

# The OKASBO News

## OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

P.O. Box 549, Claremore, OK 74018

Tel: 918-825-2981

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

February 2015

### Spring Conference, April 15 - 17, 2015

#### ***This is Your Brain...This is Your Brain on Stress***

Mental, Emotional, Energy and Time Management for High Performers.

*Presented by Fred Schafer, Keynote Speaker*

Today's Stress forecast? A torrential downpour of deadlines, demands and lack of resources. America is the most emotionally overstressed culture in history. This dilemma leads to a deteriorating of our physical, mental and emotional resources and health, including the health of our all-important brains.

Never fear, because help and hope is here with High Performance Specialist Fred Schafer's Stress Crushing "Strike Back Solutions" that will equip you to use the forces of stress to propel you into greater productivity, prosperity, peacefulness and passion in your career and life. In this fast paced, humorous and information packed session you will learn:

- Why you rarely hear a young child say they are "stressed"
- That most people ask "self-destruct" questions that can create greater stress
- How to grow the "Hardiness Factor" to thrive in adverse conditions
- Why self and shared leadership are essential to success
- How to fortify yourself against the high demands of leadership
- That designing "Positive activating challenges" versus negative is the key to power
- Understand the emotion and mindset that adds to feeling of stress
- How to operate under an "umbrella" that deflects stress

*It's not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it.  
Hans Selye*

**Don't stress—Register Now!**



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Check out our *website* at [www.OKASBO.org](http://www.OKASBO.org). You should find it more user friendly. You can register, update your info, download scholarship applications and certification applications. Check it out today. Thanks.



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# President's Message

by Stacey Butterfield



The spring semester has brought new leadership and a fresh vision for public education to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. It is my sincere hope we will witness a renewed spirit of collaboration in Oklahoma among the various professional organizations representing educators and school business leaders, members of the SDE, the business and non-profit communities, legislative officials, and the Governor's office. All students around the state deserve a high quality educational experience to prepare for the ever-changing world they will enter after leaving high school. As school business officials, we have a responsibility to:

- be informed about the current trends in education;
- understand the challenges teacher and principal leaders encounter,
- share knowledge and ideas to improve our schools with others; and finally,
- manage and allocate funds to optimize learning for every student.

By refocusing on our individual roles from time to time, we are better positioned to make a difference. Being focused provides us with opportunities to learn, grow, and improve, as well. Henry Ford's words from many years ago still ring true today... *Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.* It is time to come together and refocus on public education and the many positive aspects of our public schools while recognizing there are also areas in need of improvement. Please join me in saying, "Yes! We can achieve greater success by working together!"

## Executive Director Search

Most of you are aware OKASBO Executive Director Ann Wade has decided to resign effective June 30, 2015. She is ready to begin the next chapter in her life and truly enjoy retirement. Ms. Wade has been involved with OKASBO for many years as a school business official and ultimately, the proud leader of our growing association. We will be forever grateful for Ann's commitment to the organization; her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise with countless school business leaders; and her leadership in facilitating improvement and growth for OKASBO.

Members of the OKASBO Board began working in December on the search for our next executive director. Letters of interest and resumes will be reviewed in February and interview with members of the OKASBO Board will be scheduled in March. The Board plans to conclude the search process in time to officially announce the name of our next executive director at the OKASBO Spring Conference on April 16. We are most appreciative to Ms. Wade for expressing her willingness to provide support for the next executive director during the transition period.

## Final Thoughts

I want to take a moment to remind all of us of items 4, 8, and 10 from the *12 Things Successful People Do Differently*, shared with you earlier this year.

- ⇒ They make logical, informed decisions.
- ⇒ They focus on making small, continuous improvements.
- ⇒ They maintain a positive attitude as they learn from mistakes.

Keep these suggestions in mind as you navigate your way to success!

# ASBO International Highlight - "Oklahoma Breakfast"



## Ready for Breakfast

ASBO International—Kissimmee, FL  
September 19 - 22, 2014

What a way to start out a day - a delicious breakfast, *sponsored by Stephen H. McDonald & Associates*, and time planning our daily events and breakout sessions. We are pumped and ready for the day!

