

The CEA Voice

Volume XLIV, No. 38

Columbus Education Association

May 27, 2014

Friends, it's not goodbye

This is the last issue of *The CEA Voice* for the 2013–14 school year—and my last one as your president. Now that day has come for me to retire. The past ten years have been special ones for me. I have been blessed to sit at the helm of an organization that has been central to my own career and important to our community, both inside and outside of the classroom.

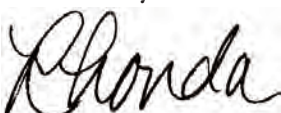
I began my career in 1978, right after a stormy period in the school district's history. I saw how important the Association was for us. It gave us a voice and a seat at the table where decisions affecting our jobs and our schools were being made by people who did not know what it was like to be in the classroom. I wanted to be part of it. I was lucky to have wonderful examples to guide me. The late John Grossman was my key mentor as I moved through the union ranks from my position as a business teacher, to an FR, to delegate, and then CEA Vice President and every committee in between. John taught me the art of tough love and the skill of negotiating.

But my most important teachers have been you, the CEA members. We have worked as a team, bringing our talents onboard as we creatively addressed management issues and guided our fellow educators toward active participation in the ongoing effort to improve teaching and learning conditions. Without you, there would be no CEA.

I am grateful for your friendship and continued support. We have weathered many storms together, and we have celebrated many victories. We stand as one. I hold the memories of rallies, assemblies, celebrations and achievements close to my heart as I exit the CEA office. I know that your new president, Tracey Johnson, will continue the important work we have all engaged in for many decades.

I will keep in touch as I move into my new position as Education Director for Mayor Michael Coleman. I will continue to work diligently for great public schools for every student.

In solidarity,



Rhonda Johnson

P.S.—Please join me from 4–8 p.m., Friday, May 30, at The Boat House Restaurant at Confluence Park to celebrate my retirement.



Rhonda Johnson

CEA Retirement Banquet

1,785 years, 384,075 days, 64,260 Fridays and 64,260 Mondays.

These are the numbers describing the service of the CEA members retiring this year from Columbus City Schools. CEA Vice President Phil Hayes recited the numbers and introduced the stories behind them: 59 retirees—the “class” of 2014—who stepped onto the podium one at a time to receive thanks from colleagues and guests.

Almost 400 attended the 38th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet on Saturday, May 17, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The event celebrates our retirees and others whose efforts on behalf of the Association and public education have exceeded the call of duty.

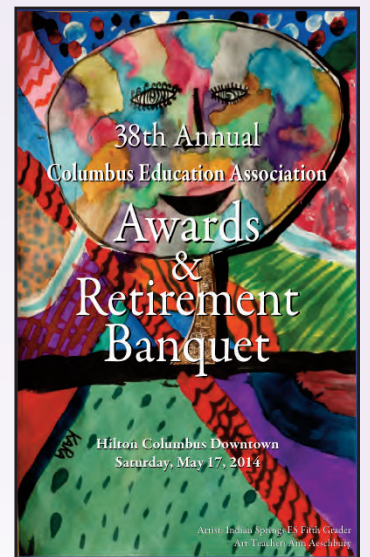
The Outstanding Member Award went to Traci Arway, who has always promoted public education and the work of Columbus teachers. Traci is an active member of Teachers for Better Schools, our political action arm. At the 2013 NEA RA, she was one of two members in Ohio in competition for “Member Advocate of the Year.” Traci also was the teaching face of the recent school levy campaign.

Sue Misiak, retiring host of “Teacher Talk,” on 90.5 WCBE-FM radio, received the President’s Award. CEA President Rhonda Johnson read a portion of an email to Misiak from one of her students who today is a teacher. Misiak helped her overcome her shyness and hone her leadership skills by encouraging her to get more involved in school activities and to attend and stay in college.

