



# OHIO MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## 2012 OMEA OUTSTANDING MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP AWARD FINNEYTOWN MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

OMEA Professional  
Development Conference  
Columbus, Ohio  
Friday, February 17, 2012

*Excerpts from the Presentation  
and Acceptance Speeches.*

*The full speeches can be found on the OMEA  
website under Recognition.*



Patricia Meeks, OMEA President-Elect and  
2012 Outstanding Support Group from Finneytown

Good afternoon, my name is Patricia Meeks. I currently serve as President-elect of the Ohio Music Education Association, and I would like to welcome you to the first general session of the 2012 OMEA Professional Development Conference. Before the All-State Choir performance this afternoon, it is my honor to represent the Board of Trustees in presenting three special awards.

Today we recognize the Finneytown Music Parents Association as the 2012 OMEA Outstanding Music Support Group. I welcome to the stage nominator and choir director Jason McKee, Association President Penny Sauer, Treasurer Cathy Zimmerly, High School Choir Vice-President Colleen Grogan, and Uniform Coordinator Brenda Dennis.

OMEA has a long-standing tradition of recognizing the valuable service of booster organizations to our music programs throughout the state. Teachers recognize during these challenging economic conditions that music support groups can provide a source of necessary financial assistance to keep many of our music programs operating successfully. The support of outstanding booster groups stretches far beyond the financial considerations.

Finneytown Local School District is only 4.8 square miles in size and is a northern suburb of Cincinnati. This small geographic school district has big results with their music program. The Music Parents Association supports Orchestras, Bands, Choirs and General Music classes that span from K-12. These passionate music supporters have worked with their School Board on joint financial ventures to purchase marching band uniforms, refurbish a grand piano, and purchase instruments for performing ensembles. In recent years this group



began providing scholarships to students to take private lessons, participate in honor's ensembles and to offset the cost of band camp.

Jason McKee, Director of Choirs for the Finneytown Secondary Campus closed his nominating letter with, "Our programs have grown and prospered under the support of the Finneytown Music Parents Association, and we are able to perform on the same level as schools 3-5 times our size. They have made our music program the pride of Finneytown, and we simply could not do the things we do without them". It was obvious to the OMEA Trustees that this association is indeed an extraordinary group of people.

Congratulations to each of you and keep up the wonderful support of music education! It is my pleasure to present the 2012 OMEA Outstanding Music Support Group Award to the Finneytown Music Parents Association.

## Acceptance

Penny V. Sauer, President

On behalf of all the members of the Finneytown Music Parents Association, I would like to thank OMEA for this honor, and our choral director, Jason McKee, for his nomination. It is our privilege to support our fine choral, band and orchestra programs in Finneytown through volunteer, fundraising and advocacy efforts. We believe in the importance of music in a well-rounded education. Our goal is to insure that the music staff has the resources and support to achieve excellence and make music accessible to all students.

In our community, parent involvement has also meant that we feel a strong connection to our music programs. When we get to observe the process of music-making and see our children benefit from and thrive in such an environment, we are excited to spread the word to school administrators and community members about the importance of music education in our school district.

We certainly don't do what we do expecting to receive recognition for it, but it has been an unexpected pleasure and encouragement to our organization to receive this honor from OMEA.