

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

December 15, 2008

Roland Martin is the MLK speaker

Get your tickets for the 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Columbus on Wednesday, Jan. 14. Honorees this year are Linden neighborhood activist Clarence Lumpkin and teacher Carol Moyer.

Our keynote speaker is Roland S. Martin, the commentator for *TV One Cable Network* and a *CNN* analyst.

Martin was named by *Ebony Magazine* in 2008 as one of the 150 Most Influential African-Americans. He also is the 2008 winner of the NAACP *Image Award* for Best Interview "In Conversation: The Sen. Barack Obama Interview."

Martin appears frequently on *MSNBC*, *FOX News*, *Court TV*, *BET Nightly News*, *BBC News*, *National Public Radio*, *The Word Network*, *America's Black Forum*, *American Urban Radio Networks*, the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* and *NPR's News and Notes*.

He has worked in a variety of journalism venues. He was executive editor/general manager of the *Chicago Defender*, the nation's largest Black daily newspaper; founding news editor for *Savoy Magazine* and the former founding editor of *BlackAmericaWeb.com*.

Martin was owner/publisher of the *Dallas-Fort Worth Heritage*, a Christian monthly newspaper and has worked as managing editor of the *Houston Defender* and *The Dallas Weekly*.

He has won more than 20 professional awards for journalistic excellence, including a regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television News Directors.

Martin wrote *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith* and *Speak, Brother! A Black Man's View of America*. He and his wife, the Rev. Jacquie Hood Martin, live in Chicago and Dallas.

The evening begins with a social hour beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner following at 6:45 p.m. Make your reservations through Minority Involvement Program (MIP) committee members, faculty representatives or CEA. This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$25.



Roland S. Martin

grades K–3. We are beginning to look at strategies to accomplish this. CEA Vice President Sally Oldham serves as co-chair of the committee.

- ▶ Restoring an hour to the school day and implementing the Ohio Core: Plans are underway to restore this valuable instructional time for the 2009–2010 school year. A sub-committee on start times and a sub-committee on scheduling will work together. The Ohio Core implementation will involve hiring new math and science teachers. The teacher co-chairs are Melissa Dudley and Tracey Johnson.

- ▶ Innovative schools: The first of four new theme-based, college preparatory schools is scheduled to open in August 2010. Plans include opening two more in August 2011. Debby Huffman-Mirib will represent CEA as co-chair.

- ▶ Professional Development: The plan is to align professional development with the specific goals of the district and decide how professional days will be used. Dorothy Wilson will lead this work along with the CCS Staff Development Department.

CEA is working to assign other teachers as needed to work on these committees and subcommittees.

You helped us all LIVE UNITED

The United Way campaign has come to an end. CEA's prize drawing will take place Monday, Dec. 15.

We want to thank you for your support and acknowledge the fol-



lowing buildings for completing their campaigns: A.G. Bell, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Arlington Park ES, Arts Impact MS, Avalon ES, Beatty Park ES, Beery MS, Berwick K-8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Cassady ES, Cedarwood ES, Clearbrook MS, Clinton ES, Clinton MS, Columbus Africentric EC, CEC, Fifth St. Annex, 17th Ave. Service Ctr., Columbus Spanish Immersion Acad., Como ES, Deshler ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East Linden ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, Fairwood ES, Fifth Avenue ES, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Bus Compound, Ft. Hayes General's House, Franklin County JDC, Highland ES, Hudson Community Education Ctr., Innis ES, I-PASS, Burroughs ES @ Clarfield, Lincoln Park ES, Lit.-Based Alternative @ Hubbard ES, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Mifflin HS, Neil Ave. Ctr., North Linden ES, Northgate Ctr., Northland HS, NWCC, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Parsons ES, Salem ES, Shady Lane ES, Shepard Ctr., Sherwood MS, South HS, SECC, Southmoor MS, Southwood ES @ Reeb, Stewart ES, SuccessWorks Acad., Sullivant ES,

Levy promises

CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Superintendent Gene Harris have begun conversations about promises made during the levy campaign and issues that will affect their implementation. Joint administrative/Association committees have been formed to address areas directly impacting teachers in the classroom. Keep reading *The Voice* for developments on the following:

- ▶ Elementary class size: One of the promises was to reduce the teacher/student ratio district-wide for

Valleyview ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, West HS, West Broad ES, Whetstone HS, Windsor ES, Winterset ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

If we have not received your campaign envelope, please turn it in to the CEA office as soon as possible. It takes all of us to care for our community. You should feel proud.

Elementary grade card update

We have received word about the problems some of you are experiencing when accessing grade cards at home with Windows Vista and various other technical issues.