Of course, wearing our ever so popular OKASBO shirt, *sponsored by American Fidelity Assurance*, is a highlight enjoyed by all. Everyone knows we are Oklahoma proud and we have the shirts to prove it! Ha

*Thank you for your support and the memories!*

### Some Things Can Only Take Place Face to Face.

Interacting with people - meeting in the moment, person to person. It's the key to success and is just one of the benefits you'll enjoy by attending ASBO International's Annual Meeting & Expo.

*Please join us in Grapevine, Texas  
on October 23rd - 26th.*

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# Spring Conference, April 15 - 17, 2015

## Invitation to Make New Friends

Everyone enjoys hanging out with friends. OKASBO offers you the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends in your area and across the state. One of the many benefits of being a OKASBO member is an opportunity to participate in workshops and conferences with people in school business going through the same thing you are, Why struggle to figure things out on your own when you can get together with friends and colleagues who may have already found a solution to something you have been spending hours trying to resolve? If you are not an OKASBO member yet, it's time to join and make some new friends!

Also, as an institutional member you receive:

- **DISCOUNTED** registration fee for the preconference workshop
- **NO** registration fee for the conference
- **NO** fee for luncheon
- **DISCOUNTED** registration fee for the Financial Assistance Program workshops

Look over the tentative programs in this newsletter and make your reservation soon. You do not want to miss the opportunity to attend a conference filled with quality programs, on-site vendor information and networking opportunities.

**Reminder.....**Come join us at Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, **April 15-17, 2015**. Conference registration is simple and can be done online! Just click on the link on the OKASBO website and follow the instructions. Hotel reservation procedures are provided on page 7.

**See you there!**

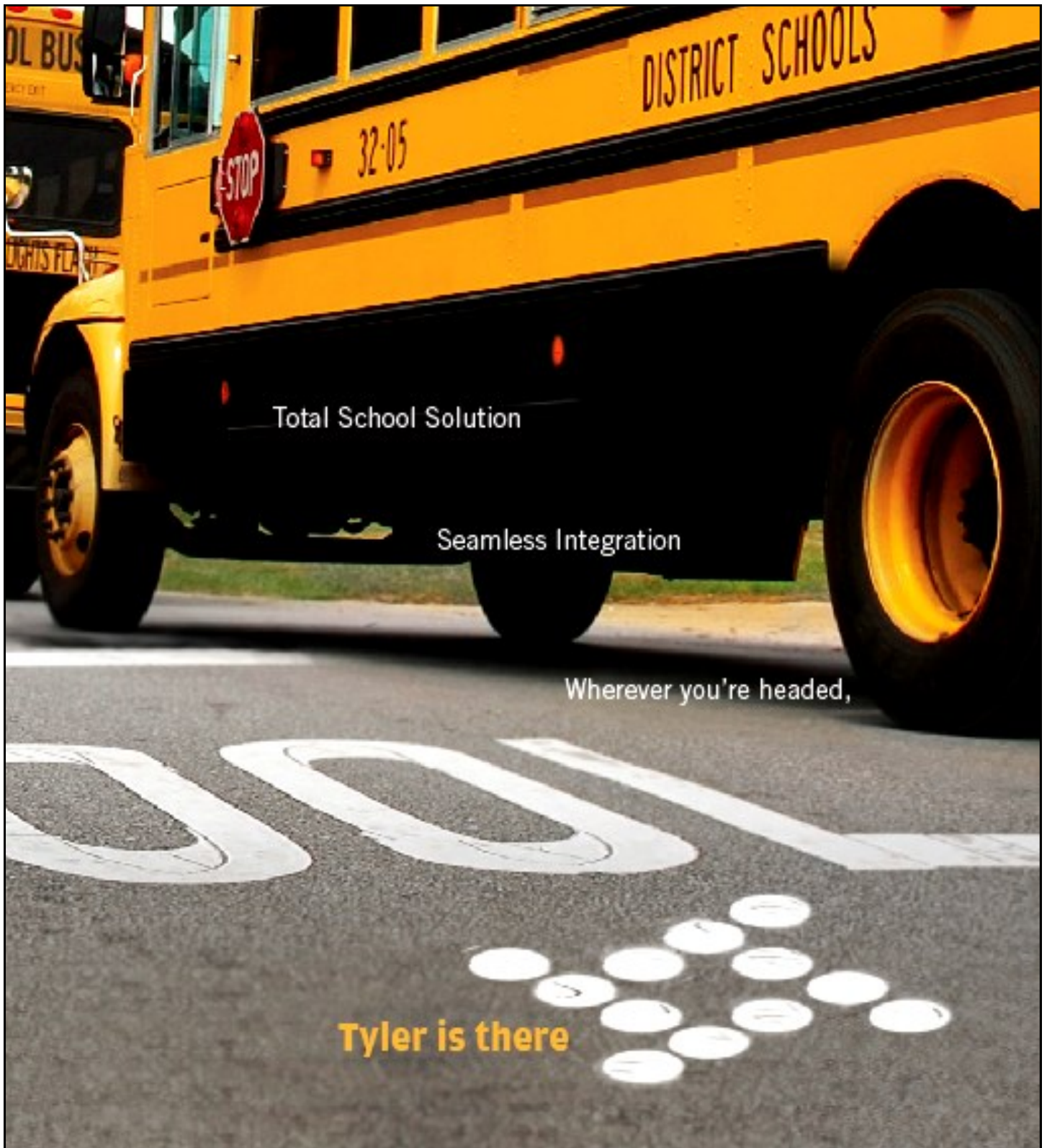
*"A person without knowledge is like a house without a foundation."*  
Harvey Mackey