The President’s Award also went to CEA Staff Consultant Rick Logan and his partner, Carol Wagner, who passed away on Mar. 20. Logan held up the plaque inscribed to them, declaring tearfully, “Carol, this is for you!”

The Innovator in Education Award went to Columbus State Community College (CSCC) and The American Electric Power Foundation for Credits Count. This partnership prepares CCS students for STEM careers and a dual-enrollment program with CSCC. AEP granted \$5 million to create a partnership.

This year’s Friend of Education is the Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Executive Director Walt Workman accepted the award for fighting for working families in the education of their children. “They have always stood with us in the fight to protect public education, collective bargaining and the right to vote,” said Rhonda Johnson.



Outstanding Faculty Representative

Each year, the CEA District Governors select faculty representatives to be honored for their hard work and dedication during the year. We salute the following outstanding Senior Faculty Representatives for their service:

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| District 1 | Maree Bednar | Indianola Informal K-8 |
| District 2 | Donna Davis | Valley Forge ES |
| District 3 | Kimberly Jones | Mifflin MS |
| District 4 | Daryl Curry | Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS |
| District 5 | Stacy Eberle | Columbus City Prep. School for Girls |
| District 6 | Mikasa Barton | Starling K-8 |
| District 7 | Sarah Hudler | Livingston ES |
| District 8 | Theresa Mahoney | Olde Orchard ES |
| District 9 | Karen Spiller | Neil Avenue |
| District 10 | Faye Love | PAR |

CEA Scholarship Recipients

For more than three decades, CEA has honored and supported students with scholarships at the banquet. We congratulate this year's winners and their CEA-member parents:

Christa McAuliffe Scholarship

Harrison Brunner, son of Wendy Brunner, School Social Worker

CEA General Scholarship

Anthony Williams, Jr., son of Shronne Williams, Guidance Counselor

Joan Donley CEA-R Scholarship

Roberta Gregory-Davis, daughter of Jonelle Gregory Davis, Easthaven ES

Rhonda Johnson CEA-R Scholarship

Jaid Radde, daughter of Jennifer Wojdyla-Radde, Georgian Heights ES

CEA Retiring Classes of 2012-2014 Scholarship

Tess Webster, daughter of Kathleen Webster, Guidance Counselor

John E. Grossman Memorial Scholarship

Chasrah Williams, South High School Graduating Senior

We congratulate our 2014 Retirees who, collectively, have devoted hundreds of years of service to our students. The following individuals were honored at the banquet:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Sharon Anderson-Scott | Deborah Harris | Christy Maser |
| Judy Andria | Karen Hipes Adkins | Janice McDonald |
| Roberta Atlas | Sheila Hock | Lynne McPherson |
| Eileen Kelly Baesmann | Joan M. Hudak | Matthew Parr |
| Cynthia Beck | Dan Jarvis | April K. Pendery |
| Karen Claussen | Jill Johnson | Bari Pollyea |
| Mary N. Collins | Paula A. Jones | Nancy Richner |
| Rick Coldren | Muretta Kasten | Donna Saunders |
| Marisa Craig | Sari Kelley | Connie M. Schalinske |
| Margaret R. Davis | Mary A. Kennett | Dolores H. Smith |
| Ann Newkirk Dean | Kevin Kinney | Charles Steele |
| C. Rick Eckler | Diana Kirby | Karin Trabue |
| Sandra Finneran | Ann Kirker | Patricia Triano |
| Nancy W. Fischer | Thomas Kirker | Linda Wilcox |
| Brian Friedman | Kathleen S. Leonard | Betty Winland |
| Paul M. Froehlich | Vicky Liggett | Jill Workman |
| Mary George-Lopez | Bethany Lown | Judy L. Wright |
| Charlene Gomer | Christie Lukasik | Susie Wright |
| Andrea D. Green | Jill Markey | Rhonda Johnson |
| Bonnie Halchin-Smith | Susan Martin | |

A special moment of the evening came when Hayes called the last retiree: Rhonda Johnson, who retires after 36 years in the teaching profession, including 10 years as CEA's leader. She received a standing ovation. Johnson talked about her mother and sister, both of whom were visiting her to share in the celebration, and of her grandmother, who also was a teacher.

