OSPA Executive Board
March 18, 2005

Members present:
Lew Sarr      President
Krista Hickman     Secretary, Fall Conference Co-Chair
Lynn Brumfield     Treasurer
Ann Brennan     Director of Legislative Services & Professional Relations
Chuck Archer, Proxy for Linda Seekatz Past President, OSPAN Chair
Reuben Mosidi Nominations/Elections Chair
Ralph Pajka Cleveland Representative
Jay Bahnson Central Representative,
                Spring Conference Co-Chair
Gayle Vonderembse Maumee Valley Representative
Kristine Quallich Kent/Akron Representative, Newsletter Editor
Mary Ann Teitelbaum CASP Representative, OPA Liaison
Gail Fadel Membership Co-Chair
Elaine Semper Elyria/Lorain Representative,
                Spring Conf Co-Chair in Training
Juliette Madigan Cleveland Representative / NASP Liaison
Sal Karanouh-Schuler Spring Co-Chair in Training
Jackie Jackson-Dean Guest - Lew’s Posse – Historical T.F.
Scott Gill Maumee Valley Representative
Debra Liddy West Central Rep
Rob Kubick Awards Committee
Erich Merkle Technology Chair, NEOSPA
Antoinette Miranda Multiculture Chair / IUC Liaison
Laura Gabel PR Co-Chair
Sue Johnston Spring Conference Co-Chair
Eunice Miller Southwest Representative
Rachel Ripstein Southwest Representative
Barb Scholl Legislative Co-Chair
Gayle Vonderembse Maumee Valley Representative
Steve Vonderhaar, Proxy for Sharon Reike Southwest Representative
Nick Myer, Cleveland State Guest
Chad Timmons, Ohio State Guest
Tanya Krocek, Gail’s Intern Guest
Stacey Direnzo, Warren City Schools Guest, NEOSPA
Shannon Miller, Warren City Schools Guest, NEOSPA
Sandy Kernen, Warren City Schools Guest, NEOSPA

Call to Order   10:07

Approval of Agenda
Addition to the agenda: Chuck Archer is proxy for Linda Seekatz

Approval of Minutes of January meeting
Spelling Correction - Dingledein
President's Report
Lew Sarr
Lew testified for OSPA at the IDEA hearing in Columbus in February.

Lew’s foot and ankle are doing well, he is out of the “boot” and in normal shoes half the day. Physical Therapy will be done in a few weeks. Lew will be at spring conference and at NASP. He will probably use a wheelchair NASP. Lew has to run off to a chiropractor appointment.

Treasurer’s Report
Lynn Brumfield
No quarterly report, because it’s not the end of the quarter.

Lynn talked to Discover card Services and Huntington bank re: credit card services. Two kinds – point of sale and internet. Internet seems better. Call-in services or lease machine the months of conferences. It will cost OSPA $1500 to $2000 per year.

Director of Legislative Services and Professional Relations Report Ann Brennan.

Budget: House finance subcommittee finalized their testimony last week. They limited testimony to a few weeks. What is apparent to Ann is that the budget process is being tightly controlled by the Republican leadership to keep testimony from going on and on. The tightest budget since Ann started monitoring budgets. Positive Note – Intern Funding is in the proposed budget and has not come up as a topic of conversation. Ann is lying low and not bringing attention to it.

- The elimination of cost of doing business factor is hurting most districts.
- The budget contains no solution to the phantom revenues issue.
- The Task Force’s recommendations are being phased in slowly, piecemeal. The net result is insufficient money for school districts. The phase in will exacerbate district’s financial problems.
- The budget is calling for recalculation of DPPIA funds.
- State is funding 90% of state share of special education costs.
- Miscalculation of ADM – causing a shortfall, they did appropriate that money – will be a continuing problem.
- Over 200 districts receiving no money in this budget. The distribution of money to districts is weird.

Special Education Voucher Bill - Ann says this is a dangerous bill…bad public policy…a thorough analysis on the OSPA web site. The bill allows a voucher for all identified special education students. Parents can take the voucher to any private school or to an alternative public school, but not a community school, then the district of residence is no longer responsible for FAPE. Legislature as a whole is supportive of the idea. Ann is focusing our concerns on two issues – fiscal impact on existing programs, and delivery of services and the shortage of personnel in special education (she believes this will exacerbate the problem as other schools “steal” personnel). Another issue is that private schools don’t have to follow AYP right now, don’t have the same reporting requirements to ODE as public schools. Ann will stress to legislators that if the bill goes through, all schools should have to follow all Ohio reporting requirements. The bill also addresses “qualified” providers, not necessarily ODE licensed providers. Other issues brought up by board members:

- potential for segregation – some schools could become heavily special education and mess up inclusion
- Busing would be an expense to the districts of residence
- Florida has this law and a lot of fly-by-night fraudulent specialty schools have sprung up. This bill is mirrored on Florida’s law
- could lead to increased referrals as parents seek the voucher.
- the voucher money comes from the local school district. The amount is based on the special education cost in both district and state money – the lesser of the school tuition or the total cost the district is spending on that child.
JCARR - approved the rule that would end CAFS. The Department of Jobs and Family Services has a huge compliance issue with the spending of the CAFS money. 30-some states have already resolved the compliance issue. 12 districts filed suit and the court ordered an injunction for two weeks and ordered the parties to work it out within two weeks. OREDS bill was reintroduced. It is now designed around SERRC boundaries with four ESCs within each SERRC area. ODE has not pursued their reorganization pending this bill.

