

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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The envelope please...

The votes are in and the winners have been announced. And your voice was key in electing officials we know will serve the interest of educators and students.

Because you supported these candidates, Ohio will see a positive change, more responsible allocation of dollars and a more concerned attitude about the welfare of our students and our teachers.

CEA offers congratulations to our endorsed state winners, **Governor Ted Strickland** and **Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher**, **Attorney General Marc Dann**, and **State Treasurer Richard Cordray**.

Other CEA-endorsed winners: **Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner**; **U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown**; **U.S. Appeals Court Judges Gary Tyack and Peggy Bryant**; **State Senator Ray Miller**; **State Representatives Jim Hughes, Ted Celeste, Dan Stewart, Tracy Heard and Joyce Beatty**; **Franklin County Common Pleas Judges Guy Reese, David E. Cain, John P. Bessey, Charles A. Schneider, Stephen L. McIntosh, Tim Horton and Pat Sheeran**; **Franklin County Domestic Division Judges Elizabeth Gill and Jim Mason**; and **County Commissioner Marilyn Brown**

CEA also supported these winning state issues: **Issue #2**—the constitutional amendment to raise the minimum wage; and **Issue #5**—the Smoke Free Workplace law to restrict smoking in places of employment and most places open to the public.

CEA opposed **Issue #4**—the Smoke Less Ohio constitutional amendment.

And these winning local issues: **#7**—Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) sales tax, **#10**—Groveport-Madison Local SD Levy and **#14**—Worthington City SD Bond Issue.

Your voice *does* count

Even though the election is over, CEA continues to chart the issues and track the progress of elected officials. Our chief vehicle is our political-action arm, Teachers for Better Schools (TBS).

TBS keeps its eye on the political arena. It raises money for political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other ballot issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community. At election time, it screens candidates for various offices and makes recommendations to the TBS Board. The board sends its approved list to the CEA Board of Governors. The board then makes endorsement recommendations to the CEA Legislative Assembly, consisting of CEA's elected faculty representatives.

Our process of endorsement is highly respected and sought out by all candidates.

CEA does not use any dues money to promote indi-



vidual candidates or issues. Instead, teachers join TBS separately. Dues consist of a payroll deduction, and even a small contribution makes a huge difference. A contribution of \$1 per payday amounts to thousands to help CEA continue its efforts to make sure elected officials are serving the interests of our schools and our students.

But participation could be better. At the beginning of the 2003–2004 school year, only 282 CPS educators were supporting this effort. We need the support of all Columbus teachers. This is the optimal way you can make your voice heard.

For a registration form and more information, visit http://www.ceaohio.org/staticDocs/tbs_form.pdf or call the CEA office.

It's not too late to give

CEA's United Way fund drive is coming to a close.

If you've already pledged your support, thank you! But if you haven't, consider the care that you can provide for the families in the Columbus Public Schools district. For only a few dollars per paycheck, you can help care for the community's youngest and neediest residents.

In the past year, 22,000 children participated in United Way-funded programs aimed at helping them do better in school. Through Big Brothers/Big Sisters, children have met caring mentors who help them face the challenges of their young lives. The Start Smart program continues to offer training for early-childhood caregivers, promote accreditation among county-funded providers and increase the number of slots available for children to receive quality care.

In addition, United Way last year helped 12,699 people find places to live. Many of them have realized their dreams of home ownership. United Way also helped 8,784 people improve their neighborhoods and make them safer, cleaner places to live. And because of community generosity, United Way provided job training to 8,273 unemployed or underemployed central Ohio residents.

It's called *community impact*. It's real. The time is now. If you haven't made your pledge, ask your faculty representative for a form or call CEA.

What if your investment could prevent a problem before it happened?

It can. It's called **COMMUNITY IMPACT**.

Sharina went from homeless youth to college graduate.



Life on the streets could have been a dead end for Sharina Jordan Navarro, a 16 year old whose turbulent family life led her to sleep on the streets.

We can let the **2,000 homeless youths** like Sharina fall through the cracks or we can fund programs that work to help with housing and counseling services.

Thanks to you, Sharina graduated from high school as a National Merit Scholar, completed college and is starting her own business.

United Way helped reduce homelessness and increase access to housing for 12,699 people.

At United Way, we are delivering results that change lives and make our community a better place to live and work for everyone.

WE DO WHAT WORKS.

WE DO WHAT MATTERS.

THANKS TO YOU

Learn more about how your investment achieves lasting results at www.uwcentralohio.org.

United Way of Central Ohio

American Education Week

Nov. 12–18 is American Education Week (AEW), sponsored by the National Education Association.

This week is a time when teachers and the community show their special appreciation of all you do.

