



# OCSEA

March 2008

Volume 1, Number 1

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### **The President's Corner: OCSEA in 2008** **Katherine McRae**

As I write this, I remember being elected President-Elect in the fall of 2006. Even though I knew I would eventually serve as President, 2008 seemed so very far away. "I'll have plenty of time, right?" I thought to myself. Now time has flown and we're firmly into 2008. And though the fall conference is eight months away, it seems right upon us. What happened to 2007? Well, it was a busy year.

Oklahoma hosted the Southwest Regional Support Enforcement Association (SWREA) conference. We were very fortunate to have Vicki Spurgeon (Lawton) as our OCSEA President and at the helm of the final SWREA conference. She assembled a wonderful team that worked for two years to plan and host the regional conference in August. While I don't have all the names, I want to thank everyone for their work and dedication. The SWREA conference was a huge undertaking and showcased Oklahoma's hospitality and professionalism.

While the SWREA planning was underway, Barbara Hatfield (El Reno) and I started planning for OCSEA's 2008 conference. We researched locations and selected the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City for our conference on October 1-3, 2008. The Center has beautiful modern facilities, exceptional service, and a very convenient location. The Hotel has beautiful and comfortable rooms, a full-service restaurant and lounge, internet access and many other amenities. Overflow hotels are located within a short walk. We think attendees will be very happy with the facilities and programs we are planning. Initial plans include a day-long Partner's Fair on Wednesday and an awards luncheon on Thursday.

Conference planning will soon be in high gear and we want to hear your ideas. Is there a topic you would like to know more about? Is there an idea you would like to share? Do you know

## Board Members

President-  
Katherine McRae  
President-Elect-  
Clay Pettis  
Treasurer-  
Barbara Hatfield  
Treasurer-Elect-  
Barbara Perkins  
Secretary-  
Carol Lively  
Parliamentarian-  
Tery DeShong  
Past President-  
Vicki Spurgeon  
Emily Dalmut  
Carla Newton  
Ann Armstrong  
Sue Rudebock  
Roger Gillett  
Janet Horn  
Bruce Hammer  
Lee Cohlma  
Jennifer Hodges  
Gary Newberry  
Barbara Millikan  
Shade MaKinde

a good speaker you'd like to recommend? If so, please send your ideas to me at [katherine.mcrae@okdhs.org](mailto:katherine.mcrae@okdhs.org). I also plan to send out a "Call for Proposals" soon for potential presenters. The committee will review all the ideas in an effort to give you an excellent program in 2008.

Clay Pettis (Wewoka) is already doing a great job with membership by kicking off a membership contest. I don't want to spoil the surprise, so be sure to read his article in this newsletter. I know you will be amazed, astounded and definitely entertained. I look forward to announcing the results of Clay's challenge and watching him give out the hard-earned prizes at our annual conference.

So, OCSEA is off to a very good start in 2008. The Board is excited and working hard to provide you with a top-notch training conference. Clay is energizing our membership efforts. And, thanks to our Carol Lively (Tahlequah), you will receive quarterly newsletters to keep you informed along the way. We'll be so busy that 2009 will be here before we know it. But before that happens, I hope to see you in Midwest City in October!



# THE BIGFOOT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

ContactUs:

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**By Bruce “Scoop Dogg” Hammer – Special Correspondent**

WEWOKA, Oklahoma (OCSEA Press Association) ~

Clay Pettis, the 2008 OCSEA President-Elect, recently threw down a challenge open to all members of The Oklahoma Child Support Enforcement Association. “On the heels of my recent harrowing ordeal and subsequent narrow escape, I had an epiphany. I was so deeply moved, I decided to express my gratitude by, for a change, putting my money where my mouth is, instead of my feet,” said Pettis.

“Yessirree Bob, er Bruce, I have decided to give \$200 to one hard working OCSEA member who sponsors the highest number of new paid OCSEA members from now until Labor Day of 2008. Plus, the runner-up gets his or her very own autographed

DVD of “Four Sheets to the Wind”, a recent blockbuster film I starred in for over two seconds. Last, but not least, the second runner-up will receive a tastefully framed pair of my lucky courtroom socks which undoubtedly will become a cherished heirloom and conversation piece to some lucky OCSEA member for years to come.”

When asked about his “harrowing ordeal”, Pettis choked up and got teary-eyed. “It all began innocently enough when I headed out several days ago to help the legendary Idabel Wild Bunch with some court dockets. I had made a reservation to stay at Beavers Bend & Hochatown State Park and Lodge, so just prior to take-off, I got on the computer and printed the directions from the State Park website.”