Anti – TABOR - There is a coalition forming to oppose the tax spending limitation. Ann shares information and recommends that OSPA formally join the coalition and endorse their mission. Ann checked to see if we could join since we are a 501-3C organization (like churches). The Lawyer said yes, as long as we kept our monetary contribution minimal. Based on conversation with the lawyer, Ann is suggesting $100.

Motion: That OSPA join the Anti-TABOR coalition and contribute $100.

Motion Passed

Committee Reports
Spring / Fall Conference Committee
Susan Johnston
Registration is coming in very slowly for spring – 30 so far. Please go back to your districts and talk it up. She is thinking of ordering 50 books for fall conference speaker to sell at Spring. She has been reading the reading book and it is fascinating. One of the books is about $30 and one is $40. Discussion of discounts on books. The publisher is charging bookstores extra shipping which they are passing on. Our members will not have to pay that if they get the books from us.

Elaine and Sal thank Jay and Sue for helping them transition in. They would like suggestions for speakers for future conferences.

Nominations and Elections
Reuben Mosidi
Slate of candidates to present:
President Elect – Rob Kubick
Secretary – Krista Hickman
Regional Representatives:
   Cleveland – Sal Karanouh-Schuler
   Central – Jay Bahnsen

Ballots go out next week. We will send reminders through the list serve. They have until the week of April 18. Discussion of putting the ballots on the website or list serve – some concerns with security.

Motion: to approve the slate of candidates

Motion Passed

Membership Committee
Gail Fadel
We have 822 members at this time. Karen Fisher will be taking Gall’s place starting in June

Motion: to accept five new members

Motion Passed

Awards
Kristen Prough, Rob Kubick
Pete Gross Best Practice Award – will go to Bonnie Horovitz, MA, NCSP, SP513 for The Environmental Learning Center -City Summer Camp Project, which addresses a variety of social, adaptive, and extended curriculum needs of selected children in her inner-city elementary building. The camp includes special education and regular education students. Camp stresses cultural diversity, social awareness and personal growth as well as academics.

The Clyde Bartlett Award – will go to Linda B. Sweazy, PhD for her many years of service in Columbus Public Schools. Among other things, Linda served as interim director of Psychological Services three times, and was lead psychologist the past three years.

Rebecca Dingledine was one of the three finalists for NASP School Psychologist of the Year. She did not win. This was the first time in over a decade that the Ohio School Psychologist of the Year made it to the NASP top three.
Motion: to approve the Awards Committee’s recommendations of Linda Sweazy for the Clyde Bartlett Award and Bonnie Horovitz for the Pete Gross Best Practice Award.

Motion Passed

Technology Committee

Erich Merkle

Cheryl purchased a digital camera for OSPA using technology funds.
The list serve and website have had some real spamming problems lately. Some interesting e-mail has gone out. At the OSPA website we get 2000 some spam messages a day – only a few get through. Erich hopes to have an article in the next TOSP on controlling SPAM – the e-mail, not the meat product.

To do credit card registrations through the website we will need:

- To purchase a security certificate ($300-$500 a year)
- Online merchant account ($300-$500 a year)
- Plus the $1500-$2000 to the credit card companies Lynn mentioned earlier
- We currently have the shopping cart potential on our website, but we would need to farm out the web work to be sure that it is secure (another $1000 or so).

Or we could use PayPal – They function as the online merchant and connect to our website. They charge 1.9% of the cost of the purchased item plus 30 cents. We would not have to purchase the security certificate, online merchant account, or farm out the shopping cart web work ourselves. He feels this would be the cheapest, easiest option. We would need to create account with them and Cheryl would have to monitor it. PayPal does not have a specified length of contract. We can go month to month and see how many use it. PayPal also provides all the web development. Erich can have PayPal up and running within days.

Lynn is thinking of going through Huntington Bank for credit card services. The goal would be to have credit card registration available for the membership drive.

Other web and internet issues:

OPA has a section on their website called “advocacy” – it became a problem when how do we access these legislators for sending out letters – OPA has sample letters on their website and members can zipem out. Can OSPA do this too?

Ann says the CapWiz comes from a different source and is a fee-for-service. She thinks it is fairly simple, but expensive. She can look into the cost. She worries about tax issues – our tax exempt status – we could be paying for lobbying – could be a tax problem. OPA has a different tax status than we do. Ann will try to be sure to send legislators’ e-mail addresses with sample letters. Erich can set up interactive pages like that, but it becomes a vehicle that Spammers can easily exploit.

Why are we getting “no name available” in the header on list serve messages?

