



For Immediate Release

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CONTACT: Ginger Tinney, Executive Director
Phone: 405.321.3175 • Toll-free: 888.331.2763
Cell Phone: 405.202.3075 • Fax: 405.321.8897
www.ProfessionalOklahomaEducators.org

Professional Oklahoma Educators State Officers Elected

In an election completed Tuesday, Professional Oklahoma Educators members selected their new state officers for the 2009-2010 school year. The newly-elected officers will begin their terms June 1.



Left to Right: POE Executive Director Ginger Tinney and 2009-10 state officers: Esther Bell, President; Marsha Strunk, Vice President; Carol Cumbie, Treasurer; Brenda Asher, Secretary.

“These incredible educators have set an example of integrity, professionalism and excellence – not only in their service to Professional Oklahoma Educators, but in the classroom as well,” POE Executive Director Ginger Tinney said. “I look forward to serving with each of them in the coming year.”

Esther Bell, a fourth grade teacher at North Rock Creek School in Shawnee, was elected to the office of President. Bell is currently serving her second term as Vice President of the organization, and also serves as treasurer for her POE local chapter. Bell previously served for two years POE State Secretary and has been a POE member for seven years. She has been teaching for 14 years.

“I know personally that Professional Oklahoma Educators operates on the basis of integrity and truthfulness,” Bell said. “POE works hard by being sensitive to the needs of teachers, by fulfilling those needs through professional development, and by providing prompt attention to its members.”

Marsha Strunk, a high school English teacher at Minco Public Schools, was elected to the office of Vice President. Strunk has been teaching for 26 years and has been a POE member for eight years. She founded the POE local chapter at her district, where she served as local chapter president for seven years.

“When the faculty at Minco wanted an organization that matched our teaching philosophy, concern for education and personal values, every teacher felt that Professional Oklahoma Educators was the right choice,” Strunk said. “I am glad to belong to an organization that wants my input, works to keep the student at the center of education, and is willing to assist me with any needs I encounter.”

Carol Cumbie, a Title I Reading teacher at Altus Public Schools, was elected to the office of Treasurer. Cumbie has taught for 26 years and been a POE member for 12 years. She has served as both president and secretary of her POE local chapter.

Brenda Asher, a Kindergarten teacher at Edgemere Elementary School in Oklahoma City, was elected to her second term as Secretary. Asher has been teaching for 19 years and been a POE member for 6 years. She currently serves as a POE building representative in the Oklahoma City school district.

“I believe in what POE stands and works for,” Asher said. “I am proud to be a Professional Oklahoma Educator.”

Professional Oklahoma Educators is a non-union, nonpartisan organization serving more than 4300 Oklahoma educators. Members receive professional liability protection and legal services, as well as professional development training, lobbying representation on education issues, access to a discount program and other benefits.

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