

# The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

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Columbus Education Association

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*The Voice*  
has been  
intentionally  
left blank because  
it contains a  
political endorsement.

on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

On this day, there will be no PD pull-outs, no forced TBTs, no suggested meetings by supervisors or administrators; they also get and need this time. This is your day to spend working in your building on whatever professional items you need to do such as grade cards, progress reports, IEPs, RIMPs, lesson plans, etc. Remember, it is a work day. All members are expected to report to work at their regular start time and work the full day. Let's show everyone how valuable this day is to us by taking full advantage of the time we have to get those things done that take valuable time away from our ability to provide additional support for our students.

## United Way Campaigns Completed

Friday, Oct. 30, marked the end of the 2015 United Way Campaign. We would like to thank the following schools/units that have turned in their completed United Way Campaign envelopes:



Alpine ES, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Burroughs ES, CEA Office, CEC/6th Street, Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Cols. City Prep. School for Boys, Cols. City Prep. School for Girls, Cols. Gifted Academy, Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy, Duxberry ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Independence HS, Indianola Informal K-8, Innis ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Academy PreK-6, Linmoor Ed. Ctr., Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Mifflin HS, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7-12, Southwood K-6, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES and Woodward Park MS.

Congratulations to the staff of the Columbus City Prep. School for Girls who won the Early Bird Prize. The winners will receive a celebratory breakfast or lunch provided by CEA President Tracey Johnson and CCS Supt. Dr. Dan Good. If you have not yet turned in your United Way Campaign envelopes, please hand deliver them to the CEA office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Records Day—Your Day!

When CEA members voted overwhelmingly to ratify the tentative agreement with the Columbus City Schools Board of Education in May, their vote placed two additional district-wide records days into our contract. The first collectively bargained district-wide Records Day will occur

## Save the Date for MLK

The Annual CEA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner is set for Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Throughout the evening we honor the memory of Dr. King, and we also present awards to individuals who exemplify the spirit of his work. Nominations are now being accepted for these awards.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award is given for distinguished service in the community in the areas of education, social justice or human and civil rights.

Anyone except current employees of the Columbus City Schools is eligible to receive this award.

The Helen Jenkins Davis Award is named in honor of the first black teacher hired by the Columbus City Schools. Mrs. Davis, who was hired in 1918, was also the first witness called in the 1976 school desegregation trial in Columbus. The Davis Award is presented annually to a CEA member who has promoted social justice, diversity and human and civil rights.

Last year, we honored Dr. C. Dexter Wise, III, Pastor of Faith Ministries Interdenominational Church, with the King Humanitarian Award and Cora Miller, CEA-R member and former CEA Administrative Assistant, with the Davis Award. The deadline for submitting nominations for both awards is Monday, Nov. 23, at 5 p.m. Nomination forms have been sent to each Senior Faculty Representative. You may also download forms at <http://bit.ly/MLKNominationForms>.

This event is always well attended so be sure to purchase tickets well in advance. This year's speaker will be Martin Luther King III, King's eldest son. Tickets are \$30 per person, or \$240 for a table of eight.

## Right-To-Work: The Lie

Supporters of so-called "right-to-work" laws argue that they advocate for the noble cause aimed at advancing personal liberty and promoting economic growth. They wield buzz words like "freedom" and "choice" and insist that too many workers needlessly suffer because corporate America cannot free itself from the shackles of greedy labor unions. Many people may see their message as one championing freedom and hope. However, if you look just beneath the surface of the "right-to-work" cause, you will see a campaign that is built on distortions and predicated on lies, with an unstated purpose to undermine workers' safety, economic security and well-being.

