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

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 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:


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.

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.

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.

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 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 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.