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SCAN NOW TO REVIEW  
CASE STUDIES

# Spring Conference, April 15 - 17, 2015

## [Make Your Reservations Now!](#)

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel/Reed Conference Center  
5750 Will Rogers Road  
Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110  
Tel (405) 455-1801

**Registration procedures are: Rate: \$94 Cut- off Date: March 27th. Be sure to mention: OKASBO Conference**

- Attendees can copy and paste the link below into a web browser to make their hotel reservation, securing the guestroom with a credit card and then fax/email a copy of the PO (Please put confirmation number(s) and name(s) on the PO) once they receive the PO. The credit card will only be held for incidentals.

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1410168829&key=25E74DB4>

**OR**

- Once the attendees receive their POs they can contact Martha Pruett at [405-455-1801](tel:405-455-1801) to make their room reservation and then fax/email a copy of the PO Attn: Martha Pruett. Fax Number [405-736-0973](tel:405-736-0973).
- All POs can either be emailed to [mpruett@sheratonmidwestcity.com](mailto:mpruett@sheratonmidwestcity.com) or faxed attention Martha Pruett to 405-736-0973.

Make sure to put the name(s) of the attendees, the Conference name (OKASBO) and confirmation on the purchase orders. Also a copy of your tax exempt letter or documentation is required.



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# Encumbrance Clerk & Treasurer Training