The true goal of right-to-work is to put more money into the pockets of corporate shareholders. The consequence of these purposes, whether intended or unintended, is a diminished middle class. Right-to-work does not provide a financial benefit to workers. It hurts them—financially and physically. A viable labor movement is the best way to advance the well-being of the middle class. Here's what the empirical research shows in terms of worker compensation and workplace safety:

- The average worker in a "right-to-work" state earns about \$1,500 less per year than a person working in a non-RTW state.
- Unions raise worker pay by roughly 20 percent.
- In Ohio, teachers working in non-union charter schools receive annual salaries that are about \$16,000 less than those paid to traditional public school teachers. The gap is even larger when compared to the salaries of for-profit charter school teachers.
- The rate of employer-sponsored health insurance and pensions is lower in RTW states.
- Worker fatalities in the construction industry are 34 percent higher in RTW states.
- RTW legislation does not enhance economic development. In fact, the enactment of RTW laws almost certainly hinders growth and prosperity.
- Research finds no relationship between the presence of a RTW law and state unemployment rates, per capita income or job growth.
- RTW is not an important criterion for small manufacturer location.
- Low-wage workers result in lower tax revenues, putting infrastructure needs and education and other publicly funded services at risk.

- Lower wages also result in less spending by consumers, which stunts economic expansion.
- States with the lowest percentage of workers in unions have relatively weak middle classes.

In addition to fewer, lower paying, less safe jobs and an erosion of infrastructure and decreased levels of public services, RTW robs our country of its democratic principles. Research shows that a weakened labor movement results in lower voter turnout and less participation by ordinary citizens in the political process. Maybe that is exactly what the right-to-work folks want: to keep their political cronies in power so their interests will be served. Right-to-work is a carrot for a select few at the top of the economic food chain and a stick for everyone else.

## Meet Your Governor: Becky Coyne

Becky Coyne has developed a unique perspective during her 22 years in public education. Now in her 11th year as an art teacher at Forest Park ES, Coyne has seen the value of nurturing creativity in children—and the risk in forgetting how good things are in CCS. Coyne, the CCS Visual Arts Coordinator ran for District 10 Governor to ensure art specialists continue to have a strong voice in Columbus City Schools.



Becky Coyne

Coyne, who also has taught at Reeb ES, used to teach in the tiny Fairbanks Local School District, which has one art teacher and one music teacher. Recent Ohio legislation to lift prescriptive arts staffing requirements raised alarm bells in districts like Fairbanks. "I thought, thank goodness we have our contract with unified arts included," said Coyne of CEA's solidly negotiated agreement. "But other districts that aren't so lucky could lose everything. I see how people are constantly afraid for their jobs. And now the Feds are mandating the arts, but Ohio changed the rules? That really stuck with me and gave me the extra push to start advocating for us."

Coyne says she had great CEA leadership mentors. "I was lucky to be around a lot of influential people," she said. She has served on her school's ABC, where she learned a lot of about the power of the contract. When Ann Aeschbury, previous District 10 Governor, decided to retire, she suggested that Coyne run to succeed her.

Coyne, who lives in Westerville with husband, Chuck, daughter, Maggie and their dog, Sunny, said her hope is to continue CEA's good work. "The unified arts are a critical part of Columbus City Schools," she said. "The departments are shining stars in our districts. We have children who are talented, far beyond what many people understand. I want to keep the arts moving forward."

## Special Notes

- ❑ **On Nov. 11, we honor America's veterans for their patriotism and love of country.** Some of them are your colleagues. CEA would like to send a special thanks to our veterans. **If you are a veteran, send your name and your military branch to Bob Hern at [bhern@ceaohio.org](mailto:bhern@ceaohio.org) by Wednesday, Nov. 4.** If you would like to see one of your colleagues recognized in *The Voice*, you may send the information to CEA yourself. We want to recognize all veterans among our CEA ranks.
- ❑ **You have until Nov. 10 to vote in CEA's special election for District 5 Governor to fill an unexpired term ending in 2017.** Your vote is central to the work we do. **Faye Love (Linden STEM Academy PreK–6) is the new District 4 Governor.** Love was the only candidate to declare in District 4, therefore, winning by acclamation.