

The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

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You Are Part of Something Special

As a CEA member, you wield a lot of power. CEA is part of the National Education Association (NEA), the nation's largest professional employee organization. Its three million members work at every level of education—from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliate organizations—including CEA—in every state and in more than 14,000 communities across the United States.

Legislators and administrators throughout the country listen to the NEA, as it advocates for education professionals, seeking to ensure that every student is prepared to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world. The NEA is at the table to discuss major issues affecting all of us, including the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Common Core, educator tax relief, teacher quality, teacher pay and early childhood education. The NEA believes every student in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, deserves a quality education. At its core, the NEA espouses:

- Equal opportunity to a quality public education for all students.
- A just society to build respect for the worth, dignity and equality of every individual.
- Democracy as the cornerstone of our republic, and education to inform its members.
- Professionalism in the classroom, and recognition and respect for teachers in the form of compensation.
- Partnership with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders as essentials to quality public education and student success.
- Collective action toward the common good.

The NEA was formed in 1857 when 100 educators decided to organize and ultimately united all the various state teaching associations. NEA members nationwide set Association policy, most notably through an annual Representative Assembly that convenes every July. CEA sends delegates to join more than 9,000 others, who elect NEA's top officers, debate issues and set NEA policy. They represent you in front of the nation's top education leaders, ensuring that your voice is heard in Washington.

When you fill out your CEA election ballot, remember that your vote goes far. You are a member of a mighty organization. Stand tall. Be proud. Get involved.

We Can Make a Difference

Imagine teaching in a state where the needs of students actually came first and the voices of educators actually mattered. Wouldn't that be ideal? Imagine the focus being on teaching and learning and not testing. Imagine schools where imagination and creativity flourished. How do we make our imagination our reality?

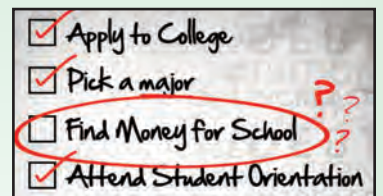
We can make a difference when we join together and advocate for our students and our profession. We know what should be happening in our schools and in our classrooms. It's time we come together and become one strong unified voice. Will you join us as we work to take back our profession and our schools?

Join CEA on Saturday, Mar. 7, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the OEA Headquarters for our first CEA Organization and Activist Training. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Participants have the opportunity to earn CEUs.

Together we can reclaim what is rightfully ours...the ability to teach and inspire!

Paying for College

Your high school senior may be eligible to receive a CEA scholarship. The deadline for submitting applications for CEA scholarships is Friday, Apr. 17, 5 p.m. Two of the scholarships available are the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship, awarded to a student pursuing a degree in education, and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. Both are renewable for up to four years at a reduced level from the first-year award. Also, one-year scholarships are awarded by CEA-R and the Rhonda Johnson Scholarship Fund. A senior at South HS will be awarded the Grossman Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be children of CEA or CEA-R members.



Applicants may be graduating high school seniors or students already enrolled in an undergraduate program in a college or university.

The Christa McAuliffe Memorial Scholarship is granted each year to a student majoring in education unless no applicants indicate they are majoring in education. This scholarship will be one and one half times the amount of any other scholarships awarded.

Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above which must be verified by an official high school or university transcript.

Applicants must:

- Be full-time students while enrolled in college.
- Include a copy of the Student Aid Report from FAFSA.

- ▶ Indicate all financial aid (other than student loans) which they expect to receive.
- Along with each application, applicants must provide:
- ▶ A statement of his/her personal philosophy and goals.
 - ▶ A personal reference from someone other than a family member.
 - ▶ An academic reference.
 - ▶ Verification of GPA by official transcript.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2015ScholGuidlines> to download an application or call the CEA office at 253-4731.

His “Impact” is Deeply Felt

Bruce Green, advisor to the Eastmoor Academy Impact Team, will receive the Organized Labor’s Youth Services Award at the 56th Annual George Meany Awards Banquet being held Thursday, Mar. 19, 6 p.m. at the Hollywood Casino. Green, a former CEA Vice President who has served as a guidance counselor and physical education teacher, is Eastmoor’s internship coordinator. He runs two early college credit programs. He also started the Community Impact Team in 2007, which has grown from five students into the largest school-based community service group in the state.



Bruce Green

Every year, more than 300 students perform more than 50 community service activities, including providing more than 8,000 meals for our community’s homeless people through Faith Mission, Holy Family, HOPE Picnic and other organizations. The students also stage Camp Eastmoor, through which they experience the conditions of the homeless by sleeping outside.

