

The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

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CEA Solidarity Week, May 21–25

In August of 1980, dockworkers in the communist country of Poland went on a two-week strike to protest the firing of a colleague who spoke out in favor of better working conditions in Gdansk. The strike quickly took over the shipyard and spread throughout Poland. Acting together under the leadership of Lech Walesa, striking shipyard workers won the right from the country's totalitarian government to create their own independent union and the right to go on strike in the future. A short while later, the Solidarnosc (Solidarity) union was born, playing a vital role in the future downfall of the communist government and the rise of a democratic government and free elections in occupied Poland.



At the suggestion of CEA Faculty Representatives throughout the district, this week has been declared **CEA Solidarity Week**. Just like the united dockworkers in Poland, your Association calls on our unity to pay tribute to the accomplishments and the unyielding dedication of our members. "We take this week to show that we are a united front," said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. "Each and everyday, our 4,609-member Association speaks with one voice together in support of the best interests of our students and fellow teachers. There is no better way to demonstrate our unity than with CEA Solidarity Week."

Each day throughout the week of May 21, members should wear *I am the CEA* buttons. On Wednesday, May 23, teachers will wear their school colors. On Friday, May 25, members will wear their CEA Solidarity T-shirts. CEA Solidarity Week will culminate with the CEA Spring Fling and Rally for Public Education at the Aladdin Shrine Center from 3:30–7:30 p.m.

Spring Fling & Rally for Public Education

Shortly after taking office, Gov. Ted Strickland submitted his budget to the Ohio General Assembly, unprecedented in its support for public education. His original budget called for a moratorium on charter school expansion and elimination of the EdChoice state voucher program. Despite the deletion of those items by Ohio House Republicans, the amended budget still went to the Ohio Senate on a unanimous vote—the first time in 50 years. Gov. Strickland's strong support of education was evident with \$100 million in new college



scholarships, more financial aid for college-bound students, controls on fast-rising college tuition rates and a redistribution of state funding to poorer school districts throughout Ohio.

It is the Governor's dedication to education that we will be supporting at the rally that will take place during the CEA Spring Fling on Friday, May 25, from 4:30–5 p.m. Join your colleagues, other members of organized labor, local dignitaries and politicians to support Gov. Strickland's budget—a commitment to *great public schools for every child*.

Union revival

Late in March, there was an interesting editorial in the local edition of the newspaper *Business First*. It was a warning note to top management in the community. The alarm was sounded because of legislation that had just passed the U.S. House of Representatives which would make it much easier for people in the private sector to unionize.

This action came right after the publication of a survey that showed that more than 60 percent of Americans would immediately join a union if they could. Much had been made in recent years of the decline in organized labor's numbers.

Some records stated that union membership overall was down to only 14 percent of the population. But, thanks to management (or mismanagement) the revival is well underway. The local editorial summarized the situation.

Most Americans have not shared in the years of productivity gains, have had their pension fleeced, have seen their paychecks barely rise, watched as their bosses were handed obscene pay packages just before they were fired and were shocked as thousands of our best jobs left for overseas. Middle-class citizens are worried about their future despite all the pundits talking about a buoyant economy. It is no surprise that labor trouble is brewing.

What did you spend on supplies?

Teachers buy a lot of supplies. Some of the money comes from the school, but a lot of it comes from their own pockets.

A September 2006 survey of 957 elementary, middle and high school teachers by Quality Education Data, Inc., a Scholastic Company reveals:

- Teachers spend an average of \$843 of discretionary money annually from personal and school sources on classroom materials.
- Teachers report spending an average of \$475 of their own money on materials and supplies for their classroom.
- Overall, teachers report receiving an average of \$370 from their school or district to spend on their own classrooms.

✍ On average, elementary school teachers report receiving \$276, middle school teachers report receiving \$412 and high school teachers report receiving \$539 annually for their own classrooms.

The survey, conducted to determine the buying habits of teachers, concluded that teachers and principals share the role of buying classroom materials. Teachers tend to buy more products used in their own classrooms, whereas principals purchase supplies for the entire school.

Visit http://www.qeddata.com/downloads_public/TBB_Press_Version.pdf for a complimentary copy of the report.

Literacy program to become clearer

CEA President Rhonda Johnson is pleased to announce that CPS has chosen an exciting new textbook series to enhance the district's efforts to improve literacy across elementary grades.

Harcourt Braces's *StoryTown* series is a combination of fiction and nonfiction with materials tailored to each student's reading level. Teachers will get materials helpful for differentiated instruction, including literacy stations. The materials are for ELL and special education students, as well as those in regular classrooms.

Training begins next month and promises to be dynamic and multifaceted.

