

# The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

September 22, 2014

## It's up to us, says President Johnson

As CEA members, we have a lot on our plates. We need to elect officials who support educators. We need to stand our ground to support children at every stage of development. We need to keep learning and growing as professionals and be there for each other and our fellow teachers throughout Ohio under all conditions.

"It's going to take all of us doing our part," said CEA President Tracey D. Johnson, delivering her first "State of the Association" address. She told faculty representatives at the opening Legislative Assembly meeting Sept. 11 that times are tough, and teachers are under attack.

Johnson expressed support for the Reynoldsburg Education Association (REA) saying, "This is a political agenda," regarding efforts of the Reynoldsburg board to institute a merit pay system and not address class-size limits. CEA members have attended Reynoldsburg school board meetings en masse in a silent show of solidarity and will continue to support REA during this trying time.



Following a legislative update from the Ohio Education Association, she also called upon delegates for support of CEA's candidate endorsement process through membership in Teachers for Better Schools. It costs only \$1 per pay to voluntarily support this separate, independent political action organization.

Johnson spoke frankly about the State of the Association's efforts to improve morale and preserve teacher rights. "You will see a greater CEA presence in the buildings. Officers and staff have already visited over 30 buildings and will be coming to yours soon," she said.

Though Columbus Schools' report card is mixed, bright spots include improved third-grade reading scores and increases in the Ohio Graduation Test in all areas except math. But more work is ahead, said Johnson. She spoke about the importance of middle school and vocational education for our students and their futures.

Johnson also urged teachers not to let the recent dip in morale affect their work performance. Columbus teachers were recently in a study for their absence rates. "The No. One indicator of student success is a highly-qualified teacher in every classroom every day," Johnson said; and, she urged members to use their leave time wisely. She is working with the district to address the concerns that lead to absenteeism. In the meantime, she said, "We must—we have to—do better. We must help our colleagues understand what the contract says about leave and rally around one another and lift each other up."

During his report, Vice President Phil Hayes touched on multiple topics, including Gainsharing, ABCs, Professional Leave and Fee Waivers. Hayes stressed the importance of the upcoming election, telling the gathered delegates to, "Vote. Vote for your profession. Vote for your family. Vote for your students. Vote for their families. Vote for our future."

The delegates later voted to endorse the Teachers for Better Schools' slate of candidates and issues.

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*The Voice*  
has been  
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it contains a  
political endorsement.



## Vote early starting Sept. 30

Early in-person voting will begin on Sept. 30. To cast an early ballot, visit your county Board of Elections. In Franklin County, you may vote at the Board's offices located at 1700 Morse Road. Statewide hours of service at boards of elections can be found by going to <http://bit.ly/ohvotinghrs>.

If you live in Franklin County, you may request an absentee ballot by mail by visiting <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/absentee/> and downloading an application for absent voter's ballot. You should submit your request as soon as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for the Board to mail you a ballot and for you to return it to the Board of Elections by the time the polls close on Nov. 4.

## Solidarity to cure breast cancer

We CEA members know quite a bit about solidarity. We've marched together and stood arm-in-arm at the Statehouse in support of our students and



our profession. It's time now to spread that spirit to help our friends and family fight breast cancer. Each year, CEA assembles its Dream Team to walk in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk to support breast cancer research. It's a great way to get involved, get some exercise and show we care. So many of us are touched by this issue; but, unfortunately, we are behind on our registration numbers this year. We need you.

This year's walk will take place Sunday, Oct. 26, at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The walk begins at 10 a.m. Go to [www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus) and sign up. Choose your team name; or, if you prefer, join our CEA Dream Team. Add "Columbus Education Association" as your team company, so the Association gets credit for the funds you raise. The first thirty CEA members to register online and raise \$50 will receive a free T-shirt. For information, contact Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 or [emurray@ceaohio.org](mailto:emurray@ceaohio.org).

## Make SAILing smoother

CCS is working to improve the SAIL/IAT process, and they need your input. The district has asked CEA to conduct a survey about what worked well and what the barriers were to student success in the SAIL/IAT process during the 2013-2014 school year. Every bargaining unit member should participate in the survey because the data collected will help improve the SAIL/IAT process, which, in turn, will improve the climate at your school.

An email containing the link to the survey was sent to members' non-CCS email addresses on Friday, Sept. 19. The survey will close on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 11:59 p.m. If you did not get the email message, or if CEA does not have your current non-CCS email address, send it to [tellcea@ceaohio.org](mailto:tellcea@ceaohio.org) to participate in the survey. You will be able to access this survey from home or work.

## A great opening LA

We thank the representatives who attended the Sept. 11 CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). Attendance is important to ensure effective representation. The next LA is Oct. 2. The following buildings/units were in attendance:

Alpine ES, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Berwick K-8, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Burroughs ES, CAHS, CEA, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Global Acad., Columbus International HS 7-12, Columbus Scioto 6-12, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES,

East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K-6, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K-8, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K-6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. K-6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Livingston K-6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Moler K-6, Music, Neil Avenue Center, North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons K-6, Phys. Ed., Psychologists, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7-12, Southwood K-6, Special Ed. Coordinators, Speech & Language, Starling K-8, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Acad. K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES and Woodward Park MS.

## CEA Elections: Declare your candidacy

Running for a CEA office is one of many ways you can get more involved in your Association. Fall elections are coming in October.

A special election to fill two positions as follows: Governors, Districts 6 (to complete the unexpired term ending in 2015) and Middle School At-Large (three-year term) will take place from Oct. 28-Nov. 10, 2014. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Nov. 11. In the event of run-offs, voting will take place from Dec. 2-15, with votes tallied on Dec. 16.

Additional information on these elections will be published in *The CEA Voice* and on the CEA website at [www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org).

## Special notes

- ❑ **Save the Date: Friday, Oct. 17 is Capital Day at the Hyatt Regency Columbus.** Featured speakers will be **Dr. Lee Stiff** and **Donna Brazile**. Registration for Capital Day will open on **Sept. 28** and close on **Oct. 14**. Register in PD Planner at [Columbus.schoolnet.com](http://Columbus.schoolnet.com).
- ❑ **Sick Leave Bank enrollment began on Sept. 1 and ends Sept. 30.** Donate two days in order to be able to borrow up to ten days. The donation form is available on the CCS Intranet under "Human Resources" or the CEA website under the "Forms" tab.
- ❑ **Open Enrollment for your medical benefits will begin on Oct. 7 and end on Oct. 31. Enrollment will be done online.** Look for emails and information mailed to your home from the CCS Employee Benefits Office.
- ❑ **CEA Members Scholarships** are available for your college senior. Distributed through The Columbus Foundation, this fund provides **\$1,250 in tuition assistance**. Only CEA members who have taught in CCS for the past four years are eligible. Your student must have at least a 2.0 GPA in order to apply. The deadline is **5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24**. To download an application, go to <http://bit.ly/2014CEAScholarshipAppl>. Call **Cora Miller** at 253-4731, if you have questions.
- ❑ **We need your contact information. Please fill out the red card** with your phone numbers and personal email address. Your information is private and will not be shared outside of the Association. Give the card to your Senior FR or mail directly to the CEA office.

### CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

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