Erich says the list serve is provided through Kent State University. They updated their stuff recently, and this caused the “no name”. Erich can put a “how to change your name” on the FAQ.

Erich says we can take over the list serve and put it through the OSPA website – but we will lose 6-7 years of archived list serve history. Also, Erich would have to deal with any crashes to the list serve and we would have to increase our web size. Currently, he just notifies Kent State if the list serve crashes and they handle it.

Our list serve isn’t listed as private on purpose, so people can find us. The instructions to the list serve are on our website, which makes it accessible to spammers. Erich is considering requiring an approval from him to add a name to the list serve, but he’d rather not since it seems too Big Brother-ish. Now he gets notice of joiners and if one looks spam-ish, he dumps it.

Consensus: Erich will start the PayPal process.
TOSP

Kristine Qualich

Change in format and appearance with the new issue.
There are currently only three issues of TOSP a year due to budget problems a few years back. Kris would like to propose going back to four issues. She saved enough money by not going through Dan for setup to pay for printing a fourth issue. She wants the fourth issue to go out before school is out in spring. Discussion included concern about getting adequate content for four issues. This has been a problem in the past. Kris already has enough for another issue.

Kris is looking for university program and project descriptions, asking the professors to write about their research. Since they are accustomed to writing for the juried publications, they are finding that writing up something less formal for TOSP is quick and easy.

May 15 is the deadline for the spring issue.

NASP Update

Juliette Madigan

Juliette passes around the NASP comments on IDEIA
She shows us a Plate from Molly Dallas, a framed Horse Picture - the OSPA donations to the NASP children's auction.
SPCO has a basket they are donating and Mary Ann also is donating a basket separately from OSPA.
The NASP convention is now matching practicing psychologists with students for a short mentoring during the NASP convention – can sign up on the NASP website.

OPA

Mary Ann Teitelbaum

Issues continue with Medicaid funding for private psychologists.
Governor Taft would like to consolidate 27 licensing boards. This is an issue for licensed school psychologists or general psychologists to be concerned about. MaryAnn says that when she calls the psych board, she gets an answer within the day. Consolidating the 27 licensing boards would mean the medical boards, accountants, psychologists, etc., would all be under one organization. The reason given for the consolidation was that “there are 3 boards that are not functioning properly”. There is testimony on the advocacy section of the OPA website. OPA would like letters to legislators as soon as possible saying this is a BAD idea. There is no assurance that the board people would be the same. In other states that have consolidated, there are complaints that the boards are not responsive to consumers, practitioners. Things take forever – like license renewals and other paperwork – could lead to loss of income for some people. How long will it take to investigate client complaints?

Ann says they intend to have an over arching board, but to keep separate investigators. She thinks there will be diminished services.

Unfinished Business

New Regional Representation Progress

Stacy Direnzo

Stacy presents the written proposal to form a new region consisting of the four counties farthest east and north in Ohio.
Rationale: over 75 school psychologists in the area, many of whom do not join their current regional association (Kent-Akron) and also do not join OSPA. They are hoping that the new region will encourage OSPA membership as well. Many are lone rangers in their districts.
Plan: They plan to meet 3 times a year, beginning in fall 2005. They have chosen a central meeting place.
Name: North East Ohio School Psychologist Association – NEOSPA
Erich Merkle, Kathryn Banks, and Stacy are stepping in until officers can be elected. They want to send out information and invitations to potential members of the new region. They would like to send a copy of TOSP with that as well.
Stacy presented a proposed constitution, list of psychologists who expressed an interest in membership.
Kent-Akron has no objection – there is only one member from those counties currently in KAASP – Erich.

**Motion to accept the formation of the new North East Ohio School Psychologists Association**

Motion Passed

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**Intern Conference**

Ann Brennan

We plan to keep the intern conference coinciding with fall conference.

OSPA will apply to ODE this spring for the grant to fund the intern conference.

IUC will meet at Spring Conference to work on the content. It will be similar in format to last fall.

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**Crisis Team Committee**

Chuck Archer

The elusive written proposal to change the ad hoc committee to a standing committee is here! The proposal is complete and follows appropriate OSPA committee format.

**Motion:** To establish the Crisis Team Committee as a permanent OSPA committee.

Motion Passed

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**Child Advocacy Committee**

Gayle Vonderembse

The committee is still looking for committee members and for student speakers for the speaker’s bureau – can download applications on the website – looking for rehabilitated drug users, etc. She’s trying to find out what NASP is doing in the advocacy area as well.

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**New Business**

**Kent State Research Opportunity**

Kris Quallich

Two professors at Kent State University got a grant to write an article about LD inclusion. They are looking for school psychologists to come to Kent to a two hour Question and Answer session. The research will be published in the Journal of Learning Disabilities (it was a requested article on the perceptions of school psychologists).

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**Meeting Minutes**

Krista Hickman

Krista sent out Executive Board Highlights this time as well as the traditional minutes. She wants to be sure that it is all right with the board to publish the Highlights in TOSP, and put the traditional minutes on the website.

Consensus - yes

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**Adjournment at 1:22**