



OPSU/SOEA Newsletter

Fall 08/ October 16, 2008

2008-2009 Officers

President: Natalie Dobie

Vice President: Courtney Jenkins

Secretary: Kimberly Harkins

Treasurer: Shanna Hoeffner

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Jerry Mihelic

SOEA

Student Oklahoma Education Association is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate students currently preparing for careers in education. SOEA is part of National education Association, (NEA). NEA is the nation's largest professional employee organization. The NEA student program is made up of thousands of college students who are preparing to become teachers. SOEA is one of the largest organizations in Oklahoma with local student programs at over 25 universities and college campuses.

SOEA is involved in various community service projects throughout the year, local and state.

We are always busy!!

SOEA has been busy once again! We are currently working on two fundraisers. We are selling chocolate candy bars and raffle tickets for goody baskets made from items donated from local merchants, candidates, and faculty. Raffle tickets for the baskets will be sold through the week of Homecoming. The baskets will be raffled off after half-time of the Homecoming football game Saturday, October 25, 2008. Fundraisers support our spring banquet, our local scholarship program, and various community service projects.



Spotlight on the University

Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU) is a university on the move. OPSU was originally founded as Pan-Handle Agricultural Institute in 1909. The current name was given in 1974. OPSU is located in Goodwell, OK, a town of about 1,200 people. OPSU offers baccalaureate degrees from five schools. The school of education offers various programs ranging from elementary education to vocational agriculture. OPSU and the school of education are able to provide students with a quality education at an affordable price. Our school motto is “Learn more, spend less.” One interesting fact about OPSU is that the Oklahoma panhandle borders four states, OPSU helps students obtain teaching licenses in whichever of the five states they choose: Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. Natalie Dobie is currently our SOEA President and Mr. Jerry Mihelic is our advisor.

Adopt-A-Highway

Last spring OPSU/SOEA adopted a section of Highway 54 and had the first clean up session in April. In September we had our first activity of this year. We went out to clean our part of Highway 54. Our next schedule clean up will be in March 2009.

2008 Fall Conference ([pictures](#))

Our fall conference was held on October 4, 2008, at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. This year's topic was "Electing to teach...HOPE for your generation." Several of our members were able to attend this year, Natalie Dobie, Courtney Jenkins, Jenna and Danny Stump, Antoinette Trentham, Krista Stinson, Shanna Hoffman, Kimberly Harkins, Veronica Morales, and Mr. Jerry Mihelic. We had a great trip and the workshops sessions had a lot of important information for us. We look forward to our next trip to Oklahoma City in March 2009. The convention in the spring in our annual Outreach to teach, and it will be held March 6 and 7, 2009. We will leave Goodwell on March the 5.

Homecoming

Yes once again, we will be doing a float for the upcoming Homecoming parade. We will be decorating the float on Thursday, October 23 in front of Mr. Mihelic's home. If you would like to help or ride in the parade, contact Mr. Mihelic.

Community Service Projects

We are currently accepting ideas for additional community service projects. Please contact an officer or Mr. Mihelic with thoughts and suggestions.

Looking for Volunteer Tutors

Mr. Mihelic has been contacted by local schools asking for tutors for various subjects and grade levels. If you would be will to volunteer at a local school (within 10 miles of OPSU), Please give Mr. Mihelic a list of subjects you would like to tutor and times you can tutor.

Exciting Happenings

Our local SOEA is now working with Seward Community College Education Club in a collaborative effort to strengthen education and public schools in the panhandle. Be on the lookout for more information and activities. Mr. Mihelic says they are a fun group. Natalie was once part of this group, so you know it will be exciting.

SOEA Shirts

We are currently collecting orders for SOEA Shirts. These are the blue polo shirts that have worn in the past. Please also remember to wear your shirt on the 4th Tuesday of the Month for our meetings.

Thanks!!

Thanks to everyone who is working so hard to make our SOEA outstanding.