## Wednesday, April 15, 2015

8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M. Reed CD Rooms	<b>Registration</b> Continental Breakfast – Sponsors: Oklahoma Schools Insurance Group (OSIG)				
8:45 A.M.– 8:55 A.M. Reed CD Rooms	<b>Welcome/Announcements</b> Ann Wade, Executive Director, OKASBO				
9:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>				
	<b>JOYNER ROOM</b>	<b>REED EF ROOMS</b>	<b>REED A ROOM</b>	<b>MAYNARD ROOM</b>	<b>THEATER ROOM</b>
9:00 A.M. – 9:50 A.M.	Internal Controls “Can That Happen To Me”  Jeff Hewett, CPA Sanders, Bledsoe & Hewett, Certified Public Accountants, LLP	Encumbrance Clerks (0-3 experience)  Vicki Biggs, Encumbrance Clerk Guthrie Schools	School District Treasurer (0-3 experience)  David Harp, CFO Shawnee Schools	Competitive Bidding Requirements under Oklahoma Law  Eric Nelson, Attorney Rosenstein, Fist & Ringgold	OCAS Updates End of Year Procedures (4+ experience)  Pam Honeysuckle, Financial Specialist, OK St. Dept. of Educ.
10:00 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.	Internal Controls “Can That Happen To Me”  Jeff Hewett, CPA Sanders, Bledsoe & Hewett, Certified Public Accountants, LLP	Encumbrance Clerks (4+ experience)  Roger Adair, OKASBO Board Director, Dir. Of Finance, Moore Norman Tech. Center	Treasurers & The Estimate of Needs  Brenda Burkett, CPA, SFO ASBO Intl Vice President OKASBO Committee Chair, CFO, Norman Schools	Competitive Bidding Requirements under Oklahoma Law  Eric Nelson, Attorney Rosenstein, Fist & Ringgold	OCAS Updates End of Year Procedures (4+ experience)  Pam Honeysuckle, Financial Specialist, OK St. Dept. of Educ.
11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.	Transforming Your Organization From Fraud-Responsive to Fraud Resistant  Gary Jones, CPA OK State Auditor & Inspector	Encumbrance Clerks & The Estimate Of Needs  Brenda Burkett, CPA, SFO ASBO Intl Vice President OKASBO Committee Chair, CFO, Norman Schools	School District Treasurer (4+ experience)  Preston Birk, Exec. Dir. Of Finance, Bartlesville Schools	Ten (10) Contract Nuisances  David Young, CPPB Union Schools	OCAS Updates End of Year Procedures (0-3 experience)  Iona Martin, Financial Specialist, OK St. Dept. of Educ.
12:00 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.	<b>LUNCH – EXHIBIT HALL – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR</b> Sponsor: Focus Financial Advisors				
12:30 P.M. – 1:10 P.M. Exclusive Exhibit Time	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VENDOR SHOWCASE OPENING – 1<sup>ST</sup> &amp; 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOORS</b></p> <p>The showcase provides us time to spend with vendors reviewing the latest and greatest products and services for Oklahoma school districts. Make sure you spend as much time as possible in the showcase learning about what they can do for you and your district. !</p> <p>You may even have a chance to win great prizes!</p> <p><i>Note: The Exclusive Exhibit Time is only a portion of the total exhibit hours. During these time slots, no educational sessions are occurring.</i></p>				



# Encumbrance Clerk & Treasurer Training

## Wednesday, April 15, 2015

BREAKOUT SESSIONS					
	JOYNER ROOM	REED EF ROOMS	REED A ROOM	MAYNARD ROOM	THEATER ROOM
1:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.	School Personnel Reporting  Heather Butler, Coordinator School Personnel Records, OK St. Dept. of Education	Encumbrance Clerks (0-3 experience)  Vicki Biggs, Encumbrance Clerk Guthrie Schools	School District Treasurer (0-3 experience)  David Harp, CFO Shawnee Schools	Are You Ready For Your Auditor  Jack H. Jenkins, CPA Jack H. Jenkins, CPA, P. C.	OCAS Updates End of Year Procedures  Iona Martin, Financial Specialist, OK St. Dept. of Educ.
2:15 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.	School Personnel Reporting  Heather Butler, Coordinator School Personnel Records, OK St. Dept. of Education	Encumbrance Clerks (4+ experience)  Roger Adair, OKASBO Board Director, Dir. Of Fin. Moore Norman Technology Center	School District Treasurer (4+ experience)  Preston Birk, Exec. Dir. Of Fin. Bartlesville Schools	Are You Ready For Your Auditor  Jack H. Jenkins, CPA Jack H. Jenkins, CPA, P. C.	OCAS Updates End of Year Procedures (4+ experience)  Pam Honeysuckle, Financial Specialist, OK St. Dept. of Educ.
3:15 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. Reed CD Rooms	<b>Round-Table Discussions – “Q &amp; A Sessions”</b>  (OCAS, Encumbrance Clerks, Treasurers, School Personnel Reporting, Estimate of Needs, Top (10) Contract Nuisances)				
3:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Reed CD Rooms	<b>Closing Remarks/Distribute Certificates</b>  Stacey Butterfield				
4:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.	<b>Showcase Closing – Prize Drawings</b>				
4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	Last chance to take advantage of all the products and services the exhibitor’s have to offer and a chance to win great prizes!  <b>Welcome Hospitality</b> Sponsor: Blunck’s Photography Sheraton Hotel—Room TBA				

DIS has printed this Newsletter, for eight years, at their office located at 9300 "C" Broken Arrow Expressway, Tulsa, Oklahoma at no cost to OKASBO. **Thanks** to Terry Bourke and Nick Patterson. 918-664-8800.



