Link Arms for Our Families

Collaboration: It’s a word CEA members understand. It’s how we get things done. It’s how we make positive change for ourselves and for our students and their families. United Way of Central Ohio (UWCO) understands this word, too. For many decades it has linked with other organizations and service agencies to form a united front against the root causes of the persistent problems facing our community.

The Columbus Education Association and the Columbus City Schools already have formed a United Way team and, together, we comprise a vital link in this effort. Already, the Columbus Schools team and UWCO have helped our families in obvious and more subtle ways that will have lasting effects on their lives. We have helped improve kindergarten readiness, removed barriers to health care, encouraged good nutrition and fitness, helped our neighbors prepare for disasters and emergencies, created safer neighborhoods and provided safe and decent housing for many more of our neighbors.

When you receive your pledge materials, take a moment to consider how CEA, CCS staff and administrators and all other union members across our school district have helped United Way benefit our neediest families and support community efforts to improve all of our lives. Be a part of UWCO’s nine Bold Goals focusing on the interconnected areas of education, income, health and home. By 2020, we want more people in central Ohio to reach their full potential through a quality education leading to a productive career, enough income to support a family, good health and a safe place to live.

It is so easy to get involved with this important community-wide work and, for us, it is so natural. We know what it means to “Live United.” Now let’s use our own strength, along with every-one else in Ohio’s largest urban school district, to make central Ohio a better place to live.

Meet Your CEA Officers and Staff

Many of you have spoken with us on the phone, seen us on stage at CEA events, or met us at the Fall Fling or one of our banquets and celebrations. We are your CEA officers and staff. Once upon a time, not so long ago, we stood where you are now. Here’s a little bit about each of us:

CEA President Tracey D. Johnson, recipient of CEA’s Distinguished Service Award, has been involved at every level of CEA leadership, starting with the Minority Involvement Program and moving on to the bargaining team, the CEA Board of Governors (Middle School Governor At-Large) and OEA and NEA delegate. Tracey has been involved in battles on all fronts, from helping a colleague fight an unfair termination to helping defeat Senate Bill 5. Johnson taught for 15 years at Fair ES, and at Linmood, Johnson Park and Yorktown MSs. She also served as a Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Consulting Teacher. Her goal is to build CEA capacity at every level. Her flair for public speaking started early. Before going to college, Tracey graduated from the Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts.

CEA Vice President Phil Hayes started his CEA service as a Faculty Representative at Brookhaven HS. It wasn’t long before the social studies teacher served as a committee chair, a bargaining team member, an NEA/OEA delegate and as CEA’s internal electronic communications coordinator. Hayes, who was a Teacher of the Year in 2001–2002, was the first classroom teacher to testify against Senate Bill 5. At each of our events, you will see Phil, still at the lectern, representing us and inspiring us.

CEA Staff Consultant Bob Hern attended Huy ES, Medina MS and graduated from Brookhaven HS. Later, he came to CCS to teach technology at Northeast Career Center. Bob started his CEA service in 1998 as a Faculty Representative, inspired by CEA’s help when his paycheck didn’t arrive. Now, Bob supports others so they can concentrate on what’s important in the classroom. He is also our graphic designer, producing The CEA Voice each week. He is our event recorder. You might see him with a camera, snapping photos at all of CEA’s events.

CEA Staff Consultant Teri Mullins represented you when we stood at the Statehouse to fight Senate Bill 5. You inspired her to get more involved in CEA. Teri taught special education for 13 years at Wedgewood MS. She also advised the STEM Club. Teri has an inside perspective: She attended Duxberry Park ES, Franklin MS and East HS. She has served as an OEA and NEA delegate and an alternate building Faculty Representative. She served as District 6 Governor in 2008. She is currently the bargaining team chairperson and serves on the Joint Evaluation Panel.

CEA Staff Consultant Ezetta Murray taught at Maize ES and got involved with CEA after the Association helped her solve a problem with her paycheck. She joined the Minority Involvement Program committee, then the CEA Elections Committee, and then served as a Senior Faculty Representative. Murray organizes and manages our annual Making Strides campaign, walking with us to cure breast cancer. She is our cheerleader for the United Negro College Fund. She is a world traveler who also likes to make jewelry. Ezetta serves on various district committees and serves as CEA’s Chief Negotiator.

Dominique Vacheresse was completing her master’s degree in education and witnessed the statewide campaign to defeat Senate Bill 5. A special education teacher who also had attended several Columbus City Schools, she attended civic and political events and was impressed with the power wielded by organ-
Mark your calendar. Here is the voting schedule:

- Sunday, Nov. 1: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 2: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 3: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 4: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 5: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 6: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 7: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 8: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

at your county’s board of elections. You can find a list at www.sos.ohio.gov.

Board of Elections and cast your vote. In Franklin County, the
members who decide policy in our classrooms. Visit your county
school boards throughout central Ohio. It is these board
leaders, including mayor of Columbus and members of the Columbus Board of Education and
will vote on a variety of governing leaders, including mayor of
Ohio Substitute Teacher Eval-
the long-serving FR moved on to another posi-
tion. He stood with us at the Ohio Statehouse
to oppose the union-busting Senate Bill 5. His
mission is to get younger CEA members more involved.

Dr. Neil Moore is a CEA Elections Chair. The Spanish teacher (fol-
lowing in the footsteps of both his parents)
spent hours, for many years in a row, sorting and
hand-counting your ballots. Now the system is
computerized, and Neil was part of this transi-
tion. But his CEA involvement extends much
further. Neil stepped in to become the Senior
Faculty Representative at Whetstone HS when
Students.

Mark your calendar. Here is the voting schedule:

- Oct. 6–23: Tuesday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Oct. 19–Nov. 2: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 31: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 1: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Voting is important. It’s the way you can send a message: “I vote
for officials who support public education.” This November you
will vote on a variety of governing leaders, including mayor of
Columbus and members of the Columbus Board of Education and
other school boards throughout central Ohio. It is these board
members who decide policy in our classrooms. Visit your county
Board of Elections and cast your vote. In Franklin County, the
Board’s offices are located at 1700 Morse Road. Early in-person
and absentee voting for the Nov. 3 General Election begins Oct. 6
at your county’s board of elections. You can find a list at www.ceaohio.org/StateH

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