

COMMUNICATIONS

2020 Resolutions

Cheryl Neylon, Chair, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279

Angel Archer, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520

Shannon Bennion, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520

Catalina Blidaru, Cleveland ACTS, Local 6570

John Chapman, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699

Angela Couch, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520

Andrea Dockery-Murray, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279

Nick Doehr, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699

Katie Funk, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699

Tamar Gray, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Local 795

Catherine Hernandez, Toledo Federation of Teachers, Local 250

Lisa Kellar, Oregon City Federation of Teachers, Local 1080

Deb Kowalski, Oregon City Federation of Teachers, Local 1080

Tracy Radich, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279

Christy Rorick Brown, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279

Julie Sellers, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520

Lynn Smith, Toledo Federation of Teachers, Local 250

Jessica Stoner, Owens Support Staff Union, Local 6325

Neil Bhaerman - OFT Staff

MEMBER ELECTION ENGAGEMENT RESOLUTION

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4 WHEREAS, we are the enduring force of the American labor movement, and we understand that
5 collective action gives us the power to ensure justice, equity, and opportunity for all; and
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7 WHEREAS, our union was founded almost 80 years ago to establish a voice for teachers as
8 workers so they could combat factory-like conditions in our schools, advocate for fair pay and
9 better working conditions, and stand up for greater autonomy as professionals and advocates for
10 their students; and
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12 WHEREAS, today, the Ohio Federation of Teachers is a union of community leaders that
13 champions equity; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education,
14 healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are
15 committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective
16 bargaining and political activism, led by our members and exemplified in the work that they do;
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18 WHEREAS, in an age of expanding inequality in wealth and power, we are in a renewed
19 struggle to advance the cause of economic justice and democracy in America. Our members, in
20 solidarity with each other and their communities, have the capacity and the resolve to withstand
21 those who wish to undermine the collective power of workers;

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23 WHEREAS, to advance the movement toward economic justice, we must create the collective
24 will and opportunity for our members to demand better of our elected leaders and decision
25 makers. We must strengthen the bond with all members and demonstrate that workers are the
26 union. We must engage in a collective conversation about the challenges we face, the aspirations
27 we have, and the strategies we must employ to realize our collective vision:

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29 SO BE IT RESOLVED, that our union will organize, train, and support member activists in
30 every single local, activate at least 70 percent of our members to engage in union activity, and
31 reach out and speak to 100 percent of our members. We will center our members in the crucial
32 electoral, political, and advocacy work that we must do;

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will be accountable to each other—activists and leaders
35 on the local and state levels—to achieve these goals; and that the state union will support this
36 recommitment, to our members, to our families, to our communities and to our ideals in every
37 way possible; and

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39 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that in doing this work we renew our dedication to informed
40 activism; that we not let this struggle wear us down but rather use it to build us up; that we
41 recognize that our strength, our courage, and our power lie in our membership and our
42 communities. In building solidarity with members and potential members across the country, we
43 demonstrate an unyielding devotion to our nation, our democracy, and our fellow humans.

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47 **BEATING THE BILLIONAIRES' ASSAULT ON OUR UNION**

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49 WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) is composed of thousands of Ohio
50 educators, support staff, and public employees, who use our strength in numbers to fight for our
51 students, for our professions, and for our communities; and

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53 WHEREAS, the OFT promotes and defends the freedom of working people to earn a decent
54 living, support our families, have work-life balance, access important public services like good
55 schools and high-quality healthcare, and retire with dignity; and

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57 WHEREAS, the OFT secures these freedoms for all working people at the bargaining table, at
58 the ballot box and in grass-roots actions, and through the work our members do for students and
59 our communities; and

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61 WHEREAS, unions are the best vehicle for working people to join together to seek and secure a
62 better life and the American dream; and

63
64 WHEREAS, public sector unions are under a sustained assault by billionaire-funded front groups
65 that seek to diminish our power so they can advance schemes to give tax breaks to corporations
66 and wealthy Americans and to defund and privatize public education and other public services;
67 and

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69 WHEREAS, at least two of these front groups, the Buckeye Institute and the Freedom

70 Foundation, are operating in Ohio and attempting to persuade public sector union members to act
71 against our own interests by opting out of our unions; and

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73 WHEREAS, these organizations are using public information requests to engage in targeted and
74 unsolicited harassment of union members; and

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76 WHEREAS, funders of these groups include school privatization zealots like Charles Koch and
77 the DeVos family; and

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79 WHEREAS, building a union movement for the future is not simply about repelling and resisting
80 the attacks of those who seek our demise; it is about strengthening the work of each and every
81 local so our members and our communities see themselves and their aspirations in our advocacy.
82 That is what unionism is—the collective work to achieve a better life for the people we serve and
83 represent

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85 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers is committed to helping each of our
86 15,200 members and our locals in the fight against this assault on our collective strength; and

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88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT is committed to working in solidarity with other
89 public sector unions in Ohio, including but not limited to, our union siblings in the American
90 Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Service Employees International
91 Union, and the Ohio Education Association; and

92
93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each OFT local continue to conduct one-on-one
94 conversations with their members, build strong worksite leadership structures, and mobilize
95 members around campaigns, including contract and issues campaigns, that matter to our
96 members and their communities; and

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98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each OFT local with a COPE program commit to
99 increasing their current COPE contributions, and that locals without a COPE program commit to
100 establishing one as soon as possible, to support pro-labor, pro-public education candidates;

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102 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the OFT commit resources and supports to locals to
103 ensure the success of our recommitment campaign and COPE drive.