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## *Brenda Burkett, CFO, Norman Public Schools 2015 OKASBO School Business Official of the Year*

*Dr. Joseph Siano, Superintendent, Norman Schools writes :*

“It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the nomination of Brenda Burkett for OKASBO School Business Official of the Year.”

There are many aspects of a school district that impact student success and opportunity. None are more important than the financial stability of the school system. Quality financial leadership is the key to being able to provide a stable, consistent instructional environment to serve students and families. Brenda Burkett provides this leadership to Norman Public Schools. Her commitment and skills have enabled our district to provide and expand learning opportunities and services to students even during a challenging financial climate.

While Brenda brings her knowledge of school finance to her position, her greatest strength is in her ability to keep her focus on student needs as we discuss priorities in the budget. It is an easy task to make the numbers work. It is a greater challenge to determine how limited resources can best serve students. It is that skill that separates Brenda from others in her position.

Most importantly, as a Superintendent I know that a key to the success of a school district is to create an environment of public trust. No other aspect of the district will destroy public trust than finances. Through Brenda’s work, we have been able to sustain that trust with our Board of Education, staff, and community. Our students benefit every day because of Brenda’s skills.

*Her staff writes:*

Many people say “I have a great boss” or “My boss is the best”, but when you try to pin them down as to why they are a great boss, you usually get a response like, “she/he’s fun”, she/he’s supportive”.

Brenda Burkett is all of those things, but what makes Brenda a really great boss is that she allows us to be the best we can be. She shows her trust in us by simply allowing us to do the job we were hired to do; which in turn gives us confidence in ourselves..

- Brenda advocates growth through learning.
- Brenda mentors by sharing her knowledge with others.
- Brenda encourages creative thinking.

Finally, Brenda furthers the cause of school business officials by becoming involved in the institutions which promote education and legislation. She has held every office possible in OKASBO and has branched out in the international level, currently serving as Vice President, bringing positive attention to our state. Her efforts have allowed her to affect real change in the finance and school business officials profession. School Business Officials is a respected profession thanks to pioneers like Brenda Burkett.

*Jack Harrel and Ann Wade writes:*

Some other notable events that Brenda pioneered were the testing of ASBO International Certification . The result was that the written exam was adopted and Brenda was one of the first to receive the SFO designation (the highest most rigorous certification designation). Brenda was also chosen to serve on an Educational Panel with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education at the 2009 ASBO Int’l Annual Conference, and most recently (2014), she presented a webinar on ASBO Int’l Certification and its benefits to the members.


“Thank you” Brenda for your passion for education and your commitment to the school business profession.



*Congratulations*

# Spring Conference Program

## Thursday, April 16, 2015

<p><b>8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Exclusive Exhibit Time</b></p>	<p><b>Registration, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p> <p><b>Continental Breakfast</b> (Vendor Showcase – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Sponsors: MAS, Inc., Barlow Educational Services, Horace Mann</p> <p><b>Vendor Showcase Opens</b></p>
<p><b>8:00 A.M. – 9:10 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>First General Session</b> <b>Welcome:</b> Stacey Butterfield, OKASBO Board President, Superintendent, Jenks Schools</p>
<p><b>9:10 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>Student Performances: TBA</b></p>
<p><b>9:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>Legislative Update:</b></p> <p>Steven Crawford, Executive Director, CCOSA Shawn Hime, Executive Director, OSSBA TBA , OCATE</p>
<p><b>10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.</b></p>	<p><b>Refreshment Break</b> Sponsor: Oklahoma Schools Assurance Group (OSAG)</p>
<p><b>10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</b></p>	<p><b>This Is Your Brain...This Is Your Brain On Stress</b> <i>Presented by: Fred Schafer, Keynote Speaker</i> Sponsor: Oklahoma Schools Assurance Group (OSAG)</p> <p>Fred Schafer is President of Fully Alive Performance Systems (FAPS), founded in 1995. FAPS is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and enhancing the lives of busy, high achieving people. For 37 years Fred has studied high performance success and has applied his studies to build a colorful career and has received national recognition for his achievements in marketing and sales increases, employee recruiting and retention and leadership with both public and private organizations. In addition to his success in various businesses, Fred holds a master's degree in wellness promotion, is a certified fitness therapist, author and began coaching others through his conference programs in 2002. Fred is nationally recognized for his high energy, humorous and inspiring conference presentations that move audience members to upgrade career and personal goals and to perform better, live stronger, and dream bigger.</p> 
<p><b>12:00 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.</b> <b>Exhibit Hall—1st Floor</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b> Sponsor: American Fidelity Assurance Company</p> <p><b>Award: School Business Official (SBO)</b> Sponsor: Document Imaging Solutions (DIS)</p> <p><b>Award: Strength In Education Scholarship</b> Sponsor: Security Benefit</p>
<p><b>12:45 P.M. - 1:10 P.M.</b> <b>1st &amp; 2nd Floor</b></p> <p><b>Exclusive Exhibit Time</b></p>	<p><b>Vendor Showcase</b> Booth spaces are filled by business members supporting the 58th Annual Spring Conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibitors will have technical experts available to discuss specific needs, provide information, perform demonstrations, and provide literature.</li> <li><i>You may even have a chance to win great prizes!</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The Exclusive Exhibit Time is only a portion of the total exhibit hours. During these time slots, no educational sessions are occurring.</i></p>

