

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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This area of
The Voice
has been
intentionally
left blank because
it contains a
political endorsement.

will include your favorite local bands, food trucks, kids' activities and environmental groups and businesses. Learn more about Columbus activities at www.earthdaycolumbus.org/home.php and about the international day at www.earthday.org/2015.

Want some ideas for your classroom? Try out "Earth Facts Jeopardy," or explore the effects of junk mail and hazardous household waste. You will find dozens of lesson plans at www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/earthday.shtml.

Thank a librarian

April is School Library Month, a time to celebrate and appreciate the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Students today have a universe of information available to them at their fingertips. But without the ability to translate that information into knowledge, the information is worthless—or worse, dangerous. The school librarian can provide the guidance and instruction to help students learn how to access quality information, how to evaluate that information and how to use that information effectively. It is also the school librarian who can lead students to quality literature that can inspire and encourage.

Our K–8 and high school media specialists, along with our elementary library assistants, strive to be partners with classroom teachers to promote reading and information literacy. Honor our librarians and assistants with a special "thank you" for their dedication and commitment to our students.



Celebrate our planet on April 22

It started with a roar 45 years ago, as activists took to the streets, organized environmental improvement projects and raised awareness about global responsibility. This year Earth Day, celebrated internationally on Apr. 22, continues to broaden the base of support for environmental programs, rekindle public commitment and build community activism around the world through a range of events and activities. More than a billion people participate in Earth Day campaigns every year.



The theme of Earth Day 2015 is "It's Our Turn to Lead." Projects across the globe will encourage commitments from community and global leaders, businesses and citizens.

Year after year, Columbus has hosted the largest volunteer effort for Earth Day anywhere. In Columbus during the week of Apr. 18–25, thousands of our neighbors will pick up shovels and hoes, grab garbage pickers and honeysuckle poppers and put in the hard work needed to keep our communities clean and green. All of this generous action will culminate in a celebration Saturday, April 25, at Columbus Commons, where we will thank Earth Day volunteers for their efforts. The celebration

FR elections near

Our Faculty Representatives (FRs) are building-level leaders within their schools/units. FRs work tirelessly to represent their members in a variety of ways. They distribute Association materials, conduct CEA elections, run multiple charitable campaigns throughout the year, attend CEA District and Legislative Assembly meetings and serve on a number of building-level committees.

In the spring of odd-numbered years, we elect FRs to their two-year terms. Voting this year will be Apr. 30–May 29.

Each school/unit elects one FR and one Alternate FR for every 20 school/unit members, or fraction thereof. Anyone who is on the ballot cannot participate in the election administration. Elections are done by secret ballot.

If you have more than one FR, the SrFR shall be the one with the most continuous service in the position in that unit. When the continuous service is tied, the SFR shall be the FR who receives a majority of votes.

SrFRs received their election information from CEA last week. Find out when your building/unit FR election is and make sure you vote. If you have questions, call Michele Mays, Elections Co-Chairperson at the CEA Office at 253-4731.



Three Additional Ashland University Classes

Ashland University has added three additional courses for Columbus City Schools educators. These courses are at no cost.

- Friday & Saturday, Apr. 24 & 25—Overview of OTES with Carole Marsh & Becky Piela
- Friday & Saturday, May 15 & 16—Overview of OTES with Carole Marsh & Becky Piela
- Friday & Saturday, May 29 & 30—Overview of OTES with Carole Marsh & Becky Piela

There are also still openings in some of the existing classes. You can find all of the available courses by following the directions below.

To use the Ashland University ONLINE registration for these courses exclusively for Columbus City Schools teachers:

1. Go to the Ashland website: <https://www.ashland.edu/founders/professional-development-services>
2. Scroll down on the page and click on the black “DISTRICT LOGIN” button, in the center of the web page.
3. Enter the username: CCS, and password: CCS (using ALL CAPS for both)
4. Click the title of the class you want to attend.
5. Click the green “REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE” button.
6. The Ashland University registration form on the next couple of screens will need to be completed.
7. You will not be able to cancel online. If it is necessary to cancel a class once you are registered, email Wendi Bigelow at wbigelow@ashland.edu. Include the course number, title and dates in your email.

Meet your CEA Elections Chair: Neil Moore

Neil Moore is excited about tallying the votes of CEA’s more than 4,000 members in Association elections. After years of painstakingly sorting, hand-counting ballots and re-counting ballots, CEA now utilizes a computer to scan and count them. As a member of the committee for five years, Moore has been helping with the transition.

