

ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

OM-AEOP

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you read this OM-AEOP Newsletter, most of you, like me, are probably frantically in the midst of the holiday hustle and bustle. While you're putting up decorations, shopping, wrapping, baking, and doing all those last minute errands, it is also a good time to stop and reflect on how fortunate we all are. We are blessed with health, family, and friends. Riches that can't be bought at the mall, boxed, and wrapped.

Regardless of what you read and hear, there is still far more good than evil in this world. For every "lunatic" that gets their name in the headlines, there are millions of good, decent people like you and I who lead honest, "normal" lives. For every bad deed, there are millions of good positive deeds taking place. Deeds that make a difference in this world. As a member of OM-AEOP, you can create those good deeds and help make a difference in our corner of the world. Let's make a New Year's resolution to focus on the good things. Let's be positive and make a positive impact by supporting service projects and programs that OM-AEOP will continue to sponsor for members, students, employees, and our community.

Since our September Newsletter, OM-AEOP hosted our second annual Bosses Day luncheon, conducted a Halloween/Harvest Basket opportunity drawing, assisted a single dad and his sons with \$100 emergency grocery purchase, assisted three employees and their families with \$200 gift cards, sponsored a food collection, participated in Adopt-A-Family for holiday gifts, sponsored an opportunity drawing for a \$200 Victoria Gardens gift card, and for fun—hosted a holiday social for members. Whew! Not bad for three months time!

As we go into the 2007 calendar year, we are also almost at the end of our 2006-07 OM-AEOP fiscal year (ending March 31). Let's not lose the momentum. I look forward to having us all continue to work together to share the dignity of service with those in our district family and community. I thank you all for all you've done this past year in support of OM-AEOP. You've shared your time and talent with all of us.

On a personal note, I thank you all for your support, guidance, and friendship as I serve as OM-AEOP Presi-



dent. I know that I can pick up the phone (or e-mail) and call on any OM-AEOP member, make a request, ask a question, or run an idea by you. You're always there. Thank you.

Have a "magical" Holiday Season! And, yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. Believe!

Remember—Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.).

Virginia Riley, President

BOSSSES DAY LUNCHEON

OM-AEOP hosted the 2nd Annual Bosses Day luncheon on October 17 at the Briggs Center. Bosses Day is celebrated each year nation-wide on October 16. There were 66 members and their bosses in attendance. The menu featured a Mexican Buffet, catered by Latin Spice

Catering (owner Yolanda Takacs is an OMSD Transportation employee). The food was delicious and there was lots of it. No one left hungry! The room was cheerfully decorated in the red-blue-yellow primary colors. Flower centerpieces, highlighting photos of previous OM-AEOP

events, were created by Elena Reyes.

Thank you to all OM-AEOP members who supported the event by inviting their boss(es) to attend. All of our bosses are VIPs and we welcomed this opportunity to show them our appreciation.

Two very special VIPs in attendance were OMSD Board of Trustees Vice-President Bob Hardy and Superintendent Sharon McGehee.

HALLOWEEN/HARVEST BASKET OPPORTUNITY DRAWING FUND RAISER

In October, OM-AEOP sponsored a Halloween/Harvest Basket opportunity drawing fundraiser. All of the wonderful basket contents were donated by members. The bas-

ket, bow, and finishing touches were donated by Montclair Gifts & Flowers. Members bought and sold approximately \$312 worth of tickets for this drawing. The

drawing was held on October 19 in the lobby of the Briggs Center. And, the lucky winner..... Margaret Perez (Attendance & Records)!

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION SERVICE PROJECT

Early in November, OM-AEOP received four referrals on families who were in need of assistance. By Board consensus, each family received financial support to help with grocery purchase and other immediate needs. One family, a single father with a student at Vernon School, received \$100 cash for emergency grocery purchase. The other three referrals were OMSD employees, single moms, and they each received \$200 American Express gift cards.

The OM-AEOP Board approved conducting a non-perishable food collection. The food drive was held from mid-November to early December. Due to the generosity of OM-AEOP Members, OMSD employees, including several school staffs, we filled 12 paper size boxes with food. First priority on receiving the food was given to the four families who had previously received our financial assistance. All four families were contacted and very graciously and humbly accepted the boxes of groceries. The food was picked-up/delivered

just before the Winter break..... in time for these families to have a much happier holiday. Again, thank you to all who donated food. You made a difference for families in our OMSD community.

A big thank you to OM-AEOP "elves" who took time after their work day to sort, categorize, and box all of the food items—Leigh Ann Severin, Chris West, Margaret Perez, Joni Stallings, Diane Beltran, Amber Hartsell, Valerie Robledo.



\$200 VICTORIA GARDENS GIFT CARD OPPORTUNITY DRAWING FUNDRAISER

OM-AEOP's holiday fundraiser this year was an opportunity drawing for a \$200 Victoria Gardens gift card. Victoria Gardens gift cards can be used at stores and restaurants—shopping and eating for the holidays, how good can it get.

