

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

September 29, 2014

Capital Day: Meet our speakers

Capital Day is CEA's signature professional development event. Join us on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Hyatt Regency for a day of learning. Registration for Capital Day will open on



Sept. 28 and close on Oct. 14. Register in PD Planner at Columbus.schoolnet.com. We are pleased to have these keynote speakers, Donna Brazile and Dr. Lee Stiff.

Brazile has played a role in every presidential campaign

from 1976 to 2000. She managed former Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign, becoming the first African-American woman in history to lead a bid for the White House. She serves as Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation at the Democratic National Committee and is the former chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute. She is a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Brazile worked for several advocacy groups in Washington, D.C. and was instrumental in the successful campaign to make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a federal holiday.



Donna Brazile

Brazile also is a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN's "The Situation Room" and "American Morning" and in CNN's Election Coverage. She is also a contributor to NPR's "Political Corner" and "ABC News." Her book, *Cooking With Grease*, chronicles her life and work in politics.

Dr. Lee Stiff has devoted his career to this question, why must so many children suffer the injustice of an inadequate mathematics education? Stiff has taught mathematics at the middle and high school levels since the 1970s. In August 1978, he joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, later returning to teaching at North Carolina State University, where he earned his Ph.D. His research focus includes effective teaching strategies, problem solving, the mathematics education of African-American children and uses of instructional technologies in mathematics teaching.



Dr. Lee Stiff

Stiff has more than one hundred publications, including the authorship, co-authorship, or editorship of twelve textbooks in middle and high school mathematics, six professional books and eight book chapters for the Houghton Mifflin K-6 math elementary textbook series and Math Course 1, Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 for middle and high school students. Stiff has received major teaching excellence awards from universities and from the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

REA + CEA = Solidarity

We are there for you, REA. CEA members have been doing everything we can to support the Reynoldsburg Education Association in its struggle for a fair contract.

CEA members have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in REA at board meetings and rallies. We have offered moral support and contributed to the REA strike fund and delivered supplies to help keep the picket lines strong. When one of us goes into bargaining, we all go into bargaining. An attack on one is an attack on us all.

We stand in solidarity with REA. Stand strong REA!



We're in this together

On Saturday, Oct. 4, CEA will kick off its annual United Way campaign. Your faculty representative will have information for you about how you can participate in this effort to help United Way of Central Ohio improve the lives of our students' families. United Way works to fund access to medical care, job training, neighborhood revitalization and education. Watch *The Voice* for details about this important campaign. Get a preview of UWCO's work at <http://liveunitedcentralohio.org>.



Are you the one in eight?

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease.

- One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women.
- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.
- Each year it is estimated that over 220,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die.
- Although breast cancer in men is rare, an estimated 2,150 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 410 will die each year.

While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. The good news is that death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1990, in part due to better screening and early detection, increased awareness and continually improving treatment options. But it takes money to accomplish this.

That's why the American Cancer Society provides us the annual opportunity to walk and raise money through the Making Strides for Breast Cancer event. 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 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.

Fall CEA Elections: Get involved

Getting involved in CEA is one of the most important things you can do during your career with CCS. One way to do that is to run for a position on the CEA Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG manages CEA's policies and financial affairs.

Governors' duties include:

- Serving three-year terms
- Maintaining contact with the Faculty Representatives
- Holding meetings within their respective CEA districts to pass along current information and seek FR viewpoints on important matters
- Visiting all school buildings within their district periodically

At-large governors are elected periodically to maintain an even balance of classroom and/or minority representation per the CEA Constitution and Bylaws.

A special election will be held Oct. 28–Nov. 10 to elect District 6 Governor (to complete the unexpired term ending in 2015) and a Middle School At-Large Governor (three-year term). In order to run for District 6 Governor, you must be a CEA member working in the District 6 area. To run for Middle School At-Large Governor, you must be a middle school classroom teacher. Both positions require that candidates be members of CEA for two years immediately preceding this election. Members may declare their candidacy and campaign for either position starting Oct. 6. Campaigning ends on Nov. 10. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Nov. 11. Declaration forms are available by calling the CEA office or by going to the CEA website www.ceaohio.org under "Forms."

