

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

December 14, 2015

OEA RA Recap

More than eighty CEA members represented you as delegates at the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) Saturday, Dec. 5. The OEA RA is the policy-making body of OEA. The RA meets bi-annually in the fall and spring to establish OEA policies and objectives, elect officers, establish dues, adopt a budget, adopt/evaluate a legislative program, act on resolutions, act on new business items and conduct necessary business.

Delegates were addressed by OEA President Becky Higgins and Vice President Scott DiMauro. The duo spoke to OEA's successes, strengths and future challenges facing the union.

"It's important that we take note of our victories," said OEA President Higgins, addressing the gathered delegates. "It sometimes feels that we're swimming upstream and just doing our best to hold on to what we've got. But we achieved something this year on the legislative front that not too long ago seemed hard to imagine. A fairly comprehensive charter school reform bill was passed and signed into law. And, we had a big hand in making it happen."

"You make a difference," said Vice President Scott DiMauro, "whenever you send an email, tweet or phone call to your elected officials; attend a lobby day; invite a legislator into your classroom or worksite; use social media to advocate for what you believe in; have conversations with friends, family and neighbors about the issues you face at your work; testify at a hearing or attend a meeting or rally."

RA delegates soundly voted to endorse OEA Secretary-Treasurer Tim Myers for the active teacher seat on the State Teacher Retirement System Board. Myers has served on the STRS Board since 2008.

RA delegates also approved the Legislative Committee's recommended 2016 Legislative Policy report. This governance document clearly states OEA's legislative agenda and guides OEA's lobbying efforts at the statehouse. Delegates added two amendments dealing with high-stakes testing to the Legislative Policies from the floor of the RA. As a result of the delegates' actions, OEA will:

- Oppose sanctions and/or penalties against students, education professionals, schools and districts when parents exercise their rights to opt their children out of standardized tests.
- Support protecting the rights of parents who choose to opt their children out of standardized testing and support informing parents of the potential consequences under current law.

Additionally, RA delegates and management staff contributed more than \$28,000 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. The Capital District/CEA contributed nearly \$2,000 to the fund.



OEA Staff Unions Donate Books to Windsor

Thanks to OEA staff unions, students at Windsor STEM Academy PreK–6 will have more reading options. The Professional Staff Union and the Ohio Associate Staff Union chose Windsor to receive a donation of nearly five hundred age-appropriate books. The Professional Staff Union and the Ohio Associate Staff Union made donations to four other schools across Ohio. The books at Windsor will be sorted and distributed to each classroom to give students additional reading material while at school. Check out pictures from the event on our Facebook page.

Join Us Jan. 14. and Remember

On Aug. 25, 1963, The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged millions to unite and work together for the common cause of creating a better world for future generations. We remember that challenge and the sacrifices that followed each year at our Annual CEA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner. This year's celebration is Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, with keynote speaker Martin Luther King III.

At the dinner, we honor community members who honor the spirit of Dr. King's work. This year, **Pastor Frederick V. LaMarr**, spiritual leader of Missionary Baptist Church, and **Yolanda M. Stewart, Ph.D.**, English teacher at Johnson Park MS. We also pay tribute to the legacy that has inspired civil rights activists for the past 40 years and will continue to do so as long as there is injustice in the world.

Until his death, Dr. King was steadfast in his commitment to the transforming of American society through non-violent activism. King's main legacy was to secure progress on U.S. civil rights. Just days after his assassination, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968 which, among other things, prohibited discrimination in housing and housing-related transactions on the basis of race, religion or national origin. Organizations like the NAACP have carried on his work on behalf of all people of color. We can always look to Dr. King's actions—and, especially, his words

—to remind us that his work is not yet done.

This year, our keynote speaker will be Martin Luther King III, the oldest son of the late Dr. King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. Don't delay your ticket purchase—this dinner is always well attended and seats are going fast. Tickets are \$30 each with tables of eight at \$240. Call CEA at 253-4731 to make your reservation.

