



The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association
Union Alert / Sept. 18, 2023

Dear OCSEA Leaders:

As your OCSEA President, I want to let you know about a major scam that is impacting our members and retirees. The anti-union **Freedom Foundation/Opt Out Today Ohio** is at it again, trying to get members to opt out of their union. This time, the out-of-state, extreme anti-worker group is sending a **fake "bill" to OCSEA members and retirees**, and even former members.

The piece of junk mail is a DECEPTIVE NOTICE making members think they owe money or are owed money. This is a scam! FF/Opt Out Today is falsely disguising itself as our union, under my name as your union president, and using our Union Hall address under false pretenses. It's their goal that union members will mail in the card and unknowingly opt out of all of their union benefits and rights.

As union leaders, it's our job to tell every member in our chapters about this SCAM! The group is trying really hard to divide us, especially as we head into bargaining the State Contract later this year. But we know better! And, actually this is perfect timing. As we get ready to elect our Bargaining Team next month, any chance to talk one-on-one with members is a GREAT THING!

First things first, tell your chapter members about this scam and that they will NEVER be contacted by a third-party about OCSEA dues. Let them know that they will only ever be contacted about dues by a representative of the OCSEA Comptrollers Department. Next, tell them to always report FF/Opt Out Today mailings, phone calls and at-work and at-home harassment. All activity should be reported at UNIONYES@ocsea.org.

FINALLY, and most importantly, use this as an opportunity to take some time to have real conversations with your members about the upcoming bargaining and why union solidarity is so important. And, urge members to [TAKE THE OCSEA STATE BARGAINING SURVEY](#) and share their bargaining priorities.

One of the unintended and good consequences of this spam mailing is that leaders are able to take this harassment, turn it on its head and have meaningful conversations about the power of being union and the importance of togetherness as we head to the bargaining table. I hope you take the opportunity to talk to members, one-on-one and at chapter meetings, about why groups

like this are "aiming" for our union benefits and why being unified and strong will have the opposite result for this anti-union group.

Of course, this group is not new to us. We've been dealing with their deceptive ways for years. But I understand that this kind of activity makes some members uneasy. Please let members know that reporting this group to the union is an important step in fighting to end this harassment once and for all. Want to know their REAL AGENDA? Learn more about this deceptive group at [OCSEA.org/StopFreedomFoundation](https://www.ocsea.org/StopFreedomFoundation)

In Solidarity,
Chris Mabe
OCSEA President