

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Stand up. Link up. Speak up.

CEA President Tracey D. Johnson opened the school year's monthly Legislative Assembly on Sept. 10, at The Boat House Restaurant at Confluence Park, with a rousing speech reminding our Faculty Representatives what collective bargaining and CEA has accomplished for the Association.



CEA President
Tracey D. Johnson

"The district has adopted the phrase, 'The Spirit of Success.' Well, for CEA, it is about the 'Spirit of Solidarity.' We must come together as an Association if we are going to survive. The attacks on collective bargaining, fair share and our rights to unionize continue. Even with the defeat of Senate Bill 5 a few years ago, Right to Work (for Less) continues to rear its ugly head," said President Johnson.

Johnson went on to say, "We must stay committed and dedicated to protecting our rights to collectively bargain a contract. Our current two-year agreement would not have been possible without this right." President Johnson listed what CEA collective bargaining continues to preserve for us:

- ▶ A salary schedule
- ▶ Salaries not tied to test scores
- ▶ Class size and class load limits
- ▶ Fifteen sick days and two personal days
- ▶ Health insurance

That's only a partial list. President Tracey D. Johnson and Vice President Phil Hayes reminded us to vote for pro-education candidates in this November's—and in ALL elections; not to forget that we represent each other and our students and their families; and to keep fighting—because our lawmakers continue to seek our destruction.

"While none of us went to college to fight, we have been thrown into the ring. We can just get beat to a pulp, or we can get up and come out swinging," said President Johnson. Johnson asked those in attendance if they were:

- ▶ ready to knock out the injustices that poverty has on our students, families and communities.
- ▶ ready to knock out toxic testing that has crippled our schools.
- ▶ ready to knock out attacks on collective bargaining and our right to unionize.
- ▶ ready to knock out the unfair funding of our schools.
- ▶ ready to knock out the lack of accountability for charter schools.
- ▶ ready to knock out of office anyone who continues to vote for and pass legislation that chips away at our very existence as a union and strives to dismantle public education.

At the meeting's close, the Legislative Assembly voted unanimously to support the Youngstown Education Associ-

ation as it fights Ohio House Bill 70—allowing for a state takeover. The Ohio Education Association has filed a lawsuit against the state. **CEA is the first local association in the state of Ohio to express official support of YEA and opposition to this nefarious legislation.** Remember: CEA protects the integrity of the profession. It protects your rights. It is there for you.

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

Calendar survey results

We want to thank the more than 1,500 CEA members who participated in the June calendar survey for the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 school years. Per state law, the school board must hold a public hearing at least 30 days before adopting the calendar. Here are your preferences:

	<u>2016–2017</u>	<u>2017–2018</u>
Teachers report	Monday, Aug. 22	Monday, Aug. 21
Winter break	Dec. 21–Jan. 3	Dec. 23–Jan. 7
Spring break	Apr. 14–Apr. 23	Mar. 30–Apr. 8
Last day for students	June 1	June 1
Last day for teachers	June 2	June 4

To view the breakdown of responses in the survey, go to <http://bit.ly/1Fdnmdb>.

Thanks for attending the LA

Our opening Legislative Assembly was energetic and inspiring. At the LA, our FRs receive important information that you need to know. They also take your concerns to the group for discussion, recognition and, often, action. We thank these FRs for taking the time after their busy school day to join us for this important monthly meeting:

Alpine ES, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick PreK–8, Broadleigh ES, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassidy ES, CEA, Centennial HS, Champion MS, 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 North International HS 7–12, Columbus Scioto 6–12, Como ES, Dominion MS, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K–6 @ Northgate, Fairmoor ES, 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 Comm. Ed. Center, Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, I-PASS @ Linmoor, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K–8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. PreK–6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Moler K–6, Music, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, NPSS Tutors, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, PAR, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, Siebert K–6, South HS 7–12, Southwood K–6, Special Ed. Coordinators, Speech & Language, St. Vincent, Starling K–8, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

CEA Special Elections: We Have the Power

Voting is a simple act. But when you vote for a CEA District Governor, you are boldly stating that you support your Association and its vital work. When you get involved in the work of your union, you add a voice to our numbers, and you strengthen our impact. Elections for Governors of Districts 4 and 5 are coming up next month.

