

The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

Volume XLV, No. 8

Columbus Education Association

October 6, 2014

Capital Day is on its way!

It's a welcome opportunity to get time away from the classroom to share, explore and grow professionally. Professional growth is something that benefits all of us as individuals and collectively, and we are fortunate to have a negotiated day when your Association can provide top-quality continuing education.

Capital Day is one of the year's highlights. Join your colleagues on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Hyatt Regency. Registration is now open until Oct. 14 in PD Planner at Columbus.schoolnet.com. The day features a wide variety of sessions that will benefit your professional growth. Vendors will be there with cutting-edge products and ideas to enhance your classroom. You also will hear from two nationally recognized speakers:

- ♦ The opening speaker, Dr. Lee Stiff, is a widely respected mathematics educator. Come and hear about his research into effective teaching strategies and problem solving, aimed particularly at teaching mathematics to African-American children.
- ♦ Luncheon speaker Donna Brazile was the first African-American woman to lead a bid for the White House. Heavily involved in championing for voting rights, she is a weekly contributor and political commentator on several networks, including ABC and CNN.

Remember: This day of professional development is not optional. We would love for you to attend your Association's program at the Hyatt, but your building also may decide to hold its own activity. Whichever event you attend is your choice. If you want to attend an event outside the district, you must obtain permission from your principal or supervisor.

The following schools/units are approved for professional development in their buildings on Capital Day: AIMS, Burroughs ES, CC Prep for Girls, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, E. Linden ES, Gifted and Talented (ECLIPSE teachers only), Hamilton ES, Hubbard Mastery PreK-6, Innis ES, Livingston ES, Maize ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Parkmoor ES, Scottwood ES, Special Education (CPI training), Sullivant ES, Weinland Park and Yorktown MS.

Co-Browse to enroll by Nov. 1

Open enrollment for CCS insurance begins Oct. 7 and will continue until Friday, Oct. 31, for coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

If you are adding new dependents, you must provide documentation verifying your



dependents' eligibility. Employees must meet with a Benefits Counselor to enroll or re-enroll for coverage. Now you can do it online, through Co-Browsing. This is an easy and convenient way to complete your benefits enrollment with the assistance of a Benefits Counselor at a time and location convenient to you.

The sessions are conducted over the phone while both of you are logged onto Internet. Access the ESS and join your counselor on a computer that is connected to a printer. After the session, print out the confirmation statement. Each employee is responsible for entering his or her information into ESS with the assistance of the counselor.

Call Center hours are 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. After 5:30 p.m., make sure you have your ESS password and can log into the system.

Before enrolling, review the "ESS Quick Guide for key information." Find all information on the CCS website at www.ccsob.org under the "Staff" tab. Scroll down the page for specifics. Contact a member of the Benefits Team with any questions you might have at 365-6475.

United Way: A lifeline for our kids

CEA has kicked off its annual United Way campaign.

FRs, principals and supervisors attended the Oct. 2 CEA Legislative Assembly to declare their support for the campaign.

United



Way of Central Ohio supports our families in addressing the root causes of some of their most persistent problems. We have made progress, but it is time to increase our efforts and create system-wide changes. The agency's nine Bold Goals focus on the interconnected areas of education, income, health and home. When they are achieved in 2020, more people in Central Ohio will reach their full potential by having a quality education that leads to a productive career, enough income to support a family, good health and a safe place to live.

When you receive your information, please join us in pledging a donation to improve kindergarten readiness, raise the high school graduation rate, pave the way to financial stability, remove barriers to health care, encourage good nutrition and fitness, help our neighbors prepare for disasters and emergencies, create safe neighborhoods and provide safe and decent housing for everyone.

The United Way needs our support.

CEA on the forefront of member leadership with NEA

Your Association knows that teacher leadership is central to the continuing improvement of the profession. That's why CEA President Tracey Johnson convinced the National Education Association to add Columbus to the roster for their Teacher Leadership Initiative (TLI). The TLI is aligned with her plan to broaden the base and increase the leadership capacity of the CEA membership.



