



THE SEAGULL POSTSCRIPT



The Official Newsletter of the Collier County Association of
Educational Office and Classroom Assistant Personnel (CCAEOCAP)

Affiliated with the Florida Education Association/NEA/AFT

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FUND OUR FUTURE

The 2019 Legislative Session started in Tallahassee on Tuesday, March 5th. **On Monday, March 4th**, educational support personnel and teachers engaged in a statewide collective action to urge the governor and Legislature to **fund our schools, fund our students, Fund Our Future!** In Collier county, large groups gathered at three spots along Airport-Pulling road. You, as an education support professional, are a powerful advocate. Unlike those in Tallahassee making the laws, you understand the issues and know what is really needed most for our Collier students.

WHY WE MUST ACT NOW:

We are at a crisis point and too many of our children – *Florida's future* – are not receiving the educational opportunities promised to them.

Even though costs and demands have risen, our state invests less per student now than before the recession of 2007. At the same time, the Legislature has restricted how much money school districts could raise to support our local schools. This one-two punch leaves too many school districts struggling to meet the need.

Florida ranks 42nd in total education spending per pupil and 51st in public school revenue for every \$1,000 of in-state personal income. In other words, no other state collects less to support public schools than Florida – even though Florida has the 7th largest economy in the country!

Student performance is among the best in the nation, yet Florida ranks 45th in teacher salaries and 47th in pay for education staff professionals.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ◆ Sign up for email Action Alerts on the FEA website fea-web.org
- ◆ Text “feactivist” to 31996
- ◆ Email the union office to receive the weekly FEA Frontline Report
- ◆ Write your local representatives
- ◆ Get non-members to join! We are stronger with each new member.

TIME TO STEP UP

TIGER, Together In Government and Education Reform, is the political action arm of the CCAEOCAP and CCEA. Dues money collected from our union members is not used for political purposes. TIGER therefore, was created so that teachers AND non-instructional employees can have a place to support and talk to elected officials. It's purpose is to increase member involvement in political action in order to elect education-friendly candidates.

At one time TIGER membership in OCAP was equal to that of CCEA. Dottie Giles, a long-time OCAP officer, served as chair of TIGER and meetings were attended by an equal number of teachers and non-instructional employees.

Sadly, this is no longer the case.

TIGER membership among OCAP members has plummeted in recent years. TIGER meetings are now almost exclusively CCEA-only meetings. We need to change that. FEA just elected the first paraprofessional as a statewide officer. Carol Gauronskas is the new Secretary-Treasurer of FEA. She is a voice for non-instructional at the state level.

It's time to step up and bring the non-instructional voice back to the table here in Collier. Please join TIGER if you are not a member. Go on our website at <https://www.ccea-ocap.com/> and click on TAKE ACTION and fill out the form.

The best part? It is only \$10 to join TIGER! That's right, \$10 for an entire year. No need to pay now, it will come out of the last paycheck of the school year.

This will get your voice heard. This will allow you to sit at the table when School Board members come to our meetings and you can bring the concerns of non-instructional employees directly to them. We need you.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Since this time last year, CCPS has hired 131 new employees into an OCAP-eligible position. Of those 131, only 13 have joined OCAP. In fact, of the most recent 100 new hires, only 6 have joined with us!

When our backs were against the wall and we saw that the Governor and the Florida Legislature were literally trying to kill us, OCAP members fought back and went to speak with their colleagues about joining – and it worked! OCAP has never seen such a spike in membership in such a short period of time!

Now that the pressure is off and we discovered that the Legislature is only trying to kill the teacher unions, we seemed to have lost our sense of urgency or, worse, we forgot how important our union seemed just one year ago.

Our fight is not over – it is NEVER over! Maybe we took a little break since the frenzied recruitment of last Spring, but now it's time to get back to work. Your newly hired colleagues need you to explain to them the importance of joining OCAP.

CCAEOCAP needs you to stand behind your leaders and your bargaining team as they head into negotiations yet again to fight on your behalf and, sadly, on behalf of all the NON-members in our unit!

What was right last spring during our recruiting drive is still right today! We just need to get the word out again and not deprive new hires of their right and need to join OCAP!

ARE YOU RETIRING THIS YEAR?

Do you know any OCAP Members who have already retired this year or will retire at the end of the year?

**2018/19 CCEA/CCAEOCAP
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
Friday, May 17, 2019
Naples Hilton
6-9pm**

This annual event recognizes retiring *OCAP and CCEA Members*. Retirees and one guest have complimentary admission. Other attendees and guests will be able to purchase tickets in advance of the event at the Association Office. Ticket price will include dinner and one drink.

Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate with this year's retiring Members.

**** Please send retiree names to
rhonda.shimel@floridaea.org**

Invitations will be mailed to retirees soon!

The Seagull Postscript is the official publication of the Collier County Association of Educational Office and Classroom Assistant Personnel located at 6710 Lone Oak Blvd., Naples, FL 34109.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/11 - 15	SPRING BREAK - SCHOOLS CLOSED		
3/21	TIGER Roundtable	5:00 pm	Assoc. Office
4/11	OCAP Monthly Meeting	5:30 pm	Assoc. Office

GET \$50 FOR EACH NEW OCAP MEMBER YOU RECRUIT

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Recruiter Bonuses will be paid for NEW members. (Excludes anyone previously enrolled in OCAP)
- Recruiter bonuses are issued each month at the OCAP meeting.
- Recruiter bonuses must be claimed by June 30th each school year.
- No recruiter bonuses will carry over to the following school year.

Collier County Association of Educational Office & Classroom Assistant Personnel (CCAEOCAP) MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Mailing Address City State Zip Code

Phone Original Hire Date

Home E-Mail Address: _____

Employee ID: _____

School Worksite: _____

Payment Plan:

____ Cash [Check # _____]

____ Payroll Deduction

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DB: _____

CCPS: _____

RB: _____

I hereby authorize the District School Board of Collier County, according to arrangements agreed upon with the CCAEOCAP, to deduct from my salary and transmit to said Association such dues as annually certified by said Association. I hereby waive all rights and claims to said monies so deducted, except as noted below, in accordance with this authorization and relieve the School Board and all its officers from any liability therefor. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect for all purposes while I am employed by this school district or until revoked by me upon thirty (30) days advance written notice to the School Board's Business Office and said Association. The annual dues payments earmarked for the Collier County Education Association may be deductible as a miscellaneous deduction for federal income tax purposes.

Employee Signature _____

Date _____

Recruiter's Name _____

Date _____