Remembering Carol

You could always count on Carol Wagner. She knew CEA inside and out; and she was always there to answer questions, weigh in an important decision and champion our rights. For nearly 50 years, Carol worked in every area of service—plus, she was a fashion icon, a devoted Buckeye fan and wonderful friend.

We will miss her. Carol died Mar. 20 following a brief illness. Our hearts grieve for her longtime partner, Rick Logan, and for all of us who were lucky enough to do this important work with her by our side.

Carol was elected CEA Vice President in 1984 and served for 10 years. She later retired from a position as a staff consultant with more than 40 years of service with Columbus City Schools. Carol continued to work for CEA part-time, even during her illness. Prior to working at CEA, she taught elementary and middle school and served as a faculty representative, a governor and a negotiations team member. She held numerous other positions along the way, including chair of CEA’s Legislative Committee and served as secretary and then president of the TBS.

Carol enjoyed travel throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. She had a marvelous sense of humor and enjoyed collecting pigs. She also enjoyed studying political history. She was a strong advocate of the middle class and was our resident expert in insurance matters.

Carol’s memory will remain an inspiration for all of us. CEA is a better organization because she was here.

Services will be held Monday, Mar. 31, at Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Home, 720 E. Long Street. Her family will receive friends from 4–5:30 p.m. with a memorial service at 5:30 p.m. Donations in memory of Carol can be made to the Central Ohio Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

OEA delegates elected

Thanks to all for electing those of us who will serve at the state-level association assembly in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. The Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly is the body that makes policy statewide, sets annual objectives, adopts the state association budget, adopts/evaluates a legislative program, acts on resolutions and conducts necessary business. The OEA RA consists of members who are elected by their local associations, including CEA. Members of the CEA Board of Governors are elected to serve by virtue of office. Any member is welcome to attend the OEA RA as a guest, but only elected and reported delegates may debate and vote. The following list includes the delegates (in vote total order) who have been elected to serve in the Fall of 2014 and the Spring of 2015.


STRS and preschool teachers

There is an important change coming for bargaining unit members who have positions that have been determined to be of mutual interest by STRS and SERS. For example, the Ohio STRS and SERS have determined that pre-school teachers will pay into STRS instead of SERS effective July 1, 2014. You should be receiving information about this from the district. It is the employer’s responsibility to provide you with this information. It is important for you to check to make sure that the district has your correct personal information and teaching assignment so that your investment is going into the right retirement system.

To view the guidance documents sent by STRS to school districts and the list of the affected positions, go to: https://www.strsoh.org/Employer/pdfs/50-920C.pdf.
Budget Year II: Education and taxes

Gov. John Kasich has a lot of items brewing for the second half of the budget biennium. His Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR), House Bill 472, outlines policy and funding priorities for the second year of the state budget. In the past, the review has been split into multiple bills, some sent for delibefitation to the House and others to the Senate. So we are uncertain how the major components will be addressed. So keep reading The CEA Voice.

The governor is proposing many changes affecting public schools, and future bills may include such items as graduation requirements and teacher evaluations. Here are other major items we will be watching:

Dropout Prevention: Nearly 24,000 students drop out each year. A bill could require new state and local strategies to identify at-risk students and serve them more effectively, including with career advising, new academic pathways and remediation in math and English.

Dropout Recovery: As many as one million Ohio adults lack a high school diploma. A proposal may create incentives for adults age 22 and older to return for their diplomas and job training.

Encouraging Mentorship: A new program would use $10 million from casino license fees to provide matching grants in support of efforts to mentor low-income students. New state guidelines could provide matching grants for programs that sponsor career advising and mentoring.

Expanding Access to Vocational Education: Kasich proposed making technical and vocational education available to students beginning in the seventh grade to give them a jump-start toward making technical and vocational education available to students.

Guarantee, more than half of our third graders are in jeopardy of being retained. Your generosity helps us support the district's literacy initiatives. Thank you to all who supported this year's campaign in your buildings.

A special thank you goes out to the CEA Book Drive Committee: Megan Hinz (West HS); Carrie Hoover (North Linden ES); Tracey Johnson (CEA) and Crystal White (Champion MS). She is the winner of the iPad Mini and carrying case.

If you still have books in your building, you can drop them off at the CEA Office or contact Tracey Johnson at 253-4731 to arrange a pick-up. You forgot to participate? It's not too late to donate. You can purchase books and bring them to the office, or you can order books online at Barnes & Noble and have them delivered directly to the CEA office to the attention of Tracey Johnson. The shipping address is 929 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205.

There are two very important local meetings left this year: May 1 and May 22. These are gatherings of the CEA Legislative Review (MBR), House Bill 472, outlines policy and funding priorities for the second year of the state budget. In the past, the review has been split into multiple bills, some sent for delibefitation to the House and others to the Senate. So we are uncertain how the major components will be addressed. So keep reading The CEA Voice.

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Attend the CEA LA

There are two very important local meetings left this year: May 1 and May 22. These are gatherings of the CEA Legislative Assembly. At these meetings, your faculty representatives who serve CEA within our own local association hear about important issues and make decisions affecting our contract. These meetings are open to all CEA members, and we urge you to attend. It is important that all CEA units be part of the discussions. The list below represents the buildings/units represented at the Mar. 6 Legislative Assembly:


The CEC/OSU Outreach Courses for Summer Term 2014 will be open for online pre-registration until Apr. 6. For more information about these classes and/or to pre-register, go to http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osa, click on “Summer 2014 Courses,” then read through the two information pages to get to the list of courses.

Senior FFA must fax (253-5052) requests for alternative interview panels to the CEA President by Mar. 28. The following alternative interview panels have been approved: Binns ES, Buckeye MS, Cedarwood ES, Clinton ES, Columbus Global Academy, Eakin ES, Early Childhood, East Linden ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Highland ES, Johnson Park MS, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Maize ES, Medina MS, North Linden ES, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Psychologists, Sherwood MS, Siebert K–6, Starling K–8, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS and Yorktown MS.

The Teachers’ Dream Grant is an opportunity for all teachers to apply for individual school-based grants from $500–$5,000 focusing on academic enrichment, increasing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, improving school/community relations and improving classroom learning climate. The deadline for online submission is 4 p.m. on Apr. 11, 2014. If you have questions, go to the district website or contact Andrea Richardson at 565-5733.

Correction: The Mar. 24 Voice article “The survey says…” omitted Parsons ES from the top ten in two categories: Instructional Programs and Instructional Resources. Additionally, Avalon ES was accidentally replaced by Arlington Park ES in the bottom ten in four categories—Administrator-Teacher Relationships, Democratic Process, Family and Community and Instructional Resources. To view the corrected chart from the article, go to http://bit.ly/top10bottom10.