



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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OCAP IS HERE FOR YOU!

As we settle into the start of the most unusual school opening ever, please be assured that your union is just an email or phone call away. Contact information is provided on page 2.

- ◆ For issues with member rights, benefits, contract violations, working conditions or leave, contact Lyle.
- ◆ If you have questions about negotiations, Labor Relations, or School Board issues, contact Jonathan.
- ◆ General questions about membership or recruitment bonuses, contact Rhonda.

We work closely with OCAP leadership (Connie and Maureen) who continue to work full-time at school, just like you, but are in constant contact with the office and district.

We are here for you!

ESSENTIAL WORKER?

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released an advisory document that lists a broad range of education-sector employees as falling within the nation's "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce." Immediately, numerous questions began to arise about what, if anything, it means for CISA to designate education employees as "essential" in this manner.

What is CISA? CISA is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS's). Its function is to carry out and provide responsibility under the Homeland Security Act to 2002 to provide strategic guidance, promote a national unity of effort, and coordinate the overall Federal effort to ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure. As a result, CISA's efforts largely consist of providing advice and technical assistance.

Why did CISA generate of list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure" workers? According to CISA, its list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure" workers was developed in coordination with Federal agencies and the private sector as a guide to help decision-makers within communities understand how to ensure continuity of essential functions and critical workforce as they consider various COVID-related policy decisions, including the allocation of protective equipment and the imposition of "shelter-in-place" and other restrictions. ***In other words, the list meant to be informative and advisory — not a directive.***

The list has been revised three times. The two earlier lists
(Cont. on pg. 2)

ESP ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE TOP SPOT!

Fedrick Ingram, the fourth president of the merged-FEA, was elected the secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) on September 1.

New FEA President Andrew Spar, who was elected FEA Vice President in October 2018, assumed the presidency.

That means Carole Gauronskas is now the vice president of the FEA, the state's largest association of professional employees. ***Carole is the first education staff professional to be elected as an officer of the FEA***, and previously worked as an exceptional student education (ESE) paraprofessional in St. Augustine.



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

2020 has been a crazy year. There is no denying that fact. As we head back to school, you face more than the normal start of school anxieties. Nothing in your contract is more important this year than Article 4.01 of the CCAEOCAP Contract.

Contract language is not written with a pandemic in mind. However, even with all the uncertainties around us, the contract is still in force. Take time and be sure you read and understand this section of the agreement. The District must follow Worker Comp laws. Make sure they provide training and never sign off on having been trained if it has not happened. Ask questions if you have them. CCAEOCAP is pushing for the district to be transparent about reporting any outbreaks of COVID-19 in a meaningful and measured way.

Section 4.01

Health and Safety:

- (a) The BOARD and each EMPLOYEE shall be subject to the provisions of the Workers Compensation Section of Florida Statutes in providing for a safe working environment for all EMPLOYEES.
- b) Any EMPLOYEE who first has reported to his SUPERVISOR any claim of an unhealthy or hazardous condition may submit such claim through the ASSOCIATION to the SUPERINTENDENT for his review.
- (c) EMPLOYEES who may be at risk for exposure to blood borne pathogens will be provided with the required training and materials to deal with such circumstances in keeping with BOARD policy.

(Cont. from pg. 1)

did not include educational employees as "Essential Critical Infrastructure" workers. The latest versions does not explain why the addition of educational employees was made.

What is the legal effect of including educational employees in the list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure" workers? CISA's list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure" workers does not, by itself, have any legal effect whatsoever. In its memorandum accompanying the list, CISA itself declares that the list "is advisory in nature" and that it "is not, nor should it be considered, a federal directive or standard." That memorandum goes on to explain that state and local governments are responsible for their communities.

OCAP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Win a Free 65" TV

The drawing will be held at the first in-person OCAP Monthly Meeting. There is still time to earn entries by recruiting new members.

Get some additional entries now!

2020 - 2021 OCAP Monthly Meeting Schedule

Oct 8 / Nov 12 / Jan 14 / Feb 11 / Mar 11 / Apr 8 / May 13

The Monthly OCAP Meetings will begin at 5:30pm regardless of in-person or Zoom format. Meeting details and/or Zoom links will be sent to Members by email at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Delegate Assembly for FEA will be held on October 8-10. This meeting of delegates from all around the state usually is held in Orlando but this year, because of Covid-19, will be virtual.

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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Earn some extra cash...



Get \$50 for each *New Member you recruit

Use the form below or go to www.ccea-ocap.com to download the enrollment form
(* Not previously enrolled in OCAP)



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 _____