This year's theme, *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*, highlights the importance of the united effort by educators, school staff, parents, students, and communities to build great public schools. The theme also reflects NEA's vision: to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper and achieve in the 21st century.

Feel like getting into the spirit? NEA has provide a host of resources, including an online toolkit containing ideas, templates and downloadable materials, and 2006 AEW posters, logos and banner art.

NEA and CEA encourages individual celebration days throughout American Education Week. Here are some ideas:

- Invite Parents to School Day—Encourage parents to spend the day with their children at school to emphasize the importance of parental involvement.
- Education Support Professionals Day—Recognize the secretaries, classroom aides, maintenance people, cafeteria workers, bus drivers and others who provide invaluable services to schools and students.
- Educator for a Day—Invite community leaders to serve as an educator to get a glimpse of a day in the life of a school employee.
- Substitute Educators Day—Honor the educators who are called upon to substitute for regularly-employed teachers and other school employees.

For more information, visit www.nea.org/aew.

SuccessWorks about to open its doors

Columbus Public Schools' new school, SuccessWorks Academy (SWA), will open in January. *The Columbus Dispatch* called the school a "long overdue solution" to the district's serious problems with student behavior. And CEA is eager to get started.

The focus will be behavior. Positive behavior is the vehicle for improving academic performance. Staff at SWA will concentrate on the factors that affect how students feel and act, including their social, emotional and physical health.

The school will serve students in grades 3–7. There will be certain criteria for students who ultimately attend. First, they must be referred for Level 2 or Level 3 behavior violations as established in our *Guide to Student Conduct*. Second, they must have been referred to and processed by the Student Assistance and Intervention for Learning (SAIL) committee. They must NOT qualify for special education services.

Parents also must agree and must sign paperwork pledging to be involved in their children's education.

CEA believes SuccessWorks has the potential to do just that: work well and be successful. We hope all teachers will get on board and support the effort.

Watch for updates in this newsletter.

CEA election results

In the recent runoff election for High School Governor-at-Large, Phil Hayes (Brookhaven HS) was elected with 1,110 votes winning over J. Howell-Sanchez (Northland HS) with 579 votes. CEA congratulates and appreciates these two Association leaders for their willingness to take an active role in our union.

Teacher quality is union business

Senior Faculty Representatives and building principals from schools throughout the district gathered on Thursday, Nov. 2, at Fort Rapids Conference Center for a workshop on the district's Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program.

Presented by CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Human Resources Director Craig Bickley, the workshop highlighted the work the PAR program has accomplished since its inception in 1986.

While more than 7,500 first-year teacher interns have successfully navigated the program over the past two decades, the usefulness of the PAR program does not end with the successful conclusion of an intern's first year. PAR can provide intervention services to a teacher who is at least in year six of their service to Columbus Public Schools and who may be experiencing serious difficulties in their teaching assignments. A teacher who is experiencing difficulties may self-refer to PAR or be referred to the program by their administrator or by the Senior Faculty Representative.

To guarantee fairness in enrolling a teacher in the intervention phase of the program, the CEA President, the Executive Director of Human Resources, as well as the Association Building Council must concur at various points during the process. The PAR Panel makes the final determination for a teacher's assignment in PAR intervention.

President Rhonda Johnson supported the ongoing work of the PAR intervention services, saying to the gathered crowd, "There are no throwaway teachers in this district. The PAR program is the ultimate due process teachers can receive." President Johnson said, "Teacher quality is union business."

Passing the buck

The Elementary Office of Principal Leadership Development sent a form to collect data on the elementary practice test. Principals were to gather the data and use the information to rank the students as Advanced, Accelerated, Proficient, Limited and Basic. Some principals gave the forms to the teachers to complete. The teachers are not required to fill out these forms.

Special notes

- Jo Annette Byas-Marston** (Linden ES) was selected as the **Greater Linden Development Corporation's Teacher of the Year** at their 2006 Awards and Gratitude Celebration.
- The **open enrollment period** for making changes to insurance benefits **must be made by Friday, Nov. 17**. Changes not made by the deadline will not be considered until the next open enrollment period in fall of 2007.

Job Sharing Requests

CEA is compiling a list of teachers interested in job sharing next school year. If you are looking for a job sharing partner, fill out the form below and return it to the CEA office. A list will be printed and mailed to each person who submits the form to assist him/her in finding a partner for job sharing. Even if you submitted your name last year, please fill out a new form this year. Please return this form to Carol Wagner at CEA by Monday, Dec. 4, 2006.

Name: _____ School: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Present Assignment: _____ Certification Areas: _____

Teaching Preference for Next Year: _____