The teacher leader trainees will learn in an interactive format with other expert teachers through in-person meetings and a virtual, collaborative platform. The model brings together three pathways that define ways in which teachers can blaze new paths in education: instructional leadership, policy leadership and association leadership. Additionally, this project will foster leadership in public policy by ensuring that teacher leaders learn and apply the key policy levers that influence educational equity and teaching excellence.

Through the TLI, teacher leaders will develop capstone projects that will require them to study and engage in a policy issue related to equity at the district or state level. Congratulations to the following CEA members who were selected to be a part of our cohort:

D. Michelle Barnes, Indianola K-8; Rosina Bell-Games, East Linden ES; Rhonda Childs, Shepard Center; Cheryl Cooper, Columbus Downtown HS; Theresa Cover, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12; Cassandra Daniels, Mifflin MS; Jennie DeMarco, Devonshire ES; Daria Denoia, PAR; Megan Flowers, Colerain ES; Amy Glowark, Scottwood ES; Clifton Gregory, South HS; Darren Greschuk, Columbus Downtown HS; Erika Harris, Innis ES and Duxberry Park ES; Tracie Helmbrecht, Westmoor MS; Carrie Hoover, North Linden ES; Erin Hughes, Duxberry ES and Arts Impact MS; Jeannette Johnson, Berwick K-8; Kimberly Jones, Mifflin MS; Martha Klingshirn, Clinton ES; Michelle Leasor, Marion-Franklin HS; Terry Logan-Mottinger, Windsor STEM Acad. PreK-6; Janet Love, PAR; Rebecca McGrath-Hinkle, Columbus Downtown HS; Aaron Moore, West HS; Joseph Mullins, Briggs HS; Rebecca Reid, Watkins ES; Anthony Schwab, Ohio Avenue ES; Denise Shook, Centennial HS; David Smith, Columbus Downtown HS; Angela Stokes, Columbus City Prep. School For Girls; Katherine Teubl, Innis ES and Parkmoor ES; Christina Totman, Lindbergh ES; and Chiquita Toure, Eastmoor Acad. HS.

Early voting blocked

On Monday, Sept. 29, the United States Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision ruled to block early voting in Ohio. Early voting was supposed to begin on Sept. 30 but instead starts on Tuesday, Oct. 7. This is another shameful attempt to restrict voting rights here in Ohio. We must put an end to these vicious attacks on our rights. We must vote! Show Ohio and the Supreme Court that their efforts to keep citizens from the polls will not succeed. Make sure that not only you vote, but that your friends and family vote also. The power is in the vote. Don't allow Tuesday, Nov. 4, to come and go without your voice being heard.



CEA's election: a special opportunity

CEA is preparing for a special election Oct. 28-Nov. 10 to select its District 6 Governor (to complete the unexpired term ending in 2015) and a Middle School At-Large Governor (three-year term). Involvement in this way is a direct path to making a difference for your Association. Consider declaring your candidacy.

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 teacher. Both positions require that candidates have been members of CEA for the 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 www.ceahio.org under "Forms." If you have questions, we can fill you in. Give us a call.

REA needs your \$upport

A strike decision is no small thing. One of the largest sacrifices association members make is pay during the days they are not in the classroom. As the Reynoldsburg teachers continue to fight for appropriate salary increases, adequate class sizes and other issues, one of the ways you can express your solidarity is with a donation to REA's strike fund.



Many of you have already donated to the fund. The funds were collected by your SrFR on Thurs., Oct. 2, at the Legislative Assembly. The list of schools who donated will be in next week's *Voice*. If you were unable to give at that time or you would like to give more, send donations to: Reynoldsburg Education Association, c/o Natalie Moore, Treasurer, P.O. Box 884, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Correction: Fairwood K-6 and Ridgeview MS were in attendance at the CEA Legislative Assembly on Sept. 11. We apologize for the omission.

Special notes

- ❑ **The Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk is Sunday, Oct. 26, at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration starts at 8 a.m.** The walk begins at 10 a.m. Sign up by going to www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus. Choose your team name or join our **CEA Dream Team**. Add "**Columbus Education Association**" as your team company. 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@ceahio.org.
- ❑ **CEA Member 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.** Go to <http://bit.ly/2014CEAScholarshipAppl> to download an application. Call Cora Miller at 253-4731, if you have questions.

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.

(614) 461-4455 • www.cloppertlaw.com