This turned out to be a very popular fundraiser. OM-AEOP members sold over \$700 worth of tickets. After deducting the cost of the gift card (\$201), the OM-AEOP treasury profited \$550! Wow! Our most successful fund raiser to date.

And, the lucky winner was..... Kim Spencer, Clerk, Vernon Middle School (and OM-AEOP member).



OM-AEOP HOLIDAY SOCIAL

OM-AEOP hosted a Holiday Social & gift exchange on Friday, December 15 at the Acapulco Mexican Restaurant, Montclair. Unfortunately, due to everyone's hectic holiday schedule, there was only a small group in attendance. However small, though, everyone had a good time. It was a great time to relax, socialize,

eat and be merry! Attending were members: Virginia Riley, Alicia Ortiz, Diane Beltran, Amber Hartsell, Kathy Tietz, Joni Stallings, Shirley Maynor, Frances Lopez, Terry Douglas, Sue Coggins, Donna Bradley, Mariza Gonzalez. OM-AEOP hosted appetizer trays for everyone to enjoy and then tickets

were drawn for the gift exchange. Packages were opened to a lot of "oohs and aahs." President Virginia donated several holiday themed door prizes—again, tickets were drawn for these prizes. Everyone went home full of holiday cheer, and in some cases, at least two gifts!



Christmas Gift Suggestions

To your enemy – *Forgiveness*

To an opponent – *Tolerance*

To a friend – *Your heart*

To a customer – *Service*

To all – *Charity*

To every child – *A good example*

To yourself – *Respect*



ADOPT-A-FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

OM-AEOP members generously provided gifts for nine families referred to us from Vineyard School, Family Solutions, and the Montclair Community Collaborative. A total

of twenty-six children, ranging in age from one to fifteen, will receive Christmas gifts this year from our members! A big "thank you" to all who contributed including Joe

Leonard for delivering the gifts to Family Solutions. Special thanks to Diane Beltran and Amber Hartsell — the heart of this project.



NOTABLE NOTES

Leigh Ann Severin, formerly working in PPS, is now Office Manager at the Maple Street Pre-school. Congratulations!

Pat Haynes, Berlyn Office Manager, will become a "Retiree" at the end of 2006. Our best to Pat in her future

endeavors.

Barbara Carter, formerly at Lehigh, has now joined the Buena Vista Arts Integrated School staff. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Alicia

Ortiz, Vista Grande Office Manager, and husband, Carlos, on celebrating their 22nd Wedding Anniversary this past September 15. Also, their oldest daughter, Cecily, started her first year of college at Cal State Fullerton.



Send in your Notable Notes to Elena Reyes, School Accountability.

CHRISTMAS STRESS MANAGEMENT ADVICE

Christmas is just under a week away. According to Greenwich University, London, the first Saturday in December is when happy anticipation is overtaken by feelings of tension about what's left to do. Shopping causes the most stress as we work against a budget and a deadline to find perfect presents. It raises our heart rates, shuts down our digestive systems and leaves us physically and mentally exhausted.

Here are some tips on Christmas stress management:

- Do all your present shopping on one day. It focuses the mind. Shop via the internet to avoid crowds, queues, and parking problems.
- If you do go to the mall, don't stop for coffee. Caffeine makes the body re-

lease cortisol, the stress hormone, which leaves you feeling tense. Instead take a bottle of water with you.

- When you are in a queue, breath in for four counts, hold it for 16 counts, then breath out for eight counts. This will boost levels of serotonin in your brain.



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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS STATE CONFERENCE

The California Association of Educational Office Professionals (CAEOP) annual State Conference will be held this year on March 15-16-17, 2007 at the Best Western Grosvenor Hotel, San Francisco.

The following tentative information has been received from CAEOP:

- Registration – CAEOP Member before January 19, 2007 = \$245, after January 19 = \$260. Retirees = \$220. Non-Member before January 19 = \$285, after January 19 = \$300
- Room Rates—\$84 + tax (equals \$95/night) for single or double occupancy
- Thursday, March 15: Evening—Opening Ceremonies
- Friday, March 16: AM—general session, keynote speaker, retirees' workshop, awards luncheon. PM—workshops. Evening—“on-your-own”
- Saturday, March 17: AM—session on Professional Learning Communities, business meeting, luncheon, spirit rally. PM—general session, endnote speaker. Evening—Installation



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 25-29 / Jan. 1-5: OMSD Winter Recess – all schools closed
- Wed., Jan. 3 – 4:30 PM: OM-AEOP Board Meeting – postponed to Jan. 10
- Wed., Jan. 10 – 4:30 PM: OM-AEOP Board Meeting – Briggs Center—Room tbd
- Wed., Feb. 7 – 4:30 PM: OM-AEOP Board Meeting, Briggs Center—Room tbd
- Wed., March 7 – 4:30 PM: OM-AEOP Membership Meeting, location tbd
- March 15-17, 2007: CAEOP State Conference, Grosvenor Hotel, San Francisco

