

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

cea

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Kilroy and Shamansky for Congress

Mary Jo Kilroy has a long history working for the welfare of children. The Democratic candidate for the 15th Congressional district served eight years on the Columbus Board of Education.

Kilroy, an attorney, has served the last six years as a Franklin County Commissioner. She has supported two of the county's most significant decisions: creation of the *Start Smart* early childhood support program and funding anti-truancy centers.



Mary Jo Kilroy

Kilroy has stated that her main goal is to correct out-of-control federal spending and direct funds where they are most needed. Kilroy has noted that President Bush's new budget will cut discretionary appropriations for the U.S. Education Department by 3.8 percent. That includes \$15.4 billion less than promised by the No Child Left Behind Act. Kilroy opposes vouchers for private schools.

"Kilroy has the experience and the dedication to speak out to save education programs and help reposition priorities," said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. "She guided the Columbus School Board through a rough period of fiscal scrutiny and cuts. She helped balanced six consecutive county budgets. We strongly urge CEA members to cast their votes for this capable leader."

CEA also is endorsing Democrat **Bob Shamansky** for the 12th Congressional district. Shamansky says his education priority will be to ensure funding for central Ohio's institutions of science and higher learning and to make sure children have access to resources for building basic skills.

"Children are the key to our economic future," he writes. "In order to ensure they have skills they need to face a new worldwide economy, we must build the best public educational system we can. That means accountability and oversight isn't enough. We need funding for teachers, and funding for the programs that will keep our nation economically viable into the next century."

Shamansky, an attorney and Korean War veteran, was previously elected to the 12th-district seat, the first Democrat to hold the spot. He served as Chairman of the Ohio Industrial Technology and Enterprise Board (1983-89), on the Board of Trustees of the Department of Defense's National Security Education Program (1994-99, 2000-2004) and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rickenbacker Port Authority (1983-86).

Shamansky also wants to take a hard look at other issues that affect our educators as they age. He's outraged about the advantages Medicare Part D is giving drug companies. He also wants to find ways to ensure that everyone has access to health insurance—something that would vastly improve the lives of Columbus students and their families.

CEA believes Shamansky has the grit and common sense needed to make the right decisions that will benefit students and teachers.



Bob Shamansky



CEA fall election results

The votes are in for CEA candidates. We would like to congratulate our new CEA Vice President Sally Oldham. She received 1,559 votes to 235 votes for Jeff Grace and 336 votes for Diane Norman.

Robin Jeffries has been elected Minority-At-Large Governor without opposition.

In the race for High School Governor-at-Large, there will be a runoff election between Phil Hayes who received 760 votes and Jay Sanchez who received 428 votes. Jennifer Plemel and Andrew Merrit received 341 and 316 votes, respectively.

Tracey Johnson was elected Middle School Governor-at-Large (Seat #1) with 1,030 votes winning over Diana Welsh with 775 votes. Greg Goodlander prevailed with 975 votes over Teri Mullins with 847 votes. Greg becomes a Middle School Governor-at-Large (Seat #2).

Elected as delegates or alternates to the 2006-07 OEA Representative Assemblies were: JoAnnette Byas-Marston, Deborah McCoy, Jeffrey Poulton, Teri Mullins, Holly Fiddler, Suzanne Bierley (posthumous), John Vincent and Greg Goodlander.

CEA applauds the willingness of these leaders to take on these roles and wishes them well as they begin their work to protect the rights of teachers and preserve the futures of our students.

Campaigning for the High School Governor-at-Large runoff election will be Oct. 11-20. Voting will take place Oct. 24-Nov. 6. Votes will be tabulated on Nov. 7.

United Way helps kids

You've probably heard that 69 percent of our kindergarten students enter school unaware that a book is read from left to right.

Not the kids at the South Side Learning and Development Center. Because of Franklin County's Start Smart initiative, the center has all the resources it needs to train teachers and prepare children for the next stages of their lives.

Start Smart is a partnership with United Way of Central Ohio. It's one of hundreds of reasons to support United Way's annual campaign. United Way changes lives.

You can become a part of the effort. The time is now. Check with your faculty representative for a form, or call the CEA office.



Start Smart has improved the quality of early care and education for over 12,000 children by educating and training caregivers and parents, creating more child-care spaces and promoting accreditation among child care providers.



Making walk-throughs clear

There has obviously been some confusion by principals about their roles during the walk-through process. Many principals apparently have mistaken this opportunity for observation and meaningful reflection with the formal evaluation process. Let's clarify:

A walk-through is a non-evaluative tool to help teachers take a look at their teaching methods and classroom procedures in a positive, reflective way. The informal observation is meant to last about 3–4 minutes. During that time, the observer notes the level and type of student engagement, types of teaching practices and evidence that the curriculum objectives line up with district goals.

The observer *walks the walls*, looking at displays of student work, teaching objectives, charts and other materials and notes any safety or health issues that may be affecting the learning climate.

There is no checklist of items or judgments. But the observer may develop a reflective question for the teacher, and that can be used in conversation between the principal and the teacher. However, reflective conversation occurs only occasionally and not after every visit.