Pettis continued, "After a rather lengthy but reasonably pleasant drive, I rolled into Broken Bow and turned north at the light. Believing I was only minutes away from a warm room and cozy bed, I followed the internet directions I'd printed earlier with eager anticipation. Well, the inordinate amount of aimless motoring that ensued eventually compelled me to conclude that I had either somehow slipped into The Twilight Zone, or those internet directions were bogus. Either way, I confidently called upon my innate male sense of direction to take the wheel and navigate as I intuitively took a right turn down what I judged to be a promising, albeit unpaved, road.

Much later, darkness was setting in when my car ran out of gas. 'No problem,' I thought as I coasted to a stop and reached for my cell-phone. Uh-oh. No bars. Oh well, I felt the calming reassurance of my innate male territorial instincts kick in as I made a quick inventory of my situation. I confess to a only a brief bit of dismay upon finding the only provisions on hand were a half-eaten chicken salad sandwich that had somehow found its way to the floorboard, together with several ounces of warm, diluted Diet Pepsi in a rather soggy wax cup in my drink holder.

Some time later, exhausted from a spirited but losing battle against a rapid succession of alarmingly noxious gastric volleys apparently triggered by my well-intentioned, but ultimately ill-advised, consumption of a partially eaten chicken salad sandwich washed down with a tepid-for-way-too-long Diet Pepsi, my innate male healing mechanisms prescribed sleep to restore the energy expended dealing with my temporary setbacks. I know not how long I slumbered, but when my innate male alarm system stirred me to consciousness, it registered in my brain that my ears were receiving faint and creepy strains of banjo music. Ominous rumblings of yet more chicken salad thunderheads harkened as it dawned upon me that this was not just any old banjo music. Oh no. It was that cursed Deliverance tune. Dread climbed in tandem with the mounting certainty that unknown terror was drifting ever closer."

Pettis paused to take a sip from his Diet Coke. His ordinarily calm and steely

countenance was betrayed by the subtle vibrations rippling through the liquid in the glass as he raised it to his lips. Swallowing audibly, a bead of sweat trickled from his temple down his cheek, only to disappear into the dark fabric of his freshly pressed navy blue suit coat. Composure refortified, he resumed his already gripping account.

"Not surprisingly, my innate male survival instincts fired up, dictating immediate flight from my vehicle as a wise and prudent strategy. But, just as I rose up in my seat, grabbed my cell phone and reached for the door handle, I heard a deep, gurgling, other-worldly growl from outside the passenger's door. I turned to look and the blood froze in my veins. There, looking straight at me through the window, was a face I previously believed to be owned only by a creature born of tall-tales and coffee shop wind.

Indeed, I was staring into the eyes of what my innate male powers of deduction told me was none other than Bigfoot. To my deep discomfort, Bigfoot was staring right back. The black coldness in those eyes pushed the indescribable chill in my veins on through to the very marrow of my bones.



*"... horror just beyond the auto glass ..."*

I'm not clear what prompted my next course of action. Perhaps it was several innate male instincts acting in unison to sufficiently steel my nerves so I could break our stare-down by deftly whipping open my cell phone and snapping a shot of the horror

just beyond the auto glass. In any event, the flash startled it just long enough to buy me precious seconds needed to discover if I could outrun Bigfoot.”

Taking another sip from his Diet Coke, Pettis gently rubbed a rather large and tender-looking knot on his forehead. Initially, he politely dodged questions from this reporter as to how he got the knot. After persistent urging, however, Pettis took a deep breath, leaned back in his chair, and began to explain.

“Oh, I know what you’re thinking. It wasn’t Bigfoot. I won that footrace. By the way, Jerry Springer and Donald Trump are fighting over television rights to the story behind my photo. Be sure and print that, okay? Anyway, I ran like a scalded dog until I collapsed and passed out alongside a highway. Well, by the strangest of lucky coincidences, it turned out that this particular stretch of road was one of the regular aluminum mining routes for my pals, John Sharp and Tery DeShong.”

Aluminum mining routes? Puzzled, this reporter prodded Pettis to enlighten him. He cheerfully obliged.

“Aluminum, man! Aluminum! Have you seen the price of aluminum, lately? Man, it has gone through the roof. You see, since we work for Child Support, for a number of years me and my pals have taken up mining aluminum along select highways and roads throughout the State to supplement our child support wages.

I have no doubt it was the hand of Divine Providence that brought John and Tery to me early that morning while I was still completely unconscious from the punishing ordeal and narrow escape I had recently endured. Without question, it was also Divine Intervention that pulled me back from the light the precise moment John was less than six inches away from giving me CPR, a grim fate no amount of Tic Tacs could ever cure. Not surprisingly, my innate male defensive systems went on red alert, so I naturally began serving John some of my special knuckle sandwiches just as fast as I could. Unfortunately, he commenced to serving up plenty of his own, hence, this knot on my head. I can’t rightly say as I blame him, though, because he swore on a stack of Strategic Plans that since I looked near death, his innate male Good Samaritan instincts clicked on and turned him into a mindless life-saving machine. Thankfully for both of us, Tery stepped in and broke up our little sandwich fest. Honestly, there’s no doubt it was just a big misunderstanding. The kicker was, Tery then returned \$200 she said must’ve fallen out of my wallet when my wallet must’ve fallen out of my britches. I was so deeply touched by her gesture that I vowed right on the spot to dedicate that money to the greater good.

