Education ballot

For Governor
Ted Strickland
For Lieutenant Governor
Lee Fisher

For Attorney General
Marc Dann
For Auditor of State
Barbara Sykes
For Secretary of State
Jennifer Brunner
For Treasurer of State
Richard Cordray
For United States Senator
Sherrod Brown
For Representative to Congress 12th District
Robert Shmansky
For Representative to Congress 15th District
Mary Jo Kilroy
For Ohio Supreme Court
William O’Neill
For Ohio Supreme Court
Ben Espe

Judge of the Court of Appeals
10th District, Full Term Commencing 2/9/07
Gary Tyack
10th District, Full Term Commencing 2/10/07
Peggy Bryant

State Senator
15th District
Ray Miller

State Representative
19th District
Marian Harris
20th District
Beverly Campbell
21st District
Dean C. Hernandez
22nd District
Jim Hughes

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
24th District
Ted Celeste
25th District
Dan Stewart
26th District
Tracy Heard
27th District
Joyce Beatty

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas–Domestic Division
Guy Reese
Full Term Commencing 1/3/2007
David E. Cain
Full Term Commencing 1/4/2007
John P. Bissey
Full Term Commencing 1/6/2007
Charles A. Schneider
Full Term Commencing 1/7/2007
Stephen L. McIntosh
Full Term Commencing 1/8/2007
Tim Horton
Unexpired Term Ending 7/1/2009
Pat Sheran
Unexpired Term Ending 7/1/2011

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas–Domestic Division
Elizabeth Gill
Full Term Commencing 1/1/2007
Jim Mason
Full Term Commencing 1/2/2007
Carole Squire
Full Term Commencing 1/15/2007

County Commissioner
Marilyn Brown

State Issues
YES on Issue #2: To support the constitutional amendment to raise the minimum wage.
NO on Issue #4: To oppose the Smoke Less Ohio constitutional amendment.
YES on Issue #5: To support the Smoke Free Workplace law to restrict smoking in places of employment and most places open to the public.

Local Issues
For #7
Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) sales tax
For #9
Canal Winchester Local SD Levy
For #10
Grooveport-Madison Local SD Levy
For #11
Reynoldsville City SD Bond Issue & Levy
For #12
South-Western City SD School IncomeTax
For #14
Worthington City SD Bond Issue

GOTV, get out the vote

What do scientists, police officers, members of the clergy, judges and the President of the United States have in common? According to a recently released Harris poll, they are all examples of professions that the American public believes are not as trustworthy as teachers. As a teacher, the trust of our stakeholders is essential for everything we must accomplish. The faith of the community in which we teach and the faith of the families of our students are the catalysts that reinforce each effort educators make everyday to help our students achieve their full potential.

The American public places their unyielding faith in teachers for one simple and undeniable reason—the fact that we are constant advocates for the best interests of our students. We strive to make every opportunity and resource within our power and our reach available to our students. When the needs of our students are not being met, we work together as a team with other teachers, our students’ families and the community-at-large to make sure our students get the resources and opportunities they both require and deserve.

The trust of our students and the families of Columbus Public Schools has been carried by our hard work and unending dedication to the principle that with great public schools available for every child, no child will be left behind. We, as educators, must remember the weighty fact that as we step into the voting booth, we represent the best interests of our students and their families.

In this critical moment before the election, please take the time to review the candidates and issues your colleagues in the Columbus Education Association have placed their trust to help our students succeed. The votes we cast in this election will shape the lives of our students in ways that will not be fully realized until years from now.

United Way touches lives in central Ohio

At United Way of Central Ohio, success is measured by the lives that are changed, not the number of services funded. Thanks to you, United Way makes a real difference in people’s lives. Thank you for helping to do what matters. Thanks to individual contributors like you who want to make a real difference, the 2005 central Ohio campaign raised $52,800,000.

Without you, there would be no United Way. That’s why United Way works hard to earn your trust every day, not just during annual campaigns. Benchmark measurements and proven practices ensure that United Way is making a difference. Performance standards are set for the programs and services to measure the impact of each dollar contributed.

We would like to remind our Senior Faculty Representatives that the deadline for submitting United Way contribution envelopes is approaching. Please finalize that effort and bring the completed envelopes to the CEA office.