The adopted series is a proven tool with solid research behind it. It will make an ideal resource for the district's LACES program.

LACES was designed as a way to improve our reading scores by allowing for different strategies focusing on a combination of skills. Teachers wrote lessons across a variety of texts so students would receive instruction matching the state standards.

Schools will be using methods that have been tested by experts and deemed effective.

So this fall, teachers will:

- 📖 Use *StoryTown* manuals and materials instead of current manuals and materials;
- 📖 Complete the DIBELS quarterly and the Dominic Reading Level each semester;
- 📖 Work with students in leveled small-group instruction with literacy centers;
- 📖 Use revised Literacy Board activities.

The summer training will provide complete information on the materials and instructional strategies for the 90-minute reading block.

CEA strongly encourages you to attend these summer sessions. CEU credit is provided, and participants will receive a \$10 per hour stipend. The sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch provided) at Northgate in June and at Linden ES in July and August.

The dates are: **Session 1**–June 13–15; **Session 2**–June 19–21; **Session 3**–June 26–28; **Session 4**–July 31–Aug. 2; **Session 5**–August 7–9; **Session 6**–August 14–16.

For more information contact Helena Dameron at 365-5253.

Profit, politics and Reading First

The Washington Post reported that the U.S. Justice Department is conducting a probe of the \$6 billion Reading First initiative, the centerpiece of President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* law.

Buoyed by allegations of financial conflicts of interest and cronyism, the probe is aimed at revealing how officials steered states toward certain curricula and how developers made at least \$1 million off the textbooks and tests used.

Some of this information already was revealed during a

recent congressional hearing and report.

The Post quoted Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Education Committee, as he spoke to Reading First officials: "That sounds like a criminal enterprise to me. You don't get to override the law."

The Post noted some of the profits that have come from Reading First. For instance, it said, Roland H. Good III, half-owner of Dynamic Measurement Group, made \$1.3 million off DIBELS, a program endorsed by a Reading First evaluation panel he sat on.

And, there are other political entanglements. According to *The Post*, "Voyager Expanded Learning, another reading materials developer, was founded and run by Randy Best, a major Bush campaign contributor, who sold the company in 2005 for more than \$350 million."

The Post also reported that members of both political parties support the goals of Reading First. Miller and Senate Education Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) joined Republicans in pledging to tighten restrictions on conflicts of interest in *No Child Left Behind*.

Special notes

- ❑ **Celebrate the phenomenal career of a phenomenal woman. Join us at the Retirement Reception for Dorothy Gelane Wilson at the Confluence Park on Friday, June 8, from 5–9 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person. RSVP to CEA at (614) 253-4731 by June 1. Make checks payable to CEA and send to the CEA Office.**
- ❑ Friends of **Marilyn Voyles** are invited to join her at a **retirement celebration** at El Vaquero, 2195 Riverside Drive, on **Friday, June 1, at 4:30 p.m.**
- ❑ There will be a **retirement party for Liz Kamlet, Buckeye MS, on June 3** at the 94th Aero Squadron. For details and to *RSVP*, call Daphne Mason at 365-5417.
- ❑ **Northland HS** math teacher **Tamara Calloway** was recently honored by the **Central Region Ohio School Boards Association** as its **Outstanding Teacher**. She was acknowledged due to her nomination for the 2007 Ohio Teacher of the Year Award.
- ❑ **Laura (Reed) Lakin, past president of CEA from 1965–1966**, passed on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at the age of 96. Mrs. Lakin was a member of NEA and OEA. **She spent 44 years teaching** in Columbus. We send our condolences to her family.
- ❑ The **Whetstone HS Young Volunteers** organization once again brought smiles to faces when they delivered 380 spring baskets to the children of **Hamilton ES**. Advisers **Kathy Arnold** and **Marylou Posey** guided the students to create baskets and fill them with stuffed animals, school supplies and personal items.
- ❑ **The 2007 job fair dates have been changed.** All job fairs will be held at Northgate in Room G and the new dates are listed as follows: **Tuesday, May 29**–Subject Certificates (7–12 and 4–9) at 4:30 p.m.; **Thursday, May 31**–Elementary Certificates (K–8, 1–8, and PreK–3) at 4:30 p.m.; and **Tuesday, June 5**–Special K–12 Certificates (Special Ed., Art, Music, Phys. Ed., etc.) at 4:30 p.m.
- ❑ **South HS** students will be adopting the teachers and students in the **Elim International Academy in Sierra Leone, West Africa**, for their service project for next school year. After a long civil war in that country, there are very few educational materials available. **They would appreciate the donation of any and all K–12 educational materials**, especially elementary school materials and toys for K–3. Contact Carol J. Woods at South HS at 365-5541 or 475-4496 for more information.