

Organization of Rural Oklahoma Schools

311 W. Davis Creek Rd., Ste B Caney, OK 74533 580-889-7172 Fax 580-889-7484 Attorney 1-877-843-0707

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2010 Fall Conference dates set for October 14-15

The 2010 OROS Fall Conference is scheduled for **October 14 and 15 at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City**. Jim Lamer, Superintendent of Garber and President-Elect of OROS, was appointed the chair of the conference committee with full authority to plan and organize the conference. Jim is already putting the program together. We hope to have the complete conference program in the September newsletter. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars because our conferences have gotten bigger and better each and every year.

The Conference Center is located at I-40 and Meridian in Oklahoma City. The room rates are \$66.00 per night, single or double. Reservations must be made by **September 13 to receive the above rate**. To make reservations call **405-942-8511**.

There are no registration fees or meal charges of any kind for attending this conference. **We would ask that you register as soon as possible in order that we can better control the cost of the banquet**. A registration form is located on page 6 of this newsletter. **You can also register on-line by going to our web page at orosok.org. On the right you will see the announcement about the conference. Click on the "Registration Information" link and that will take you to 2 forms for registration. To register on-line click on the email form.**

We will also have a board of directors meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2010. The meeting is held at the Convention Center at 6:00 p.m. and you are welcome to attend.

The attendance of our members is what makes the conference successful.

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Attorney Talk

By: Terri Thomas

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT! CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT! CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT!

Concussion management. As though you haven't already heard about this a million times by now. By the way, did I mention concussion management? In all seriousness, it's interesting, isn't it, how this time of year there always seems to be a "hot" topic that everyone's buzzing about? This year it's the new law requiring schools to have certain procedures in place with respect to student athletes who get head injuries.

In a nutshell, the new law requires school districts and the OSSAA to work together to inform and educate those involved with student athletics (i.e., parents, teachers, administrators, coaches) about the symptoms of head injuries and concussions, the prevention thereof, and dangers/risks associated with continuing to play sports after obtaining such injuries. The law also requires a "licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion" (whatever that's supposed to mean—it wasn't defined in the law) to issue a written clearance prior to an athlete's return to practice or play after a head injury or concussion.

The OSSAA put out a great letter and information packet at the end of June regarding this topic. It tells you everything you need to know—the law, a breakdown of what it actually means, what forms and/or policies are recommended and/or required and the like. Also included in this packet are sample fact sheets for students and parents, plus the requisite signature forms indicating said fact sheets have been read and understood. About the only thing not provided to you in the OSSAA packet was a policy for each district to adopt with respect to same. I've taken care of that with some sample policy language. Now you should be good to go.

Do you have to have a policy? No. Technically, the new law *doesn't require a policy*. However, the OSSAA has recommended each district adopt one, which probably isn't a bad idea. The sample policy language I've drafted is short and to the point—one page. It basically restates the law, says that you (district) are going to follow said law, work with the OSSAA, use their forms and educate your personnel on said law and the issue of head injuries and concussions, and stuff like that. It also sets up a simple procedure whereby athletes who have obtained head injuries or concussions are to be tracked.

One thing the OSSAA says that you're *required* to do—and which I did not do in this sample policy because I respectfully disagree—is to create a definition for your own district what of a "licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions" is. First, there is nothing in the law itself requiring you to make such a definition—the law only establishes that such a provider has to be the one giving clearance for the athlete to return to participation.

Aside from that, I am primarily concerned about schools getting into the business of defining—and thereby effectively restricting—the type of doctor or medical professional a student with a head injury has to see. People are understandably very picky about health care providers, and in my opinion it should be someone of their choosing—be it a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, chiropractor or shaman—as opposed to someone they only went to because they were limited by a district-imposed definition. It's in policy (and the law) that the practitioner has to meet certain requirements. The way I see it, beyond that, if the family's *chosen* practitioner examines the kid, determines he/she is sufficiently healed to go back to sports participation, and issues a written clearance declaring that opinion, then so be it. Anything happening after

that falls on the family (or on the doctor who said the kid was OK to play), as opposed to the district. However, opinions differ, so your mileage may vary.

Editors note: If you won't a copy of the policy, e-mail the OROS office.