But it’s not just the paperwork reduction that fuels him. Moore, a Spanish teacher and an FR at CAHS, has been involved in CEA for four of his seven years with CCS, including serving as an FR and a Senior FR at Whetstone HS.

At Whetstone, following the retirement of the school’s long-serving SFR, Moore took on the role to ensure the contract was followed. “I have always had the kind of personality that doesn’t mind speaking truth to power,” said Moore, “and, as a teacher, I have always felt that it is my duty to stand up for my colleagues, for our students and for our profession.”

Moore taught for three years at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, spent two in St. Clairsville, Ohio and three in northern Virginia before coming to Columbus, where he also has taught at Marion-Franklin HS. Moore’s parents were Spanish teachers, too. In their day, teaching conditions were rough.

“My dad taught for 41 years, mostly in the Ohio river town of Bridgeport,” said Moore. “He became involved in his union because teachers were not being given a voice at the table. Even after the collective bargaining law was enacted, we lived paycheck to paycheck, but without the strength of union solidarity, things would have been much worse.”

As a CEA FR, Moore has stood with us at the Statehouse. He shook hands with Jesse Jackson, who came here to support our fight against SB 5, and he felt the power of education within democracy.

Within CEA, he said, “I hope to help educate Association members not just about the importance of voting but also about the laws that govern the process.” In his new role as the CEA



Neil Moore

Elections Chair, Neil will organize and oversee all elections within the Association.

Neil encourages younger members to get involved in all ways. “It is important to have informed and experienced Association members who stay abreast of the latest legislation, who testify on our behalf and who have our backs while we are busy in the classroom,” Moore said. “As the wave of retirees rises to tidal proportions, we desperately need younger teachers to step up and get involved.”

Moore lives in Clintonville with his wife, Kristen, their young daughter and their two dogs. The family loves to travel. Moore is an avid bird-watcher who also collects sharks’ teeth and other marine fossils from the Miocene era.

Want to change your pay plan?

Members who wish to change their pay plan for the 2015–2016 school year may do so now until Monday, Aug. 31, at 4 p.m.

Regular contract teachers, latchkey teachers and tutors have until Monday, Aug. 31, to change pay plans for the 2015–2016 school year. Certificated employees have the option to choose:

- Plan A—twenty-one (21) pays September–June
- Plan B—twenty-six (26) pays September–August

If you are already on your desired pay plan, do not submit another form. The plan you are on remains in effect until you make a change. Forms are available for download on the district’s Employee Self Service website at <http://bit.ly/CCSess>. Note that one form is used for all certificated employees. Completed forms must be returned to the Payroll Office by Monday, Aug. 31, 4 p.m.

Best Practices Showcase

Professional Learning and Licensure will be hosting a Best Practices Showcase conference June 1–2, 2015. The conference will feature the Stars of CCS—YOU. Details are as follows:

- When: June 1, 2015, for middle and high school teachers and June 2, 2015, for elementary school teachers
- Where: The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University

Sign up on CiMS to reserve your spot. Teachers attending the entire day will receive .5 CEUs and \$10/hr (workshop rate) for the five hours in which they are in sessions. You will not be paid for the lunch hour.

If you have any questions, contact Professional Learning and Licensure at 365-5039. We look forward to hearing from you. Start your summer off on the right foot by attending the Showcase.

Correction: The Apr. 13 issue of *The CEA Voice* contained an error with the link to the Teacher Leadership Initiative Application Flyer. Go to <http://bit.ly/2015-16NEATLIcor> to download the application. The deadline for submission has been extended until Friday, May 1. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Special notes

- ❑ Campaigning for the runoff election for District 3 is underway through Monday, May 4. Voting will take place from Apr. 21–May 4. Votes will be tabulated Tuesday, May 5.
- ❑ **Article 211 calendar dates: Apr. 29–30, Job Fairs** (Hudson Distribution Center Library).
- ❑ This year’s **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet** will be **Saturday, May 16**, in the ballroom of the **Hilton Columbus Downtown**, 401 N. High Street. If you are retiring this year and did not receive your invitation to attend the Awards & Retirement Banquet, contact **Jeff Corbin** at CEA at **253-4731** immediately.
- ❑ If you are not receiving *The CEA Voice* or other communications by email, contact Bob Hern at bhern@ceaohio.org to have your information added.