Your participation in CEA elections is one way to actively participate in the Association. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, you must, at the time of election, be employed in the district you seek to represent, and must have been a member of the Association for at least two years immediately preceding the election. The winner of each of those races will complete an unexpired term ending in 2017. Declarations for candidacy of District 4 and 5 Governors will be Oct. 5–15. Voting is Oct. 27–Nov. 10. Watch for a postcard reminder.

Know your contract: Class Size, Class Load

Class size is important to effective teaching. Our contract (Article 301) sets mutually negotiated limits on how many students can be in our classrooms:

- All school- and grade-level regular elementary classes (kindergarten and grades 1–5) will be organized on an average of approximately 25 pupils per classroom teacher.
- All middle school academic classes will contain an average of approximately 30 pupils per classroom teacher.
- All high school academic classes will be organized in each building so as to meet an average departmental class size of approximately 28 pupils.

The March 2009 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the Eight-Period Day states that middle and high school teachers shall not be assigned more than five periods of instruction. The MOA also limits the student load per teacher to a maximum of 150. Schools can change class size and teacher load, but only after the Reform Panel approves a waiver.

Oct. 1 is the deadline for setting class sizes. If this does not happen in your building, if sizes exceed the agreed-upon limits, or if your administrator asks you take a larger class, please call CEA.

Thank you

A great time was had by all at our Annual Fall Fling. If you were not there, you missed a great time. There was great conversation, laughing, photo taking and, of course, dancing to the music of DJ Saint. There were also some great door-prize giveaways. Members also had the opportunity to mingle with those running for political office. A huge thank you goes out to our volunteers without whom this event would not have been a success: Heather Allen, Marilyn Allen, Karen Andermills, Traci Arway, Maggie Burnes, Rhonda Clark, Courtney Coman, Jeff Corbin, Kriston Crombie, Gerry Curran, Carla Davis, Chaka Diop, Angel Dyer, Marty Flood, Melanie Garvin, Bob Hern, CJ Jamison, Kim Jones, Janet Love, Robin Lucas, Gary Metzenbacher, Kelly Montgomery, Scooter Mullins, Teri Mullins, Ezetta Murray, Jenny Plemel, Jessica Rouse, Dale Rucker, J. Sanchez, Kelly Simmons, Brenda Stone, Jennifer Tyson, Robert Wade, Merele Wilder, Dominique Vacheresse and Dwayne Zimmerman.

Special Notes

- ❑ **Help CEA join the fight against breast cancer.** Register for the **Making Strides Walk**, scheduled for 7:30 a.m. **Sunday, Oct. 11**, starting from COSI, 333 W. Broad St. **Free registration begins at 7 a.m.** Create your own team, or join ours, the CEA Dream Team. Go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus to register. List **Columbus Education Association** as your team company. Call **Ezetta Murray** at 253-4731 to request your T-shirt.
- ❑ **CEA Members Scholarships are available for your college senior.** Distributed through The Columbus Foundation, this fund provides **\$1,250 in tuition assistance. Only CEA members who have taught in CCS for the past four years are eligible.** Your student must have at least a 2.0 GPA in order to apply. The **deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23.** Go to www.ceaohio.org to download an application. Call **Hannah Milley** at 253-4731, if you have questions.
- ❑ **Open Enrollment for your medical benefits will begin on Oct. 6 and end on Oct. 30.** Enrollment will be done online. Look for emails and information mailed to your home from the CCS Employee Benefits Office.
- ❑ **The CEA Social and Economic Justice Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the OEA Headquarters at 4:30 p.m.**
- ❑ **Look for a yellow CEA information card and fill it out.** We need updated information to keep you informed. We do not share it with anyone outside of CEA.

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

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