Associate Members

Stephen McDonald & Associates
2200 McKown Drive
Norman, OK 73072
405-329-0123

Kerry Patten, CPA
2101 N. Willow Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918-250-8838

Sexton & Sexton School Supplies
P.O. Box 346
Apache, OK 73006
1-800-657-7273

Mass Group Marketing
HC 79 Box 459
Hugo, OK 74743
580-326-2705

Barlow Ed. & Manag. Services
2801 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73127
405-495-1911

Pettyjohn Financial Group, Inc.
5174 Silo Road
Durant, OK 74701
580-920-4572

Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting
1101 Stadium Drive
Ada, OK 74820
580-332-1444

Okla. School Assurance Group
P.O. Box 18858
Oklahoma City, OK 73154
800-699-5905

Midwest Bus Sales
P.O. Box 338
El Reno, OK 73036
405-262-1044

The Learning System
3501 NW 63, Ste. 115
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
800-7363658

ARBO Enterprises, Inc
5017 N. Rockwell
Bethany, OK 73008
405-787-3902

American Fidelity Assurance
7510 N. Broadway Ext. Ste 202
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
405-416-8810

Chas. W. Carroll, P.A.
114 E. Broadway, Ste 805
Enid, OK 73701
580-234-5468

ADPC
P.O. Box 592
Ponca City, OK 74602
580-762-6376

Document Imaging Solutions
P.O. Box 470646
Tulsa, OK 74147
918-664-8800

Municipal Accounting Systems
P.O. Box 1325
Shawnee, OK 74802
405-275-4349

Blunck Studios, Inc.
228 West Main
Moore, OK 73160
405-794-7748

Justin Walker, CPA
P.O. Box 7
Caney, OK 74533
580-889-3713

OK Association for Pupil Transportation
P.O. Box 1626
Guthrie, OK 73044
405-514-4606

Professional Oklahoma Educators
P.O. Box 667
Norman, OK 73070
405-321-3175

The Interlocal Purchasing System
P.O. Box 1894
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456
866-839-8477

Twotrees Technologies
7701 E. Kellogg Drive, STE 610
Wichita, KS 67207
918-270-7122

Treat's Solutions, Inc.
300 E. Arlington
Ada, OK 74820
580-332-8861

Parsons Commercial Roofing, Inc
P.O. Box 21835
Waco, TX 76702
254-881-1733

Government Capitol Corp.
345 Miron Drive
Southlake, TX 76092
800-883-1199

J & J Educational Services
30742 S. Lona Valley
Kinta, OK 74552
918-469-2656

OASIS
4002 Eagle Crest Drive
Muskogee, OK 74401
918-465-7001

Southern Financial Group, Inc.
301 West Main Street, Ste 520
Ardmore, OK 73401
580-490-9094

Boynton Williams & Assoc's., Inc
900-36th Ave. NW, Ste 100
Norman, OK 73072-4187
405-329-0423

Ross Transportation, Inc
2500 South Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-681-6691

Lierman Graduate Services/Josten's
5829 N.W. 40th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73122
405-789-2052

BRB Roofing & Mfg.
1726 N. Green, Ste 900
Purcell, OK 73080
405-527-2726

Primary Insurance for Education
P.O. Box 190
Paris, TX 75461
903-783-1400

Service & Funding Group, Inc.
301 W Main, Ste 510
Ardmore, OK 73401
580-490-9094

American Bus Sales
8 S. Atlanta, Ste B
Owasso, OK 74055
866-574-9970

Pro Presenters, Inc
P.O. Box 721320
Norman, OK 73070
405-364-5400

FES LLC
1300 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
800-850-8397

Perry Willis Comments

Well, it's time to start another school year and it seems as if school has only been out for a week or two. The years are moving a lot faster now than when I was younger. Hope you have a great school year.

Don't forget to register for the Fall Conference. Jim Lamer, Superintendent of Garber and President-Elect of OROS, is responsible for the conference this year and has started scheduling speakers and presenters and I am sure he will put together an outstanding program. **It is extremely important that you let us know if you plan to attend the luncheon on Thursday, the dinner on Thursday night and the breakfast on Friday morning. We are required to let the Convention Center know how many will be eating each of these meals and after we turn in a number, we are responsible for the cost of the meal based on that number.** To register on-line go to **orosok.org** and just click on the link that says "Registration Information" on the right of the home page that says OROS Fall Conference 2010. That will take you to a page that tells about the conference and gives you the option to print a **pdf file** to fill out and mail or fax to the OROS office that will register you for the conference **or an "email form" that will take you to a registration form that can be filled out and e-mailed directly to the OROS office. All information must be filled out before you can send it.**

If you are an associate member just click on "More Information" and that will take you to a page that describes the booth spaces and provides links to download forms needed to register for booth space at the conference.

