

PSU BLOG

Professional Staff Union of the Ohio Education Association

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"Esau was a traitor to himself: Judas Iscariot was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country; a strikebreaker is a traitor to his

God, his
country,
his wife,
his
family
and his
class."

-Jack
London

Saturday
Sep042010

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010 AT 01:30AM

Members speak: OEA has abandoned its Core Values

An OEA member reports that she called OEA headquarters this morning to speak with President Pat Frost-Brooks. This long-time member was calling to express her dismay that the very association to which she has paid hard-earned dues dollars failed to reach a fair and equitable contract with the PSU employees who provide desperately-needed services to its membership.

In forcing its professional staff on strike, this member said, OEA has not only forgotten, but abandoned, its Core Values.

OEA claims to believe that its "most valuable resources are the people who make it strong - its members, leaders **and employees.**" To accomplish this, OEA says it can and must "set the pace as a union" by "focusing on and responding to shifting demands, **practicing collaborative and visionary leadership**, and **highly valuing its employees** and partners."

The truth of the matter is that OEA failed to bargain in good faith with PSU. In fact, they wasted five bargaining sessions before even responding with a written counter-proposal. Does that sound like collaborative leadership?

OEA certainly wasn't "valuing its employees" when it

refused to discuss the tough issues at the bargaining table, thereby forcing PSU out on strike and sacrificing YOUR association services in the meantime.

OEA also espouses that it should "**foster pride in and affiliation with** Association for **members, employees,** and partners."

Yet, every time that OEA President Pat Frost-Brooks, Vice President Bill Leibensperger, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Timlin cross the PSU picket line, they are strikebreaking. A resolution adopted at the Spring 2008 Representative Assembly even says so. It reads, "***Crossing a picket line, whether physically or electronically, is strikebreaking...***"



That makes your officers no better than the scabs that school districts like Perkins, Harrison Hills and Edison brought in to work while OEA members were striking against their school districts in order to gain a fair contract. Does their strikebreaking foster pride in your association? Or are you disgusted by the actions taken by your association's officers and administrators?

If it's the latter, **contact OEA's Executive Director, your officers, and the Board of Directors** to tell them to set the pace as a union, value PSU employees, and foster pride in affiliation with OEA.

In other words, tell them to live up to their core values and settle PSU's contract.

As a reminder, OEA's Core Values can be found in the 2010-2011 OEA pocket calendar you received recently as a member.

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