



Photo by Paul Becker

CEA Members March

More than 1,000 CEA members, friends, family and community supporters marched with our Union for the schools *#ColumbusStudentsDeserve*. Our message was heard loud and clear—our students deserve:

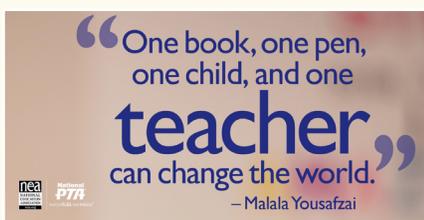
- The resources they need to succeed
- The best and brightest educators
- Well-funded, properly maintained schools

Your Union's bargaining team concluded their second full day at the table with the Board's team on Monday, April 29. Two full days of bargaining are scheduled with the Board's team on Monday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 7.

We appreciate everyone who marched—and we also appreciate the ongoing support, comments and positive feedback from everyone who was unable to attend the march. Our Solidarity has not only been noticed, it has been featured on every major news channel in Columbus. It is important to talk to people about who and what we are fighting for—our students and our profession. Make sure you seek out the Contract Campaign Leaders in your building to see how you can continue to assist your Union's efforts in the bargaining process.

Five Days of "Thank You"

Tuesday, May 7, is National Teacher Day. The entire week of May 6–10, National Teacher Appreciation Week, is sponsored by the National Education Association and the National PTA. Thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives. CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child. Even teachers appreciate the teachers who helped shape their lives. NEA and the National PTA are suggesting the following activities:



Thank A Teacher on Social Media

- Simply make a video or take a photo of yourself

thanking a teacher who has made a difference in you or your child's life, or just thank all teachers for supporting our nation's students each and every day. (You can download this ThankATeacher template to use in your photo at <http://bit.ly/2LfhOk>.)

- Share your message of appreciation on your favorite social media platform using the hashtag #ThankATeacher

Wear #REDforED on Wednesday, May 8

This year, we especially appreciate all our NEA members who are fighting for school funding, professional pay, and better learning conditions for their students. Show your solidarity with them by wearing red on Wednesday, May 8 and sharing a picture of yourself on social media explaining why you're wearing #REDforED.

Examples:

"I'm wearing #REDforED to thank all those teachers spending their own money to supply their classrooms."

"I'm wearing #REDforED because our public schools need to be fully funded."

There are 105 days left until the current CEA Master Agreement expires.

National School Nurse Day

National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses since 1972 to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. It is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week.



School Nurse Day is a way to recognize the contributions to student health and learning that school nurses make everyday. School Nurses assist our students with being able to fully access their education because of their interventions and actions performed every day. This year we celebrate National School Nurse Day on May 8, 2019. School Nurses provide:

- Leadership
- Care Coordination
- Quality Improvement
- Standards of Practice
- Community - Public Health

So, on National School Nurse Day, let us celebrate and recognize the contributions that school nurses are making to the health and learning of our students.

Capital District Representative Assembly Meets

The Ohio Education Association (OEA) Capital District Representative Assembly met on Wednesday, Apr. 17, at STRS to hear briefings from our state education



organization. The program included Capital District President Kriston Crombie Stotik, Vice President Gerry Curran, OEA President Becky Higgins delivering the President's Report and OEA Vice President Scott DiMauro delivering the Legislative Update. Mark Hill, OEA Secretary-Treasurer, presented the OEA budget. Tai Hayden (CEA Office), who sits on the STRS Board, gave her annual report. Tom Busher, Capital District Treasurer, updated delegates on Capital District's financial position and presented the Capital budget.

CEA President John Coneglio and Vice President Phil Hayes were tasked with making "the ask" on behalf of the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education. We are very proud that we raised nearly \$2,000 for this non-partisan, political-action fund for candidates who support the values of public educators. The RA also heard from candidates seeking office within OEA.

The gathered delegates endorsed Scott DiMauro for OEA President and Sophia Rodriguez for OEA Vice President. Kim Richards (Cardinal EA) and Angela Stewart (Newcomerstown TA) were endorsed for NEA Director 3 and 4, respectively. Deborah Jackson (Princeton ACE) was endorsed for OEA Board of Directors At-Large. Voting will take place at the OEA Representative Assembly on May 10. A special thank you goes to CEA-R members Donna Baker, Jeff Corbin and Gigi Morelli who handled registration and welcoming delegates.

Evaluation Appeals

The Joint Evaluation Panel has approved an Appeals Process for the following:

- Educators that have an overall Final Summative Rating of "Ineffective"
- Educators that have an "Ineffective" performance rating
- Two evaluators and the overall rating is questionable
- The evaluation contains a procedural error

The Evaluation Appeal Form will be available on the ILEAD website beginning Friday, May 10. To file an appeal, submit the completed form, along with appropriate documentation, to Teri Mullins at CEA no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 24. Your Association strongly recommends hand-delivering this extremely important paperwork. The Joint Evaluation Panel will review appeals the first week after school ends. Educators and evaluators will both be notified of the appeal outcome.

CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet

The 43rd Annual CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet is quickly approaching. The banquet will take place on Friday, May 17, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner starting at 7 p.m. If you are retiring and have not responded to attend the dinner, send your *RSVP* soon. Retirees and Senior Faculty Representatives are invited to attend this wonderful event at no cost to you. Additional tickets are \$35 per person or a table of eight for \$280. If you are retiring and have not received any information call Kathy Wilkes at CEA (614) 253-4731 or email her at kwilkes@ceaohio.org.

Get Out and Vote

On Tuesday, May 7, Ohioans will head to the polls to vote in the state's primary election. Since 2004, on average, just one out of every five registered Ohioans vote in non-Presidential primary elections. However, due to the extremely gerrymandered electoral districts in the state, often times the Primary Election in May decides the outcome of the General Election in November.

Early in-person absentee voting for Franklin County is held at the Franklin County Board of Elections (1700 Morse Rd.). The hours are as follows:

Mon, May 6: 8 a.m.—2 p.m.

Make sure that you engage in your civic duty on Tuesday, May 7. The polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To find your polling location in Franklin County, go to <http://bit.ly/2kDE3KP>. If you live outside of Franklin County, check with your county's Board of Elections.

Dependent Eligibility Benefit Audit Coming Soon

CCS has a self-funded insurance plan. In this type of insurance plan, claims are paid from the money collected for members' insurance benefits. Your Union and the District work collaboratively to preserve the benefits we offer to our bargaining unit members and their dependents under our health-care plans. To safeguard the fiscal health of our healthcare plans, it is imperative that we ensure only eligible dependents are covered.

On Friday, May 3, bargaining unit members who are enrolled in any of the District's healthcare plans with one or more dependents should have received an email sent to their CCS email account about this process. The email contains specific information about the documents required to validate bargaining unit members' dependent eligibility. All bargaining unit members who have a dependent enrolled in the District's plans will be required to verify their dependents' eligibility.

Additionally, bargaining unit members with dependents will also receive a hard-copy letter mailed to their home address with detailed instructions on what is needed to complete the requirements of the program by the due date. Bargaining unit members who are enrolled in our healthcare plans but do not have dependents enrolled are not required to complete this process.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the Benefits Team via email at benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.