We do what works, we do what matters.
Keeping our eyes on the charter facts

A much-discussed recent report by the Fordham Foundation is affirming that Ohio’s charter schools need work. Its study, Turning the Corner to Quality, done at the request of Ohio government and education leaders by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, National Association of Charter School Authorizers and National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (all organizations that are highly supportive of charter schools) has issued 17 recommendations. Among them are closing low-performing charter schools and holding school-sponsoring agencies more accountable.

The study, however, suggests that the schools could succeed, if only governing legislation weren’t so restrictive. It claims Ohio’s charter schools are getting better but suggests that obstacles toward greater success lie as much with the legislature as with school administrators. Fordham recommends that if these schools improve their accountability, the state should relax some of its rules, including caps on growth and providing more funding.

We at CEA agree change is needed, but at what price must we continue to focus on this alternative education system when traditional public schools themselves offer more?

CEA is clear on two points: Charter schools fall far short of keeping their educational promises. And charter schools are consuming tax dollars that could be going to traditional schools to aid in their continued improvement.

OEAA recently studied the picture. It looked at charter schools legislation, impact on the Ohio 8 urban districts and charter-school state ratings. Its general findings:

The state’s charter pilot program expanded without adequate research.

Most charter schools are mired in a state of academic emergency, showing particularly poor ratings in science and math.

Charter schools are eating more and more of the state education budget, including $487 million for the 2005–2006 year.

The OEA survey supported the good news about non-charter public schools, information Fordham doesn’t include, for instance:

Traditional schools outperform charters on 64 percent of proficiency tests.

The achievement gap is closing faster in traditional schools.

Parents are beginning to get the message. Charter school enrollment appears to have peaked in Ohio and has declined slightly.

The bottom line? Let’s stay focused. Charter schools are a worthy experiment but have been led astray by inexperienced teachers, over-reaching administrators, overly-eager legislators and educational companies whose goals are profit over educational value. As the election draws near, keep your eyes on the system we already have. A recent edition of The Voice noted that test scores in Columbus are improving, and we are well on our way to addressing student disciplinary issues. Columbus (and Ohio), we can do it better.

Face on the calendar

CEA President Rhonda Johnson will appear in the 2007 Women You Should Know calendar published by the network- and support organization, Women for Economic Leadership and Development (WELD).

The calendar is designed to showcase women who are making a big difference in central Ohio. These accomplished women are both role models and leaders in Ohio’s business and professional communities.

Johnson’s achievements are important in many significant ways. As a teacher at the Northwest Career Center, she influenced hundreds of young lives, along with those of young women looking toward establishing themselves in business careers. As an Association leader, she is a conduit for communication and change.

Johnson has been involved in numerous community and national activities. She served on the Board of the Consumers Council of Ohio, as Associate Chair of the United Way Campaign and the Board of Trustees of United Way. She is a member of the Ohio 8, the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN) and the Holmes Partnership.

The community is invited to the WELD reception honoring all the Women You Should Know, 6–8 p.m., Nov. 8, at the Rebecca Ibel Gallery, 2 Miranova Place. Tickets are $35 each for non-WELD members. Visit www.weldoh.org to register and get directions.

Know the contract

Suppose your principal rations your paper and gives you two reams for the month. Where in the Master Agreement would you look? Article 206 deals with Teaching Environment and New Buildings. Specifically, 206.09(C) states “A workroom available for use of teachers containing the equipment and supplies necessary for the preparation of instructional materials.”

No teacher needs to buy paper to copy materials for their class. Call CEA or download, complete and submit a Data Collection Form found on the CEA website.

Correction: Natalie James was omitted as one of our Performance Advancement System (PAS) awardees in the Oct. 30 issue of The Voice. Please excuse our error.

Special notes

Applications for the Ingram Grant for Teachers must be received by 4:30 p.m., Nov. 17. Send one original (unstapled) and one copy (stapled). Avoid attachments unless absolutely necessary. Send through school mail or deliver to: John Farley, Development Office, Columbus Education Center. Do not fax your application. Call 365-8733 if you have questions.

With CEA to the Eastern Caribbean at spring break and to Greece and Turkey just after the end of the school year. Check the details at www.ceahio.org or call CEA for an information packet.

Blue Jacket Tickets are available from the CEA office for the following dates: Nov. 10, Edmonton (4); Nov. 20, Nashville (4); Nov. 22, St. Louis (2). Call the CEA office at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.

The Center for Teaching History with Technology offers a number of web resources. These include lesson plans, class projects, articles and workshops that are all designed to help find new ways to teach history. Visit their site at www.thwt.org/resources.html.