So, there you have it. Call it The Bigfoot Challenge, if you will, or call it whatever you want. The most important thing is that I have two hundred smackers and other fabulous prizes just waiting to be claimed by some ambitious and enterprising OCSEA members. Mister, this is nothing but pure-dee opportunity!” ~

**~THE BIGFOOT MEMBERSHIP CONTEST RULES~**

This contest is open to any member in good standing of the Oklahoma Child Support Enforcement Association (OCSEA) as of 1 January 2008. All prizes will be awarded at the OCSEA meeting at the annual OCSEA Conference in Midwest City to be held October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Winning membership sponsors do not need to be present to be awarded a prize. Any and all ties will be resolved by a drawing. The drawing will be conducted by the current OCSEA President, or other individual designated by the President, during the OCSEA meeting.

For a new member sponsor to receive contest credit for a new membership, the new member applicant must fill out the membership application below and name the sponsor in the space provided in the application. The membership application must then be submitted to the OCSEA along with payment of the new member's annual or lifetime dues, whichever the case may be. The contest ends at 5:00 p.m., 2 September 2008. For purposes of this contest, "new member applicant" means anyone eligible for membership who was not a member of OCSEA as of 1 January 2008.

Any and all disputes shall be resolved by a vote of the OCSEA Board of Governors in session and all decisions by the Board pertaining to any such disputes shall be final. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

**~OCSEA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION~**

I, the undersigned, hereby request membership in the Oklahoma Child Support Enforcement Association (OCSEA). I promise to abide by all rules and by-laws as adopted by the OCSEA. Please print or type, except on the signature line:

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Office: \_\_\_\_\_

My User ID: \_\_\_\_\_

The Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed application with a personal check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to "OCSEA" at the address below. Do not send cash. Annual dues are \$10.00 per member. For lifetime membership, submit a one-time payment of \$100.00.

OCSEA  
P.O. BOX 11242  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73136

# FALL CONFERENCE 2008

## "WE CAN'T WAIT!!"



October 1-3, 2008  
Reed Conference Center  
Midwest City

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center  
5800 Will Rogers Road | Midwest City | Oklahoma | 73110  
telephone 405.455.1805 | facsimile 405.736.0973  
[www.sheraton.com/midwestcity](http://www.sheraton.com/midwestcity)

Below are a few pictures of the Hotel and the Ballroom.









**2008 OC2008 OCSEA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

(rev. 1/25/2008)

| <b>DATE</b>                       | <b>TIME</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b>                          |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| January 24, 2008                  | 9:30 am – Reed Center tour<br>10 am – 12 pm meeting | Reed Center, MWC<br>Rice Conf. rm.       |
| March 14, 2008                    | 10 am – 12 pm                                       | CSE STO, 3rd floor conf. rm.             |
| May 2, 2008                       | 10 am – 12 pm                                       | CSE STO, 3rd floor conf. rm.             |
| July 11, 2008                     | 10 am – 12 pm                                       | CSE STO, 3rd floor conf. rm.             |
| August 15, 2008                   | 10 am – 12 pm                                       | CSE STO, 3rd floor conf. rm.             |
| September 12, 2008                | 9 am – 12 pm  | CSE STO, 3rd floor conf. rm.             |
| September 26, 2008                | all day as needed (work day)                        | CSE STO, 1st floor                       |
| October 1-3, 2008<br>(conference) | All day   | Reed Center, MWC                         |
| November 7, 2008                  | 10 am – 12 pm                                       | CSE STO, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor conf. rm. |

- Additional meetings may be added
- Call-in will be available for each meeting
- STO 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, (405) 522-3119

Reed Center  
5800 Will Rogers Rd.  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
<http://www.reedcenter.com/>



#### Oklahoma Joins WICSEC

Oklahoma is now a member of the Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Council (WICSEC) since SWREA disbanded in 2007. For more information about WICSEC, go to <http://www.wicsec.org/> WICSEC's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference will be in San Antonio, September 7-11, 2008.



Dues are payable at any time! \$10.00

OCSEA

P.O. BOX 11242

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73136



**Carol Lively, Editor**

*(Carol has been with the Tahlequah Office for 9 years and has been Programs Manager there for 5. She has been on the OCSEA Board for 7 years and hopes the “birth” of this newsletter will open the communication link. Carol has a brother currently serving our country in Iraq. She and her husband, who just returned from service in Iraq, love to travel and live with their adorable dog, Charlie Girl. )*