# Spring Conference Program

## Thursday, April 16, 2015

<b>Breakout Sessions</b>				
Session Strands	<b>Breakout Session I 1:15 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session II 2:15 -3:00 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session III 3:15– 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session IV 4:15 – 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Finance</b>  <b>Reed AB Rooms</b>	<b>Perspectives on the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System</b>  Gary Watts, CFO Sand Springs Schools	<b>Hot Topics in School Finance “State Aid Allocations”</b>  Renee McWaters, Exec. Director State Aid , OK St. Dept. of Education	<b>Comparison of Oklahoma School Funding to the Regional Average</b>  Dr. Trish Williams , CFO, Tulsa Schools Debbie Jacoby, CFO, Union Schools	<b>Round Table Discussions (Q&amp;A)</b>  Finance Breakout Sessions
<b>Human Resources</b>  <b>Reed EF Rooms</b>	<b>TRS Reporting Updates</b>  Debra Plog, Manager of Employer Reporting , Teacher Retirement System	<b>TRS Reporting Updates</b>  Debra Plog, Manager of Employer Reporting, Teacher Retirement System	<b>School Personnel Reporting</b>  Heather Butler, Coordinator, School Personnel Records, State Dept. of Education	<b>Round Table Discussions (Q&amp;A)</b>  Human Resources Breakout Sessions
<b>Technology</b>  <b>Cain Room</b>	<b>OUSF Funding</b>  Marci White, Oklahoma Corporate Commission	<b>E-Rate and the New Rules</b>  Debbie Sovereign, Kellogg & Sovereign, Derrel Fincher, OMES	<b>STATE WAVE &amp; SIF Requirements</b>  Duane Brown, Data Quality Analyst OMES	<b>Round Table Discussions (Q&amp;A)</b>  Technology Breakout Sessions
<b>State Department of Education</b>  <b>Theater Room</b>	<b>OCAS Updates</b>  Nancy Hughes, Exec. Dir. Financial Accounting , OCAS, Audits, OK St. Dept. of Education	<b>Are You Ready For Your Regional Accreditation Officer</b>  Shellie Gammill, Executive Director, Accreditation Standards Division., OK St. Dept. of Education	<b>Federal Programs</b>  Kay Townsend, Financial Analyst, Title I, II, VI and X, OK St. Dept. of Education	<b>Round Table Discussions (Q&amp;A)</b>  State Department of Education Breakout Sessions
<b>Common Cent\$</b>  <b>Joyner Room</b>	<b>Activity Fund Guidelines</b>  Julie Miller, Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel, OSSBA	<b>What To Do When Panel</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry Needham, Supt., Oktaha Schools,</li> <li>• Don Raleigh, Supt., Pryor Schools,</li> <li>• Lori Smith, CFO, Edmond Schools</li> </ul>	<b>IRS Current Issues</b>  Brenda Hollingsworth, Specialist, #10000668323 SE:T:GE:FSL:O:7252 Internal Revenue Services	<b>Career Technology Center Meeting</b>  Diane Durham, CSBA, Financial Analyst, OK Dept. of Career Technology Centers
<b>Vendor</b>  <b>Maynard Room</b>	<b>SOCS</b>  Stacie Anderson, Regional Account Mgr. and Jim Knox, Sales Representative	<b>MAS, Inc.</b>  Darrin Humphrey, Vice President Sales-Marketing, M.A.S., Inc.	<b>Measuring the Success of your Medicaid Program</b>  Jann Arnold - SEAS Jennifer Robinson - SEAS	<b>IRS Reporting Requirements</b>  Che Yi, SR. Health & Welfare Plan Consult- ant, American Fidelity Administra- tive Services
<b>5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Vendor Showcase /Prize Drawings/Hospitality</b> Last chance to visit with vendors and see the latest products and services offered to school districts.			

