

# The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

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## CEA at the OEA RA

More than seventy CEA members represented you at the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) May 13–14. The OEA RA is the top governing body of our state association and is comprised of more than one thousand delegates elected by local education associations.

OEA President Becky Higgins and OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro were re-elected to three-year terms without opposition. Capital-endorsed candidates Kim Richards and Angela Stewart were elected to the positions of NEA Director 3 and 4, respectively. Capital-endorsed candidate Tammy Koontz was elected to an At-Large position with the OEA Board of Directors.

OEA presented its Friend of Public Education Award to two recipients: Innovation Ohio and ProgressOhio. Both organizations were integral in the fight to hold charter schools accountable. Innovation Ohio is OEA's partner in the Ohio Charter School Accountability Project which put together the website, [KnowYourCharter.com](http://KnowYourCharter.com). ProgressOhio's investigative work led to the spat of newspaper headlines that then prompted more media coverage of Ohio's broken charter school system and also energized local districts to push back against the unfair way in which the state funds charter schools.

Ted Strickland, candidate for Senate, addressed the gathered delegates on the second day of the OEA RA and paid homage to teachers.

"Thank you to all of you involved in the education of young people," said the former governor. "Teachers, other than my parents, were the most important influence in my life...I know what you do and I know how important it is...I will never give up the fight for quality public education... Every child has the right to a quality public education."

The gathered delegates voted in favor of making a single amendment to the OEA Constitution and Bylaws. The amendment will modify the beginning and ending dates of the terms of office for the members of the OEA Board of Directors.

RA delegates soundly approved multiple new business items, among them:

- ✦ A new business item presented by our own CEA President Tracey D. Johnson addressing institutional racism by spotlighting systemic patterns of inequity—racism and educational injustice—that impact our students; and taking action to enhance access and opportunity for our students passed unanimously.
- ✦ Another new business item focused on implementing and developing an appropriate plan of action, which promotes and advocates for Ohio state laws that advance the inclusivity of all citizens, no matter their gen-



der identity and/or expression or sexual orientation.

- ✦ A new business item also called for OEA to create a joint governance-staff work group to study the potential creation or reconstitution of an OEA charitable foundation to support causes related to advancing the education professions, supporting education professionals and supporting public school students in Ohio.

Additionally, delegates and management staff contributed more than \$30,000 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. The Capital District/CEA contributed more than \$4,000 to the fund. This fund supports candidates who are pro-public education and pro-union.

## From Budget Director to Ohio Superintendent: Paolo DeMaria

Ohio's new State Superintendent of Public Instruction was once in charge of Ohio's school choice program and the state's school district report cards. He's a fan of choice and of the Common Core, and wrote an article about the former for the conservative-leaning Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. Paolo DeMaria has intimate knowledge of Ohio's budget. He's no stranger to politics, either. DeMaria has been in public service for 28 years, serving as Ohio's budget director under Gov. George Voinovich and as chief policy advisor for Gov. Robert Taft.

DeMaria received unanimous confirmation from the Ohio Board of Education, the top choice among six candidates and took the reins May 12, officially succeeding Richard Ross, who resigned Dec. 31 amidst controversy involving fudged charter school achievement data. The controversy prompted the U.S. Department of Education to suspend \$71 million in Ohio school funding until it receives assurances that the state can responsibly spend it.

News media reports indicate a high level of confidence among lawmakers and Gov. John Kasich that DeMaria, who will earn \$180,000 annually, is up to the task. The Ohio Education Association, along with the Ohio Federation of Teachers, publicly welcomed him. DeMaria is well known at the Statehouse. He served as an associate superintendent in charge of finance from 2004–2008, then as vice chancellor for the Ohio Board of Regents. For the last six years, DeMaria has consulted for Education First.

In June of 2015, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation published a policy brief, co-authored by DeMaria entitled, "Getting Out of the Way: Education Flexibility to Boost Innovation and Improvement in Ohio" (<http://bit.ly/1TEMUAM>). The brief recommended that state and local policy makers deregulate education in a number of areas. Included in the brief's suggestions, but not limited to:

- Eliminating seniority as a consideration in layoffs of nonteaching employees;
- Expanding opportunities for schools to use non-licensed individuals;

- ▷ Eliminating districts' ability to collectively bargain away inherent management rights, including the right to assign staff;
- ▷ Eliminating any structural requirements on teacher salary schedules; and
- ▷ Allowing districts to remove teachers, including those with continuing contracts, if they receive an "Ineffective" rating for more than two consecutive years.