Administrators have been encouraged to walk through their buildings everyday and observe. These visits can be very productive, provided the initial understandings remain in place.

Roll up your sleeve...

Flu season is just around the corner and anyone can be a potential target. Your best protection against this virus is to get a flu shot. Columbus Public Schools is teaming with Maxim Health Systems to provide flu shots to employees and their families and members of the surrounding community. Here are the details and clinic sites:

Oct. 27, 2006 West HS 1–5:30 p.m.	Nov. 1, 2006 Walnut Ridge HS 1–5:30 p.m.
Nov. 2, 2006 Northland HS 1–5:30 p.m.	Nov. 8, 2006 Health Services, 6th Street Annex 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
Nov. 8, 2006 South HSUA 1–5:30 p.m.	Nov. 9, 2006 Whetstone HS 1–5:30 p.m.

There is no cost for employees and their families covered by Aetna® insurance or for those who have Medicare Part B, Medigold or Medicare Complete; but please bring your insurance card for proof. For employees and community members not covered by Aetna®, the cost is \$25.

Open enrollment begins today

Open enrollment, Oct. 16–Nov. 17, 2006, is your opportunity to change your group insurance coverage or to start coverage (including health, dental, optional life, and vision) after waiving it in the past. This is your annual opportunity to compare the coverage and rates for the Traditional Care Medical, Choice POSII (PPO) and the Aetna Select (EPO) which are all offered through Aetna® and the Cafeteria 125 Plan (must be renewed annually), along with other supplemental benefits not offered by CPS. Your requested change will be effective Jan. 1, 2007.

Enrollment applications can be obtained at the main office of each building. These applications need only be completed if you intend to change your coverage. Be sure to use the appropriate form for each insurance type. Enrollment applications are also available at: <http://cpsnet.columbus.k12.oh.us/applications/inetdept.nsf>.

Your completed enrollment application must be received in the Benefits Section, Columbus Education Center by Nov. 17, 2006. **Applications received after Nov. 17, 2006, will not be accepted.**

The following meetings have been scheduled to explain the various health insurance options

Oct 17	Fort Hayes Bus Compound	10–11:30 a.m.
Oct. 18	Scarborough Bus Compound	9:30–11:00 a.m.
Oct. 24	West HS Library	3–5 p.m.
Oct. 25	Walnut Ridge HS Library	2:45–5 p.m.
Oct. 26	Northland High School Library	3:30–5 p.m.
Nov. 1	Food Production Center	9–10 a.m.
Nov. 7	Morse Road Bus Compound	9:30–11:30 a.m.
Nov. 8	Columbus Education Center Auditorium	4–6 p.m.
Nov. 9	17th Avenue Maintenance Dept.	9–11 a.m.

CEA bids farewell to a good friend

Karen Schwarzwaldler announced she will retire in December from the Columbus Board of Education after 11 years of service.

She will move to Findlay to be with her husband, David Ferguson, who is vice president of development at the University of Findlay.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson told *The Columbus Dispatch*, "I think it will be a big loss to have Karen gone."

Schwarzwaldler, a Democrat, began serving on the board in January 1996. She served as board president in 1998 and served as vice president five times, including from 2001–2003.

Among Schwarzwaldler's accomplishments while on the board:

- A policy to align curriculum with more challenging state and federal standards.
- A policy requiring equal distribution of resources to schools.
- A budget-reform policy directing resources to the classroom and to other vital areas to support student learning.
- A professional-development policy to ensure all teachers can get training to improve classroom instruction

The board will appoint a replacement to serve until January 2008. But a new board member must be elected in November 2007 to ultimately take the seat.

Special note

- ☐ This year's **Columbus Kiwanis College Fair** will be held from **9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and from 6–8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Aladdin Shrine Center**, 3850 Stelzer Road. This event is free to all high school students and parents in Franklin and surrounding counties. More than 180 colleges are represented. For details, call a high school guidance counselor or the CPS Fact Line at 221-FACT.
- ☐ The **application deadline for PAS is Thursday, October 27**. Applications must be received at Kingswood Data Center, 1091 King Avenue, **no later than 5 p.m.** No fax or email submissions will be accepted. Please remember to attach a student roster with valid student numbers. At this point in time, it is advisable to hand deliver your application to guarantee its arrival by the deadline date.
- ☐ **Fall Fling Volunteers**—We wish to thank our members for their voluntary efforts in making our first Fall Fling a great success. They are: Bonita Agnew, Maggie Burns, JoAnnette Byas-Marston, Marsha Conley, Ernestine Creasy, Melissa Dudley, Pam Ennis, Charlene Gomer, Greg Goodlander, Robin Jeffries, Tracey Johnson, Christy Maser, Mark McGuire, Judy Murphy, Sally Oldham, Jenny Plemel, Carla Robinson, Linda Studier, James Thornton, Joyce Willeke, Judy Wright, Marilyn Zimmerman and Stephanie Zimmerman.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At **Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn**, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Please contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

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