## Spring Conference Program Thursday, April 16, 2015

6:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.	<b>OPENING MIXER</b>
6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.	Dinner
7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.	176 Keys Presents: Fun Pianos – Your best dueling piano show



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### >>>> EVENT DETAILS <<<<

**Location:** Reed Conference Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Reed CD Rooms

**Date:** APRIL 16, 2015      **Time:** 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Since the show is request driven by the audience and the comedy is all improv, every show is completely different... except for one thing: EVERY show is *FUN!* Don't miss out on the opportunity to create great memories you'll never forget!



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**"OUR BASIC FUN PIANO SHOW OF SING ALONG FUN"**

## In A Word "INFECTIOUS"

## *Spring Conference Program* *Friday, April 17, 2015*


8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.	<b>Registration</b> <b>Continental Breakfast</b> Sponsor: Horace Mann, OSIG
9:00 A.M. – 9:05 A.M.	<b>Welcome – Second General Session</b> Nancy Hughes, OKASBO President Elect, Executive Director, Financial Accounting, OCAS, Auditing, OK St. Dept. of Education
9:05 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.	<b>Honorable Joy Hofmeister, Oklahoma State Superintendent</b>
10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	<b>Refreshment Break</b> Sponsor: Focus Financial Advisors
10:30 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.	<b>Legislative Panel: TBA</b>
11:15 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.	<b>Debriefing &amp; Brainstorming with Committees</b>
11:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	<b>Business Meeting</b> Elect new board member <b>Door Prizes</b> <b>Adjourn</b>
12:15 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.	<b>Board of Directors Meeting – Light Lunch provided</b> Sponsor: AXA

*Thank You* for taking time from your busy schedules to join us at the Spring Conference.  
As we all know, time doesn't sit still—so NOW is the time to mark your calendar to attend the Fall Conference



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# *Strength In Education Scholarship Application Deadline: March 1, 2015*



## **Strength in Education**

Teachers and other educational professionals directly shape the future of our country. Those who surround a student daily in the classroom, in their school building, during their school outings can affect a student's performance and view of the world.

At Security Benefit, we believe our country's success is equally dependent on those in the classroom today as well as those who aspire to become the architects and journeymen of our educational system for the next generation.

## **Security Benefit + OKASBO**

Since 1892, Security Benefit, a Guggenheim Partners Company, has been helping people prepare for the future. We're a leading provider of retirement plan services throughout the nation, primarily in the education marketplace.

We have teamed up with the Oklahoma Association of School Business Officials (OKASBO) to help a worthy Oklahoma graduating high school senior fund his or her college education through the Security Benefit "Strength in Education Scholarship" program, presented by OKASBO.

## **Scholarship Program**

The Security Benefit 'Strength in Education' Scholarship program is designed to promote and foster the importance of a strong education system in that can only be supported by the individual strength, courage and leadership of educators. We are proud to partner with OKASBO to present this unique scholarship opportunity.

Security Benefit is indirectly controlled by Guggenheim Partners, LLC.  
99-00466-28

OKASBO has proven to be a network that helps each member as they work hard for their school district, faculty and students. The future of Oklahoma schools is brighter because of each of you. We want to continue this legacy of support of colleagues and education through the Security Benefit 'Strength in Education' Scholarship program.

## **Scholarship Details and Qualifications**

We will grant a one time \$1,500 per year (\$750 per academic semester) scholarship to a graduating high school senior who plans to pursue a certified degree in education or in an occupation that directly supports the educational system. The student must be from a school district that is a member of OKASBO.

The OKASBO board of directors and a Security Benefit associate will choose the honoree based on their application, accompanying letter and a letter of recommendation. We will award the scholarship during an April OKASBO event, to be announced.

