

# PC ACTION LINE

Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers April 2009 Newsletter

Eric Winkle

President

Jennifer Seal

Vice-President

Kathryn Davis

Secretary

René Allen

Treasurer

Jan Sands

Past President

Members at Large:

Katherine Bishop

Candace Chavez

Cindy Lee

Vivian Rice

Vicki Vaughan

Jodi Williams

Danna Senkowski

Executive Secretary

7004 NW 63rd  
Suite 101  
Bethany OK 73008  
405-787-7021  
pact@coxinet.net

## At-Will Employment Means No Tenure Status for Teachers in a Charter School

by Jeff A. Lee

OEA Associate General Counsel



The Charter School Act provides that teachers in a charter school are “at-will” employees, meaning the school employees hold their employment at the pleasure or will of the school administrator. The importance of the employment-at-will status is twofold: (1) the charter school is not required to support any disciplinary action taken with any particular reason; and, (2) no due process hearing is required in conjunction with the disciplinary action against the employee. Most charter school administrators, as a rule, simply inform the school employee that he or she is being terminated “solely for the good of the school” and leave it at that. No further explanation is required by law.

One misconception for an “at-will” employee is that once they have worked past the “probationary period” then they become permanent employees entitled to rights greater than when they were on probationary status. By law, “at-will” employees are equivalent to probationary teachers during their entire employment with the school as there is no tenure or career teacher system. Even worse, there is one major difference, in a Charter School, the probationary teacher does not even get a hearing before the school board.

In comparison to Charter School teachers, although SB 834 would allow a pre-termination hearing before a school board, the teacher will not be allowed to submit evidence, call witnesses, cross-examine accusing administrators, or file an appeal to district court. In short, your job would be dependant on a simple majority vote of the school board without any real due process.

### PUTNAM CITY TEACHERS TAKE TO THE STREETS

On Monday, April 13, over 50 Putnam City teachers stood on the corners of 39th and Meridian and NW Expressway and Meridian in protest of SB834. Teachers held signs that read “Protect our teachers” and “We cant go back in time. Say no to 834.” This was one of several rallies held across the state in order to help educate the voters on the impact of this bill. The bill was amended in the House and is now heading back to the Senate. Without objection to the amendments, SB834 will get approval by the Senate and will head for the Governor’s desk to be signed or vetoed.

# Scholarship Winners

## Peggy Shirey Memorial Scholarship



This years recipient of the Peggy Shirey Memorial Scholarship is Amy Brackenbury. Amy is the daughter of PCACT member Cindy Brackenbury of Dennis elementary. Amy is a senior at Putnam City High School and will be attending the University of Oklahoma with a major in Classics. The Peggy Shirey Memorial scholarship was set in place to remember Ms. Peggy Shirey of Harvest Hills Elementary. Peggy Shirey was an outstanding teacher and an advocate for the teaching profession. One \$500 scholarship is awarded annually. The deadline for this scholarship is April 3.

## Barbara Anderson Professional Development Scholarship



Susan Baker of Putnam City North has been awarded this semester's Barbara Anderson Professional Development Scholarship. Susan will be attending the Advanced Placement National Conference in San Antonio. Ms. Barbara Anderson was a pioneer in the PCACT. She was and still is advocating for teachers and teacher rights. Currently she works for the Bethany Tribune. This scholarship is awarded once a semester for \$250 to a PCACT member who wishes to continue his/her education. Deadlines are November 1st and April 1st.

## Building Reps take Position on NEA Director

At the April 20th Building Rep meeting, Katherine Bishop moved a motion of support for Alicia Priest of Yukon. Alicia is in a runoff election against Lawrence Lane from Checotah Education Association for NEA Director. The motion was seconded and Katherine addressed the body. Katherine asked for the PCACT to take this position due to Alicia's background and hard work in the OEA. Alicia is the past-president of the Yukon Teachers Association and has been a delegate to both the OEA and NEA representative assemblies. The motion passed. The ballots are due May 1st to the PCACT office.