Your License is Your Life

If your Five-Year Professional License expires in 2016, you will receive an email from Nancy Young in Human Resources before Winter Break. If your Resident Educator License expires in 2016, you will receive an email from Greg Mild in Professional Learning and Licensure in January. Your teaching license is your most important credential. Read the email carefully. That detailed email contains specific instructions about the renewal process for this year, including how to complete the online application process through the Ohio Department of Education website. Failure to comply with renewal regulations could result in non-renewal from the district.

If your certificate/or license from the Ohio Department of Education is expiring June 30, 2016, and you have a limited contract, you must complete the required coursework or CEUs necessary for renewal and apply before Feb. 1 to be certified by the State of Ohio for the 2016–2017 school year. If you have a continuing contract, you have through June to complete your coursework and submit your application. Failure to renew your certificate/license may result in suspension of pay and initiation of termination/non-renewal proceedings.

In addition to the online application, you will need to complete a background check. All fingerprint results must be completed electronically through WebCheck, which allows the prints to be sent immediately to BCI. The Human Resources Department, located at 270 E. State Street, oversees this process. The CCS Fingerprint Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. The fee is \$40. Accepted forms of payment are credit/debit card, or money order made payable to Columbus City Schools.

If you have any questions about coursework requirements, the date of your last background check or you do not plan to renew your certificate/license, contact Nancy Young, Human Resources, Teacher Certification/Licensure, (614) 365-5658. Any questions concerning CEU/university credits should be directed to Jennifer Meade with the LPDC, 6th Street Annex, at (614) 365-5039.

Thank Your FR for Attending the LA

Our Faculty Representatives work hard to represent all of us. They listen to you, and bring your concerns forward. Each month they attend the Legislative Assembly (LA) to receive updates from CEA officers and bring them back to you. We thank the FRs from the following schools who attended the December LA:

Alpine ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick PreK–8, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus North International HS 7–12, Columbus Scioto 6–12, Columbus Spanish Imm. K–6, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K–6 @ Northgate, Fairwood K–6, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Guidance Counselors, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hubbard Mastery

School PreK-6, Hudson St. Warehouse, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K–8, Innis ES, Juvenile Detention Center, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. PreK–6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Livingston K–6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Moler K–6, Music, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Shady Lane ES, South HS 7–12, South Mifflin STEM Acad PreK–6, Southwood K–6, Special Ed. Coordinators, Speech & Language, Starling K–8, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Acad. PreK–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

Need Support Writing or Revising Your IPDP?

The members of LPDC will be having four support sessions to help you write, revise and submit your IPDP. They will also be available to help you count CEUs and review your PD Profile in CiMS. The support sessions will be held at Hudson Distribution Center in Computer Lab 1 on Jan. 12, Jan. 20, Mar. 22 and Mar. 23 from 4–5:30 p.m. Space is limited, register on PD Planner if you would like to attend.

CEA Spring Elections

Starting on Jan. 4, you may declare your candidacy for the following Association positions: CEA President; CEA Vice President; Governors in Districts 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9; High School Governor-At-Large; 2016 NEA Delegates, 2016 NEA State Delegates At-Large and 2016–2017 OEA Delegates. Declarations will continue until Feb. 16. Campaigning will be from Jan. 4–Mar. 14. Members will vote from Mar. 1–14, with votes tabulated by the Elections Committee on Mar. 15. In the event of a run-off election, the campaigning period will be from Apr. 4–25. Voting for run-off elections will take place from Apr. 12–25, with votes tallied on Apr. 26. Declaration of Candidacy Forms will be available at www.ceahio.org under the “forms” tab, or from Judy Nelson at (614) 253-4731. For questions, contact CEA Elections Committee Chair Neil Moore at (614) 264-2188.

Special Notes

- ❑ Make sure no one has to choose between getting well and having a paycheck. At this time, **Jill Harrington** at Hubbard Mastery School PreK–6 is having to make that choice. **Donate days to the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank.** Use a sick leave form to make your donation and mention Jill. Be sure to sign the form.
- ❑ **Thank you for pledging a contribution to United Way of Central Ohio.** We received envelopes from the following schools/units since the publication of last week's *Voice* publication: Columbus North International HS 7–12 and Oakmont ES.