Be sure to renew your membership to OROS if you have not already done so. We need to maintain as many members as possible because numbers has been a large part of our strength. The cost of membership is not much when you look at all the benefits that you receive. If you used the services of our attorney only once during the year, it would probably come close to paying your dues.

Access to the board policy changes have been e-mailed to our member schools and are on-line on the OROS web page. Just click on the "News" link and you will see the updates. Attorney Terri Thomas kept up with the possibilities as legislation moved through the process and was quick to complete the task when the legislature adjourned. **She has also completed the Head Injury and Concussion Policy. If you would like a copy, Just e-mail me and I will e-mail you the policy. It will be in Microsoft Word format and labeled for the OROS policy manual.**

Just a note to give another big thanks to David Tinsley and Dusty Vickrey of Midwest Bus Sales for providing OROS the use of a Chevrolet Uplander Minivan for a lease price of \$1.00 per year. Both of these fellows are very easy to work with and are very supportive of the rural schools of Oklahoma. Savings like they provided to OROS is one of the reasons we are able to provide the existing services to our members.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM VERNON FLORENCE:

For the past 10-12 years I have taught a number of seminars on School District Budgeting. Approximately 425 school administrators from 385 schools have attended these seminars. In addition to these budgeting

classes, for the past 5 years, I have presented Treasurer and Encumbrance training classes. Approximately 450 treasurers and encumbrance clerks have attended these classes. During the past 12 years I have provided training for approximately 475 school board members.

These classes have been presented in about 27 different sites around the state. All of this training has been done with the endorsement of OROS.

I have greatly enjoyed these endeavors, however, I think it is time for me to reduce some of my work, so I will not be presenting any more classes or doing individual consulting to school districts. I will continue to be the treasurer for the 5 schools for which I am presently employed and the 2 or 3 schools that I am presently consulting.

This will allow me time to do some other projects that I have delayed for several years. I want to do some writing, develop some other projects, and of course continue to travel, go on cruises, etc.

My involvement with these classes has been the most rewarding professional activity in which I have been engaged during my entire professional career.

I know that there are others who can present these kinds of classes much better than I have been able to do, and I encourage others to pursue this much needed effort.

It has been a tremendous pleasure for me to represent OROS in several different capacities during the past 15 years.

Board Meeting Dates For 2010-2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE
August 18, 2010	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
September 22, 2010	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
October 13, 2010	6:00 p.m.	Clarion
November 17, 2010	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
December 15, 2010	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
January 19, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
February 16, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
March 3, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
April 6, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
May 11, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA
June 15, 2011	10:00 a.m.	OSSAA

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 11, 2011 will also be the Annual Meeting Date and will begin at 9:30 a.m.

OSSAA -Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Building

Clarion - Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center on Meridian in OKC

Conference Registration Form

REGISTRATION FOR OROS FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2010
CLARION MERIDIAN CONVENTION CENTER
737 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THURSDAY _____ FRIDAY _____ BOTH _____

I WILL _____ WILL NOT _____ ATTEND THE NOON LUNCHEON THURSDAY.

I WILL _____ WILL NOT _____ ATTEND THE DINNER MEETING THURSDAY NIGHT.

I WILL _____ WILL NOT _____ HAVE A GUEST THURSDAY NIGHT.

I WILL _____ WILL NOT _____ ATTEND BREAKFAST FRIDAY MORNING.

Please mail or Fax to Perry Willis, 311 W Davis Creek Road, Ste B, Caney, Okla. 74533 Fax number (580) 889-7484.

Motel reservations can be made by calling the Clarion Hotel at (405) 942-8511. Reservations must be made by SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 in order to receive the \$66.00 room rate. If you wish to register on-line go to the OROS web page (orosok.org) and follow the instructions.

OROS Calendar

OROS Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 2010
OSSAA Building
Oklahoma City, OK
10:00 A.M.

October 13, 2010
Clarion Meridian Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK
6:00 P.M.

OROS Fall Conference
October 14-15, 2010
Clarion Meridian Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU NEED ANOTHER INVOICE, JUST LET US KNOW.