## **Key Dates**

### **Dec. 1, 2014**

Strength in Education Scholarship application and complete details available at [www.OKASBO.org](http://www.OKASBO.org).

### **March 1, 2015**

Deadline for submitting all required materials

### **April 16, 2015**

Scholarship announced during OKASBO luncheon



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## Take Time To Reflect

Recently I saw a quotation that made me smile. *“When I was younger I would make funny faces in the mirror, now that I’m older, the mirror is getting even.”* The quote also made me think about “self reflection” - perhaps appropriately as we begin a new year. What does it mean to reflect? Is there enough value in self-reflection to warrant the extra time? In this fast paced world we seem to take less and less time to reflect - in fact, many of us don’t even think about reflecting. In the good old days (as they have sometimes been called) when life was simpler and quieter, I believe people practiced self-reflection more often and more naturally. People seemed to be more conscious of the ramifications of their actions, their words and their decisions. People would sit on their porches and talk through issues, talk about how they handled certain situations and analyze various interactions.

Today, things are so fast paced with social media and new technologies, we are expected to provide immediate responses with little time to ponder or wonder. We may text an answer, post a photo or thought and affect people by words and images without the value of thoughtful, careful consideration. In many cases, our decision, recommendation or answer is needed right away. Given this fast paced state of affairs, I would contend that reflection is even more important. Take the time after a situation, encounter, decision or interaction to think about the results.

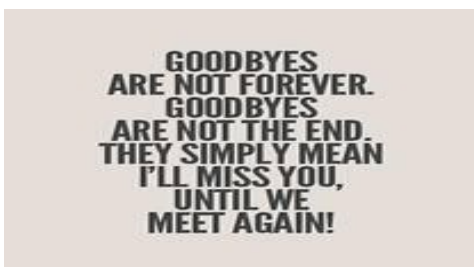
Self reflection helps us change and grow. There is another quote that says: *“If you are not growing, you are dying,”* So one of the ways to assure that we are growing is to make sure we are changing and improving. We know where we need to change and improve by reflecting on our actions and interactions.

I know that TIME is an issue. We are all busier than ever before and do not have what we consider to be a luxury - TIME to think, strategize and analyze. Sometimes it helps to write down some of the thoughts to keep your focus.

Times of greatest challenge are the times when reflection is most critical. OKASBO needs your help in reflecting on how we can improve, change, and better meet the needs of a very diverse membership. Also, reflect on how you have helped others grow in the school business profession. OKASBO provides a variety of avenues for you to provide support to your colleagues across the state. Ask yourself these questions: Am I giving back? Am I helping others grow and learn? Am I sharing my ideas and perspectives to benefit others?

Wishing you a 2015 that reflects valued friendships, satisfaction from service to others, and deep joy.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to let you know of my resignation on June 30, 2015. This will allow me more TIME to spend with my family and to stop and smell the roses of LIFE. It has been an honor serving as your Executive Director and I have enjoyed working every day for this association. I’m grateful for the board of directors for showing belief in me and providing me guidance, support and freedom to lead in my own way. I am particularly thankful for the opportunity to develop many life-long friendships during my journey.



Just sayin.....



**OKASBO News** is published four times per year (February, May, August & November) by and for the members of the Oklahoma Association of School Business Officials, which is affiliated with the Association of School Business Officials International.

Neither OKASBO nor the editor assumes the responsibility for the data and opinions expressed by the authors or papers abstracted, quoted, or published in full in this newsletter.

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## MEETING SCHEDULE

### ASBO International Annual Meeting & Expo

**2015**

October 23-26  
Grapevine, Texas

**2016**

September 23-26  
Phoenix, Arizona

**2017**

September 22-25  
Denver, Colorado

**Plan to attend!**

### Oklahoma ASBO

*Sheraton Hotel/Reed Conf. Center  
Midwest City, OK*

**2015**

April 15 - 17  
September 16 - 18

**2016**

April 13 - 15  
October 12 - 14

**2017**

April 26 - 28  
October 11 - 13

*"You are never too old to set another goal or to  
dream a new dream."*

*Les Brown*

*Would you share this Newsletter with co-workers  
who may benefit from our educational and  
training programs?*

*Thanks!*

