

Stewards' Top 10 Resources

If stewards had to rely on paper alone, with the resources they use on a daily basis, they would have to carry around a stack of paper that would reach the ceiling!

But for some stewards, lugging around big binders or keeping lots of paper, just isn't practical. The convenience of accessing a variety of resources on the OCSEA website is an important tool given the many facets of the work stewards do.

Toolbox Resources - Download grievance forms, the arbitration index, contract links, the constitution and by-laws, fact sheets, and more. Also, the toolbox offers a special stewardship section which includes the union's steward-related policies, training links, handbooks and other resources. The Stewards Incentive Program details are also available.

Online registration - Sign up for education courses and union conferences.

Leadership Academy - Participate in AFSCME's free Web Tracks designed for leaders on a various topics.

Email - Keep connected via the E-News Digest and the bi-weekly *New Directions* emails.

Action Alerts - Respond to Take Action alerts by sending email messages to legislators on issues that impact public employee union members and the services they deliver in Ohio.

Blog - New in 2007, the OCSEA Union Blog was created to share union-related news, ideas and opinions. It offers another way for union stewards to keep current with events and happenings that impact the labor movement and state government.

Forums - The discussion forums are still a convenient way for union stewards to share information and ask for advice. Popular topics include Corrections, Stewards and OCSEA General.

Calendar - Subordinate body meetings, steward trainings and union conferences are listed. Online registration is available for most events. Submit local meeting information for the website, or use the online meeting notice request system to promote meetings and elections.

Organizing - Use the "discount and programs" membership section to help new members learn more about their membership-only benefits like OCSEA Extras, union scholarships and AFSCME Advantage. Or print off information to show fee payers what they're missing out on.

Member Benefit Websites - Union stewards often field questions about member benefits. Keep up on what's happening with the Union Education Trust and the Union Benefits Trust by clicking on their respective buttons located on the OCSEA.org home page.

Browse www.ocsea.org to learn more.

General Questions?

Check with your agency's human resources office or contact a customer service representative at the State of Ohio's ID Protection Call Center: PHONE: 800-267-4474 and 877-742-5622 WEBSITE: www.ohio.gov/IDprotect

How to protect your children

The stolen information included data related to dependent children. Be aware that Debix does not work for children.

You can take action by contacting each of the three credit reporting agencies to request a credit report on the child.

You may be able to do this by calling the bureaus at the toll-free numbers (left). Follow the cues for "fraud" on the automated phone systems. Be prepared to provide your child's name, Social Security number and other requested information. The phone systems will probably give you a response of "no file found" or "information does not match." This is good news because it shows there is no reported credit activity involving the child's personal information.

Follow up by writing to the credit bureaus. Report the suspected identity theft and ask them to confirm in writing that they have no file on your child. Sample letters are available at www.ohio.gov/IDprotect



Stewards Academy, 2006