Phil said of Rhonda's tenure, "We are a stronger, more vibrant, more prosperous Association. But it's not about us. It's about our students. So I ask you: Where would our students be without Rhonda Johnson? Left behind."

To view the photos taken by CEA at the event, go to: <http://bit.ly/2014CEARetirementBanq>.

Honor our speech therapists

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. Columbus City Schools employs 64 speech therapists who help their students with a variety of communication disorders, including hearing impairment, articulation, language, voice and fluency disorders.

This year the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is focusing on the early identification of noise-induced hearing loss in children and communication issues related to autism and language and literacy. Find more information at <https://identifythesigns.org> and <https://asha.org>.

Interested in becoming a Cooperating Teacher?

Human Resources is preparing for field observation, methods and student teaching/internship placements for the 2014-2015 school year, especially those who will begin in the fall. In order to be considered as a cooperating teacher, the minimum expectations include three years successful experience and Highly Qualified Teacher status.

Productive and effective student placements are one of our most powerful recruitment tools, as well as a mechanism to eliminate unwarranted stereotypes of urban education. Principals and district offices are currently compiling recommendations. If you possess these qualities and want to be on the list for consideration, talk to your principal this week.

NEW: Print your contract online

If you possess a limited contract or a first-time, continuing contract for the 2014-2015 school year, you will be required to download and print your own contract. It can be found on the Intranet under Human Resources, Systems & Staffing, Teacher Contracts or externally at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/teachercontracts>.

To print your individual contract, log-in with your ILEAD/ Evaluation username and password. An original, signed copy of your contract must be returned to your principal or supervisor no later than the end of work day on May 30, 2014. Sign your contract even if it does not identify your correct assignment for next school year. If you are working under a continuing contract, you can view your "Notice of Proposed Assignment." No signature is required.

Note: Tutors, latchkey teachers and part-time hourly teachers will receive their contracts from their supervisors by June 15.

Direct all questions to: ContractQuestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Job fairs

Staff-reduced teachers should attend a job fair at the Columbus Downtown HS at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, or Wednesday, May 28, based on your seniority date. You should have received an email from HR by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 23, that contained a list of the job fair postings and a list that indicated the day you are to attend.

All certificate/license areas will be posted on both days. Multiple-certificated teachers will only have to attend one day of the job fair.

Meet the principal

CCS Human Resources will be sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates' Night" at Huy ES from 4-7 p.m. (outside applicants and part-time hourly staff) for standard license/certificate holders for contract and substitute positions.

June 3 Integrated Business; Integrated Science—AYA, 7-12 Licenses/Certificates; Integrated Social Studies—AYA, 7-12 Licenses/Certificates

June 4 ASL K-12; Art K-12; Middle School 4-9—All Areas; K-8; Guidance Counselors; Music K-12 (Vocal & Instrumental); Physical Education/Health 7-12, K-12; Special Education

June 5 Generalists 4-5; K-8; Guidance Counselors; Special Education

Special notes

- ❑ Do you have 1-2 hours on Wednesdays to tutor a small group of eager and ready learners? Volunteer at 3823 Sullivant Ave. to tutor Somali-Bantu adults in writing and speaking English. Contact Marilyn Allen, 299-4841 or at mrsecond@yahoo.com to volunteer.
- ❑ CEA has a limited number of tickets for Organized Labor Night with the Clippers, on Saturday, July 27. One ticket admits up to 2 adults and 4 children 18 and younger or 4 adults for reserved seating. Tickets are free. Seven 50" televisions will be raffled during the game. Come out and support our labor brothers and sisters. Call CEA at 253-4731 to get your tickets.