Early voting starts this week

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 30, you can vote early. It's easy: Visit your county Board of Elections. In Franklin County, the Board's offices are located at 1700 Morse Road. Statewide hours of service at boards of elections can be found by going to <http://bit.ly/ohvotinghrs>.

Early voting is a convenience that will help us ensure we have cast a ballot in support of educators and education. It can be tough to get to the polls on Election Day, so take advantage of this opportunity.

You may also request an absentee ballot through your Board of Elections. If you live in Franklin County, you may request a ballot by mail by visiting <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/absentee/> and downloading an application for absent voter's ballot. 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.

Catastrophic Leave: You never know

Sometimes a life-threatening illness drives us over the designated number of sick leave days. That's why we have Catastrophic Leave (Section 701.07). This is different from the Sick Leave Bank, which can grant up to 10 days at a time for teachers needing additional sick time for illnesses that are not life threatening.

"Catastrophic Leave" is for colleagues who are experiencing very serious illnesses or for those who must take care of a family member experiencing such illness. An employee who has exhausted all sick and personal days and faces a life-threatening illness may receive as many as 45 donated days, if approved by the Joint Catastrophic Leave Committee.

Donations can be made directly to the bank by filling out a sick leave form, or days can be given for specific teachers. These

days can be donated at any time. Please think of your colleagues and donate. It takes just 7.5 donated days to cover a two-week paycheck for an individual on catastrophic leave. Your donation of as little as one day will make a difference.

To donate, enter your name at the top of the CCS "Report of Employee Absence" form. In the "Comments" section write the words, "Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation." Be sure that you and your principal or supervisor sign the form. We often experience a shortage of donated days so please consider making a donation.

Professional leave: Don't wait

CEA is fortunate to have in its contract (Section 702.16), an item that provides us time to refresh ourselves with professional development. There is \$200,000 available to bargaining unit members each year to pursue professional development opportunities outside the school district. These include taking a course, attending a conference or workshop or traveling in a teacher education program.

Forms to apply for professional leave are available on the "Forms" section of the CEA website or the Intranet, along with the full leave guidelines and the deadline schedule for applications, based on the activity date.

The fund is usually depleted before winter break; so if you have been thinking about some special training activity, apply as early as possible. Remember, the purpose of professional leave, whether it is for a conference, workshop or longer program, is to improve the performance of teachers in the classroom.

No excuses!

The 5-2-1-0 Wellness Challenge begins Wednesday, Oct. 1. The challenge is sponsored by the CCS Wellness Program. This one month challenge is designed to guide you on a time-limited 5-2-1-0 journey. You will be challenged to do the best you can to achieve the 5-2-1-0 behaviors: 5 or more fruits and/or vegetables, 2 hours or less of recreational screen time, 30 minutes or more of physical activity and 0 sugary beverages. Participants will track their progress from start to finish. Your individual challenge goal is to increase your healthy habits daily and earn 1,000 points or more. All CCS staff members are eligible to participate. The sign-up period ends Tuesday, Sept. 30. You may register online by going to healthyemployee.riteforyouwellness.com/dt/v2/riteindex.asp. If you do not wish to participate online, you may call Kristin McCabe at 365-6152 to request paper tracker information.

Special notes

- ❑ CEA-R members will go back to school **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, as they visit the **Columbus International HS**. After the tour, the group will have lunch at Mozarts. The deadline to register for the tour is **Sept. 30**. Members are looking forward to going back to school. To find out more about CEA-R activities, visit us on Facebook or at <http://www.cea-retired.com>.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Sick Leave Bank enrollment 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 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 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.

Contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

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