Cleveland's *The Plain Dealer* asked DeMaria about his stance on House Bill 2, the charter school reform bill the legislature passed last year. He told reporters that he is reserving judgment until it has more time to produce results. DeMaria's children attended Columbus City Schools and then the Graham School, a charter high school on the city's north side.

## Meet Your New CEA Staff Consultant

Tori Washington recently became co-chair of CEA's Social and Economic Justice Committee (SEJC), and it has allowed her to examine more closely the problems her students face. "I knew there were issues," said Washington, who is completing her twenty-first year in the classroom. "But being a part of the SEJC has helped me become a part of the solutions. This committee has also allowed me to work with other awesome CEA members that I don't usually work with. I have been able to have more insight into CEA and see the strength of our union membership."



**Tori Washington**

Washington is CEA's newest staff consultant. She will move from Beechcroft HS, where she teaches reading, to the CEA office, where she will work with, and on the behalf of, CEA's members.

Washington applied for the position because she grew up seeing how important unions are. "My dad is a retired General Motors employee and UAW member. As a kid, I remember times when my dad was on strike for better working conditions and wages," she said. "Because UAW fought for the workers, my parents were able to send me to college, and I was the first college graduate in my family."

Washington became involved with CEA in 2010, when the Association partnered with The Ohio State University in the "Bringing Learning to Life" project, providing professional development for teachers in high-poverty schools to help them lead their students in civic-engagement projects. As part of the project, Washington took a group of students to the NEA Representative Assembly where they presented at NEA's "Raise Your Hand" event. There, she saw firsthand how NEA works to benefit educators and the education profession.

"Attending the Representative Assembly inspired me to get more involved with CEA," she said. "My participation with the union the last couple years gave me experiences that were valuable and life changing." Please join us in welcoming Tori to the CEA staff.

## Meet District 1 Governor Angel Dyer-Sanchez

Angel Dyer-Sanchez knew she wanted to teach, but almost missed the chance. Her strong bent for leadership, nurtured by 11 years of corporate work experience, placed her unintentionally at odds with her building administrator. The administrator suddenly declared Angel, who had an education degree and a reputation as a skilled educator, unfit for the job. She turned to CEA for help.



**Angel Dyer-Sanchez**

"While the administrator was trying to get me fired, my union was working successfully on my behalf to show that the administrator's opinion of me was unfounded," she said.

That is why Angel has been deeply involved in the Associa-

tion's work. Teaching first at Avalon, then Windsor, and now, Salem ES, where she teaches today, Dyer-Sanchez became the Senior Faculty Representative. The more she learned about CEA's effectiveness and its vital role in protecting teachers' rights and working cooperatively toward district reform, the more she wanted to do. Her goal was to become a District Governor. As she begins service, she urges fellow educators to get involved in the Association. CEA supports classroom protections, professional development and teacher training. And, it advocates on behalf of the district's children and families.

At the core, is the union's support of individual teachers who make all of it possible. "If it weren't for the union advocating for me, I might not be a teacher today," she said.

## LA Attendance: May 5

We thank all the Faculty Representatives who attended the CEA Legislative Assembly on May 5. The following buildings/units were in attendance:

Alpine ES, Art, Beechcroft HS, Berwick PreK-8, Broadleigh ES, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus Scioto 6-12, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Eakin ES, East HS, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K-6 @ Northgate, Fairmoor ES, Fairwood K-6, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Gables ES, Guidance Counselors, Hamilton STEM Acad. K-6, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K-8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Leawood ES, Lincoln Park K-6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. PreK-6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Linmoor Ed. Ctr., 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, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Psychologists, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7-12, Special Ed. Coordinators, Stewart ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES and Yorktown MS.

## Master Teachers

An omission was made in the last issue of *The CEA Voice*, recognizing our members' accomplishments in renewing their Master Teacher status. Congratulations goes to **Beth Taylor**. The Master Teacher program allows teachers to demonstrate their practice based on the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. Successful completion also satisfies one of the requirements for an advanced license.

## New CEA Office Hours

Beginning June 1 through Aug. 31, the CEA Office will be on summer hours. The office will open at 9 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. Starting Sept. 1, 2016, the CEA will have permanent new office hours. The office will open at 8:30 a.m. and will close at 4:30 p.m. The changes were approved by CEA Board of Governors in order to align our hours with the hours of the Ohio Education Association. The new hours will also make the CEA staff more accessible to our members at an earlier time.

## Update Your Contact Info With CEA

Take some time to let CEA know if any of your contact information has changed. CEA needs your personal (non-CCS) email address and your cell phone number. We use it to communicate critical information to you in a timely fashion, through email and text message. CEA does not share this information externally. To update your information, send an email to tell [cea@ceaohio.org](mailto:cea@ceaohio.org).