Green says the students’ love of service drives him to continue the program year after year. “Just to see the looks on the kids’ faces,” he said. “They cook for the residents of Faith Mission, and they sing to them, and write them personal notes. I put out a signup sheet and I’ll have 40 names in an hour. There are more kids like this, who want to be involved. They just need the opportunity.”

Green wrote to *The Columbus Dispatch*: “In an age when many think that young people are lazy, self-centered and uncaring, I beg to differ. People marvel at the passion with which they do these projects.”

The George Meany event, hosted by Central Ohio Labor Council AFL-CIO and the United Way Community Services Department, illustrates United Way of Central Ohio’s strong and longstanding partnership with labor organizations. Congratulations to you, Bruce and the Impact Team, for a richly deserved honor.

Tips for Members from Members

Soon, we’ll be in the middle of the Article 211 process. We asked our members on the CEA Facebook page for their best Article 211 tips.

- Preparing for the interview:
- > “Don’t fax your résumé, take a real copy. It may get misplaced by someone who needs to use the fax machine. Don’t forget to attach a copy of your certificate to your résumé so they will know your exact certifications.”—Michelle Stone (Northland HS)
 - > “When dropping off your materials (résumé, cover letter and a copy of your licensure) be sure to have two copies. One for the principal and one for the SFR.”—Susan Wenar (Gables ES)
 - > “Have someone proofread your cover letter. Many

come with errors or are addressed to someone else at a different building. Professionalism counts.”—

Claudia Eschelbach (Marion-Franklin HS)

- > “Check the (CEA) surveys and website. Talk to trusted friends and colleagues. But in the end, trust your gut.”—Kim Ogilbee (Starling K–8)

For the interview:

- > “Be kind to the secretary and leave a good first impression.”—Chad Smith (Centennial HS)
- > “Show up early if you can. The interviews may be taking less time than anticipated.”—Jeff Corbin (CEA-R)
- > “Dress for success.”—Tracey D. Johnson (CEA President)
- > “Take your portfolio. Have evidence of your work.”—Mira Cremeans (Georgian Heights ES)
- > “After the interview, be prepared to ask the committee some questions about their school. Most likely they will ask you if you have questions. Be prepared ahead of time.”—Susan Wenar (Gables ES)

Special Notes

- ❑ **The Annual CCS United Negro College Fund (UNCF) campaign ends Friday, Feb. 27. Our goal is \$100,000, with 50 percent of the dollars raised set aside for Columbus City Schools’ scholarships. Your FRs will provide you with all needed materials. For more information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA (253-4731).** You may spread out your donation by participating in payroll deduction for one year. Those donating at least \$100 will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 gift cards. Those donating \$50–\$99 will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$50 gift cards.
- ❑ **The CEA Book Drive ends Friday, Feb. 27.** We ask every member to donate at least two new books appropriate for a third-grade reading level. **Give the books to your FR or building campaign chairperson.** You might win an iPad Mini if you fill out an entry form and send it in no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 5. **Send the forms to Teri Mullins at the CEA office.** We will draw the winner on Mar. 6. Thank you for helping us put a new book in the hands of every third grader in our district.
- ❑ **Friday, Feb. 27, is the deadline to request an alternate 211 interview panel. Fax requests to CEA President Tracey D. Johnson at 253-5052. The request must be signed by both your Senior FR and your building administrator.** The following schools/units have approved alternate interview panels: Indianola Informal K–8, School Nurses and Special Education Coordinators.
- ❑ **Eligible for a continuing contract for the 2015–2016 school year? You must fill out and submit the paperwork by Mar. 6.** The form is located on the CCS Intranet under Human Resources/HR Administration/Mira Wright or can be downloaded from the CEA website at <http://bit.ly/1415continue>. **For questions on eligibility requirements, contact Nancy Young at 365-5658.**
- ❑ **Running for a CEA office in the spring? The campaign period ends Mar. 30. Voting will take place from Mar. 17–30. Votes will be tabulated Mar. 31.** In the event of run-offs, voting will take place from Apr. 21–May 4, with votes tallied on May 5.
- ❑ **The deadline to apply to be a PAR Consulting Teacher has been extended to Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 at 5 p.m.** Send cover letter, résumé and letters of recommendation to **CEA President Tracey D. Johnson at the CEA office, 929 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205.**