[www.putnamcityact.org](http://www.putnamcityact.org)

[Check district e-mail](#)

[Member Benefits](#)

[Aesop Substitute link](#)

[Professional Development](#)

[Negotiated agreement](#)

[Legislative Issues](#)

[Access Card](#)

[PCACT Calendar](#)

# OEA Election Results

## OEA President

Becky Felts , Tahlequah EA

## OEA Vice-President

Linda Hampton , Pleasant Grove CTA

For full election results visit:

<http://www.okea.org/governance/elections/electionresults.html>

## NEA Director

Alicia Priest, Yukon PEA  
Lawrence Lane, Checotah EA  
(+—runoff)

## NEA Delegate At Large

Katherine Bishop , PCACT  
Kelly Fry , Mid-Del ACT

## 2009-2010 PCACT Tentative Calendar

June 1	School Board Meeting
June 2	PCACT Officers Training
June 25	School Board Meeting @ 5pm
July 1-7	NEA RA
July 6	School Board Meeting
July 20	School Board Meeting
July 21-22	<b>OEA Emerging Leaders</b>
July 22-23	<b>OEA Summer Leadership Academy</b>
August 3	School Board Meeting @5pm
August 3-5	PC New Teacher Academy
August 11	Executive Committee Meeting at 9am
August 13	PC Live
<b>August 14</b>	<b>PCACT Annual Meeting</b>
August 17	School Board Meeting @6pm
<b>August 20</b>	<b>First Day of Class</b>
August 29	I CAN DO IT training
August 31	Executive Committee Meeting
September 8	School Board Meeting
September 14	Building Rep Meeting
September 21	School Board Meeting
October 5	Executive Committee Meeting/School Board Meeting
October 19	Building Rep Meeting/School Board Meeting
November 2	Executive Committee Meeting/School Board Meeting
November 16	Building Rep Meeting/School Board Meeting
November 30	Executive Committee Meeting
December 7	Building Rep Meeting/School Board Meeting





## ELECTION RESULTS 2009-2010

### Executive Committee:

President (2008-10)	Eric Winkle
Vice President	Jennifer Seal, PC North
Secretary	Vicki Vaughan, Cooper MS
Treasurer	René Allen, Hefner MS

### Members at Large

Katherine Bishop, Lake Park  
Candy Chavez, PC High  
Vivian Rice, Coronado  
Judy Berger, Windsor Hills  
Cindy Lee, Putnam City West  
Jodi Williams, Western Oaks Elem.  
Amber Shoun, Central Elem.

### OEA Delegates: 2008-09

Candy Chavez, PC High  
Judy Berger, Windsor Hills Elem  
Wendi Tejada, Apollo Elem  
Kathy Judge, PC High  
Rene Allen, Hefner MS

### NEA Delegates: 2009

President and Vice President  
Katherine Bishop, Lake Park  
Vicki Vaughan, Cooper  
Candace Chavez, PC High  
René Allen, Hefner

### OEA Delegates: 2009-2010

President and Vice President  
Katherine Bishop, Lake Park  
Vicki Vaughan, Cooper  
Vivian Rice, Coronado  
Stan Bryant, Hefner  
Cindy Lee, PC West  
Amber Shoun, Central Elem.  
Marti Roberts, Capps  
Pat Slegers, Northridge

### NEA Delegates – Alternates

- 1) Cindy Lee, PC West
- 2) Angela Lee, PC North
- 3) Amber Shoun, Central Elem.
- 4) Marti Roberts, Cooper
- 5) Tiffany Montgomery, Windsor Hills
- 6) Susan Emig, Ralph Downs
- 7) Pat Slegers, Northridge

### OEA Delegates – Alternates 2009

Dawn Dilley, Apollo  
Tiffany Montgomery, Windsor Hills  
Susan Emig, Ralph Downs

**ALL BALLOTS WERE COUNTED AND CERTIFIED BY THE PACT ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:  
JANE PEITZ (Apollo), ANNIA MORRIS (PC North), AND JUNEL MORRIS (Cooper)**