



2011-2012 Officers

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Words from the Prez

Can you believe that it is already December? Christmas is just around the corner and a new year is almost here! There are so many things that are associated with Christmas, shopping, sales, stress, sales, parties, sales, decorations and more sales. I am sure that you noticed that I said the word sales a few time in the previous sentence, please bear with me and try to follow my train of thought. There are many sales going on at this time of year and people are trying to get the most "bang for their buck" especially in today's economy. Most people are going to want the sale that gives them the best percentage off the item that you want to purchase. Why isn't it the same way with other things in life? Today I was given a percentage that truly startled

me. Do you know that only 30 percent of teachers vote in elections? I was truly shocked when I was given this percentage. Voting is one of the ways that we can give a voice and back up the opinions that we have about how things are being done in our society. There are many important elections coming up in the New Year. There will be a school board election, a very important bond issue and of course later next year the presidential election. The December winner is Marty Louthan. Contact Kelli for your prize. Please take the time to be informed about the issues, the pros and the cons for each issue or candidate. More importantly get out and let your voice be heard and make a difference!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Kelli Bryant
BEA President*

OEA's Advocacy Conference

The advocacy conference is coming up Feb. 17-18. It will be held at the Waterford Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City. Rep. Scott Inman will provide the keynote address and education support professionals will be offered their own track of breakout sessions at this popular OEA event. Robb Gray, state project coordinator at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, will open the conference at 7 p.m. Friday, February 17. After Inman's keynote at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 18, attendees will be offered a wide variety of breakout sessions. Among the choices will be sessions featuring John Doern and Bobby Thompson of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS) and OEA's own Advocacy Specialists. Contact Kelli if you are interested in attending.

IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

More than 100 tribal leaders gathered November 30 at the National Education Association in Washington, D.C., to elevate education priorities to strengthen the great public schools that educate over 90 percent of the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations. Tribal leaders expressed their gratitude to the NEA for their partnership, for making Indian Country's youth a priority, and for the creation of the Office of Minority Community Outreach (MCO). During the same week, Pres. Obama signed an [Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education](#) and Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Executive Order supports activities to strengthen the educational opportunities and improve the education outcomes for all American Indian and Alaska Native students, including opportunities to learn their Native languages, cultures and histories, and receive a complete and competitive education that prepares them for college, a career and productive, satisfying lives. Retired OEA member Debbie Hogue-Downing is chair of the NEA American Indian/Alaska Native Caucus.

Digital Media Resources

With thousands of digital media resources to hook every student and classroom, [PBS' LearningMedia](#) is a cool destination

for curriculum planning. Check out the robust search of over 16,000 resources to deliver what you need, when you need it. Sign up for this free service at www.pbslearningmedia.org today!

TEACHER TIP OF THE WEEK

Verbal and nonverbal signals will communicate intensity and enthusiasm in a variety of strategies: Speaking louder or softer, smiling while presenting and using hand gestures. Usually these occur spontaneously and naturally for teachers. Remember the original intensity and enthusiasm for the lesson. Check out more free tips and resources from Dr. Robert Marzano.

Building Reps

BHS *Belinda Buoy/Darla Tresner*

Central *Cheryl Carter*

Hoover *Tracy Powers/Kim Hatch*

Jane Phillips *Rita Coale*

Kane **Katie VanZant**

Madison *Shannon McKinney*

Mid High *Marty Louthan/Theresa Keller*

Ranch Heights *Ashleigh Callahan/*

Rachel Hough

Wayside *Erin Perry/Nancy Farmer*

Wilson *Loy Del Sawyer /Joy Galloway*