We know this is a problem. Despite administrative insistence to the contrary, we know it may take up to 45 minutes to input individual student data, and most of you would rather have the option of working on this task at home instead of staying late at school.

The district's IT department is addressing this access problem. Unfortunately, it won't be fixed in time for the second grading period. We will provide updates as we get them.

Do you qualify for a continuing contract?

To be considered for a continuing contract, you must file the appropriate paperwork and meet the following criteria:

- ⇒ Have a five-year professional license, eight-year certificate or permanent certificate on file with CCS human resources department by Mar. 6, 2009;
- ⇒ Have three years of teaching experience, with a minimum of two in Columbus;
- ⇒ Hold a master's degree with at least six semester or nine quarter hours of completed master's work in your licensure field; OR, have taken at least 30 semester or 45 quarter hours of master's level coursework toward your license.

The deadline for applying is Mar. 6, 2009. If you have questions, call the Certification/Licensure Department at 365-5658.

Sixty-five tests eliminated

Teachers in the Columbus City School District are required to give far too many tests which take away valuable instructional time. CEA understands the importance of properly assessing our students. However, we are concerned when teachers are spending weeks on end formally assessing our students instead of teaching.

CEA has been working with the Joint Labor/Management Committee to reduce the number of district tests; in particular, the district tests that assess the same skills as state-mandated tests. So far, the Joint Committee to Study Testing Schedules has been able to eliminate 65 of them.

The committee was able to eliminate 30 individual tests by no longer requiring teachers to administer the practice Ohio Achievement Tests in grades 3–8 twice a year.

However, we recognize that we have a long way to go. Our students still take the DIBELS, TRC, quarterly diagnostics and assessments in reading and math, writing assessments,

each given multiple times during the year, along with other state-mandated assessments. As a result, we are still experiencing *testing overload*.

We do expect the situation to improve. Right now, we are working with the joint committee to make sure teachers' concerns are heard. A survey about TRCs is being administered by CEA so that we can address your concerns. Please keep checking your weekly *Voice* and the CEA Web site for details. If you have any immediate concerns or questions, call CEA.

CEA elections

The following positions are open in the Columbus Education Association Spring 2009 elections: Governors for Districts 3 and 6, High School Governor-at-Large, NEA delegates to the 2009 Representative Assembly and OEA delegates to the 2009–2010 Representative Assemblies.

Members may declare their candidacy for these positions from Jan. 5–30. Candidates may campaign from Feb. 2–13. Voting will take place in all CEA units from Feb. 17–Mar. 2. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Mar. 3.

Thanks for your support

As we wrap up the bill paying for our Issue 75 levy campaign, we thank all of you who contributed to the *1 Mill Club*. We could not have done it without you! We are still receiving contributions.

**Join the 1 Mill Club
Support Issue 75**

CEA says thank you to the following teachers:

Club 75: Sarah Hook (OT/PT); **1 Mill Club:** Sandra Hoffman (Forest Park ES), Helen Heffernan (Hilltonia MS), Miriam Mertens (NWCC), Kelly Morgan (Parsons ES), Anissa Roper Tyson (Sullivant ES), James Schoonover (Parsons ES), Stephanie Smith (Medina MS) and Darlene Szuhay-Zigmont (Ft. Hayes MEC).

Special notes

- You should have received a hard copy and an e-mail from CEA regarding **new IRS regulations for 403(b) Plans (Tax Sheltered Annuities)**. Please read this information carefully and consult your plan advisor. Call CEA if you have questions.
- The **deadline for making appeals** to receive **Gainsharing** awards is **Tuesday, Dec. 16**. E-mail documentation and verification to ctysen@columbus.k12.oh.us or fax to Labor Relations at 365-5741. After the Gainsharing Committee meets to consider appeals, payments will be made in early 2009. Call Sally Oldham at CEA if you have questions.
- Under the guidance of Jim Arter, associate artist of the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC), retired teacher **Booker Brooks** is working to give current and retired teachers the opportunity to display their art. If you are interested in a venue to display your endeavors in art, contact Mr. Brooks at 430-9221.
- Northland HS's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Club is headed to national competition in Las Vegas in the spring. The team took first place in a regional competition in Detroit last month. We congratulate the team's adviser **Dr. Sybil Brown** and students: Sylvester Amponsah, Nathan Carr, Scott Boaz, Hoachi Chen and Zeinab Mohamed.

Job Sharing Request

CEA is compiling a list of teachers interested in job sharing next school year. If you are looking for a job-share 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 Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008.

Name: _____

School: _____ Phone: _____

Present Assignment: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Certification Area(s): _____

Mobile Phone: (____) _____

Teaching Preference for Next Year: _____

E-mail Address: _____