There has been so much activity that the Center remains in need of additional materials so it is not too late for you to assist us.

The Teacher Resource Center is housed in the lower part of our building. The CPEA continues to request donations of educational materials such as subject area materials for a professional library, trade books to establish a children's book library which teachers and members' children can utilize. Look through your basement, attic, garage, storage shed, wherever you keep all those things you took home when you retired because you "might need them someday" and have rarely or never used. Our only request is that any materials you donate be in GOOD, USABLE condition. Copyright date is not important, condition is. Consider if the item you are donating is one you would want to choose and be able to use if you were teaching. We also ask that you categorize your items such as science---grades 1-3 or language arts grades 6-8. Please put all materials for one subject area together and/or categorize by grade levels (especially any children's trade books). We accept student supplies in good condition (crayons, markers, etc.) along with bulletin board items and borders. Anything that can be used somewhere in the classroom which is in good condition is welcomed. With many teachers being reassigned to different buildings and grade levels the past few years, many have spent hundreds of dollars at Holcombs and other similar stores to provide themselves with resources for their new grade level assignment. We see the CPEA is being successful in lessening that burden by establishing this center where they can come to choose materials to assist

them in many areas. You may drop off your donations during the regular CPEA office hours which are from 10:30 - 4:30 daily. Please call the office for the summer hours before stopping by.



### **RETIREE INVOLVEMENT**

We were pleased to have some retirees join us for the CPEA sponsored Mystery dinner Theater at Lollis in February. We hope that number will build with activities we offer for the next school year. Watch for the first newsletter of the 2007-2008 school year. We will be offering some social activities for retirees only including specific date lunch and matinee performances at the Carousel Dinner Theater which we would get to by bus. They are sold out for 2007 but we will get the 2008 information to you early so you can make a reservation if you like. We hope to offer some dates for a bus trip to Oglebay to see the lights also. We would like to know if there is interest, beginning in September, in meeting for the "Buck A Throw Picture Show" at the Palace theater the first Wednesday of every month. That is an activity which would NOT require a reservation. You would just know that if you are in town and would like to go all you have to do is show up that morning and look for other CCS retirees. And then perhaps the group could go to lunch at the Atrium or some other place after the show. We are open to suggestions for other events and types of activities also.

There are some upcoming events which we hope retirees will consider participating in. Volunteers are needed to assist with parking cars at the Ribs Burnoff at the Fairgrounds during this Hall of Fame event. A four person team works each shift and you will only pass out parking tickets and/or collect money from the people parking there. Free CCS shirts are available to FIRST TIME volunteers. The CPEA Public Relations Committee earns money for each volunteer hour worked. Contact persons are Mary Beth Medford (330-580-2517) or Rodney Conrad (330-452-7601) if you wish to volunteer or have questions.

Arrangements are being made to purchase a block of tickets for a performance of THE LION KING in Cleveland on September 8. If you are interested in attending, please call the CPEA office for details and to make your reservation no later than June 1. Tickets will be on a first come, first serve basis.



### **RALLYING THE RETIREES**

Please mark your calendars for Monday, August 6, 2007 to attend a "retiree breakout session" at the



annual ECOEA Leadership Training Workshop. This event will be held at the Courtyard Marriott (formerly the Sheraton Four Points) near Westfield Shopping Center. Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. and dinner will be served first at 4:30. Retirees are welcome to attend the dinner at their own expense OR just arrive for the breakout session at 5:30. At that time there will be an open discussion of retiree needs, issues and interests to determine how we might organize ECOEA retirees (which includes CCS retirees) in order to become more active and involved and determine activities of interest to all with a variety of types of offerings. If you are interested in attending you need to make your own individual reservation with the ECOEA office by calling 330-499-8587 or e-mailing at [ecoea@sssnet.com](mailto:ecoea@sssnet.com). All dinner reservations must be prepaid and the cost will be available by contacting the office. Reservation deadline is August 1. CCS Retiree Carol Kinsey represents ECOEA on the OEA-R Advisory Council and will be facilitating this session.

~~F F F F F F F~~

## **OHIO LEGISLATION/SCHOOL FUNDING AND STATUS OF FEDERAL GPO AND WEP**

For the first time in years it appears as if there is some movement toward attempting to finally "fix" school funding in Ohio. There are several proposals at this time. Governor Ted Strickland has offered suggestions in his budget bill. State Senator Kirk Schuring has a legislative proposal which he would like to see reach the ballot in November. There is also a third proposal from the "Getting it Right" Coalition which would also be a ballot initiative. OEA members are currently circulating petitions in an effort to garner enough signatures to get that issue on the November ballot. Please be aware of these efforts and you will be given an update in the next newsletter prior to the November election. At this time OEA and CPEA are reviewing all proposals which are truly aimed at providing adequate school funding.

Resolution of school funding is critical as it significantly impacts another legislative item which should be of interest to all retirees as well as current employees. This is a bill being reintroduced by State Representative Scott Oelslager at the request of the Health Care Advocates (HCA) as soon as he and the OEA Leadership meet with Governor Strickland. This bill would increase the amount current employees pay into STRS in an effort to assure the continuation of health care accessibility for current retirees and for current employees when they retire. The bill would increase both the employee and the employer contribution by a total of 2.5% each and

would be phased in over a 5 year period. .4 % would go to the STRS general fund and the remaining 4.6% would be set aside exclusively for Health Care fees. This does take money away from locals for bargaining but is essential to the survival of STRS providing health care to retirees on a long term basis. Without resolution of the funding issue there will be limited funds available to solve the Health Care situation.

For a number of years, OEA and NEA have agreed with many of you and they continue to support an effort to have Congress repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Many of you have written letters and made numerous other contacts with Federal legislators to encourage this action. You should express your opinions to your local Congressman, Ralph Regula and also to the two Senators from Ohio, Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich as these are Federal issues.

At this time NEA has stated that any changes proposed in this legislation appear to be "on the back burner" but this is an issue to constantly be aware of. Obviously if this change were to occur, funding for these would have to come from some source. It has been projected that it would take \$26 billion to fully fund the GPO and the WEP and at least \$10 billion to modify them. The most generally mentioned "fix" as being a viable source of that increased revenue has always been to put all public employees in every state under mandatory Social Security. Please give thought to the devastating impact that would have on STRS Ohio and YOUR pension fund. In your communications, with the Federal legislators, it is imperative that you not only ask for the repeal of these laws BUT that you also encourage them to find a funding source that in no way impacts our pension fund and does not mandate Social Security. Keep in mind, now there are only twelve remaining states which are non Social Security states for education employees. The most recent to make the change is Louisiana which now has new hires participating in SS. Keep in mind however, OEA/NEA continues to oppose inclusion in mandatory SS and fight for us because those twelve states include some of the largest NEA affiliates in the country: California, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey to name a few.

~~F F F F F F F~~

## **RECAP**

is a publication of

**Canton Professional Educators' Association**  
1327 Market Avenue, North  
Canton, Ohio 44714  
Sam Dorts, President  
Pam Jackson, Vice President

~~F F~~