



## Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators

### Report of the Executive Director

May 3, 2019

The following is a brief summary of the activities I participated in between February 8, 2019 – May 2, 2019. Further details are available upon request.

I attended the following meetings:

- ODE's Related Service Personnel Shortage Workgroup – February 13, 2019
- State Advisory Panel Exceptional Children Webinar – February 21, 2019
- National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Service – March 14, 2019
- State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children Meeting – March 26, 2019
- Executive Committee of Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities – March 26, 2019
- Governing Board of Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities Governing Board – March 26, 2019

In February, I participated in the Ohio Department of Education Related Service Shortage Workgroup. That was our 8th meeting and we reviewed the products that we have produced now and worked on a plan to finalize our work and to prepare our final report for our legislators. We intentionally finalized our work earlier than what legislators had requested so that our work can be considered as the new budget is discussed this spring. We decided that we would continue to meet twice a year to follow up on progress being made with our recommendations.

I also continued conversations and email communications with Dr. Luann Purcell, CASE Executive Director and our OAPSA Board about the possibility of OAPSA becoming an affiliate of CASE. CASE (which stands for Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc.) is a division of the Council for Exceptional Children. To give you some history behind that, CASE had a subdivision in Ohio which was fairly strong in the late 80's and early 90's but it eventually disbanded in Ohio. When our group of 7 OAPSA members traveled to the Washington DC Special Education Leadership Summit in July 2018, it was arranged prior that they would find some time to sit and talk with CEC and CASE leadership. Luann connected me to Lynn Schroeder who is President of Oklahoma's Directors of Special Services because that group is also a strong state level group that recently became affiliated with CASE. Lynn explained that ODSS (Pronounced "odds") had been around forever and decided to become an affiliate of CASE several years ago. They had had a long-standing affiliation with one of their state's

administrative associations called Council of School Administrators. The Council of School Administrators (COSA) was very supportive of their affiliation with CASE because they recognized that it increased Oklahoma's national exposure and their national footprint.

Lynn indicated that prior to their affiliation with CASE they were pretty isolated on what was happening nationally and their affiliation with CASE has indeed increased their national exposure and their national footprint. She said CASE has caused them to be more intentional at reaching out to national legislators. She said Oklahoma tends to run about 10 years behind in their requirements compared to coastal states. She said the Tuesday email they get from CASE updates them on what's happening legislatively on a national level. She particularly likes the CASE legislative liaison (Myrna) that they have access to now. She said Myrna helps them develop policy wording and helps them stay intentional about national issues. Myrna is a lobbyist. ODSS does not lobby but they visit and share with legislators how proposed legislation might impact them and they stay in front of them so "they don't forget us." They have started sending someone to the July event in DC now and they have done that now for 3 years (since they affiliated with CASE) and now the legislators in DC remember their organization and reference their visit in July.

Lynn likes doing the annual report for CASE in June each year because it makes them stop and think each year about

- What are we doing to Increase membership
- What we offer
- Awards we give out
- How we communicate information

They also love looking at other states' annual reports for ideas on what they are doing in those areas. If they get that report in on time, CASE pays portion for one of them to go to National CASE conference (air fare and one-night stay).

I also led our Awards Committee to make the selection for the winner of the John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award. Our committee designed a rubric for scoring and reviewed applications. Using the rubric, we were able to identify information we wanted to share with this group about each nominee and we were able to select the first recipient of the award. I worked with a company to design what the award would like and picked up that award for presentation today.

I also helped to obtain door prizes for our May conference. Those door prizes today include:

- *One-night stay at the Fairfield Marriott by Quest Business Center*
- *2 Amazon Gift Cards each in the amount of \$50*
- *Basket of goodies*
- *Speaker*

Those door prizes will be given away today at the conclusion of our OAPSA conference.

I continued to monitor registrants to earn Ashland credit. As a reminder, in addition to attending our conferences, a short paper must be submitted in May 2018 about what you

learned from our OAPSA conferences during the 2018-19 school year to earn that credit. The deadline to turn that paper into me is May 7.

3 days of OAPSA conferences = 1 credit at cost of \$280

5 days of OAPSA conferences – 2 credits at cost of \$460

On a continuous basis, I have also maintained day-to-day email and/or phone contact with the OAPSA Executive Board members, providing input or taking on and completing assignments as directed, and responding to members and other's contacts including those from the Ohio Coalition, SAPEC, NCPSSERS, Related Service Workgroup, ODE and CASE.

John Opperman, our previous Executive Director, wanted me to let all of you know that he's thinking about all of us and wants me to send him copies of the certificates that the nominees receive. John had significant complications following the hernia surgery he had in February and it set him back a bit, but he's making progress now.

As we approach the end of this school year, it's important to note that OAPSA has made a lot of advances this past 12 months including:

- OAPSA sent a team to Washington DC to speak to our legislators
- OAPSA Logo was updated
- OAPSA changed out our web site address to an "easier to remember" version: [www.OAPSA.org](http://www.OAPSA.org)
- OAPSA has our very own APP through Club-runner and we can register for conferences on that app now
- OAPSA was accepted as a member of the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services
- OAPSA had a booth at OCALICON
- OAPSA moved our 2 day February Conference to Nationwide
- OAPSA established the Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award in honor of our first and former Executive Director
- OAPSA hit a new high in membership (469 members)
- OAPSA opened up it's own store through Lands End so we can purchase apparel with our Logo on it

Thank you to all of you for your continued membership and support of OAPSA!

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer, OAPSA Executive Director