

# The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

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Columbus Education Association

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## Your Vote is Your Voice

The choice we make in the voting booth is an individual one. But the decision to visit the polls is one that gives us strength as an association. It tells our elected officials, and our friends and family, that we have something important to say, and saying it is worth the effort. When CEA members cast their votes for governing officials, we are declaring that we are watching, listening and judging the performance of the people we put our trust in.

On Nov. 3, you have the opportunity to vote for candidates who value public education. When we elect lawmakers who know that a good education is the foundation that makes our country strong, we protect our country's future. We help ensure policy that favors equality of opportunity for every child in the system and leans in favor of protections for those who work in the classroom.

Today, the existence of unions is constantly threatened, and teachers have become convenient scapegoats for politicians and policymakers who lack the courage or conviction to stand up for what is right. The truth is that we are the stewards of our nation's most valuable resource: public education. It represents hope for our students' futures. Make sure you vote in this year's General Election. Your vote DOES count.

## Volunteers Needed for Phone Banking

Your Association would like to thank Joe Begeny (Beechcroft HS), Rosina Bell-Games (E. Linden ES), Elizabeth Braun (Cols. City Prep. School for Girls), Marty Flood (Indian Springs ES), Christine Foster (Beechcroft HS), Mary Hatem (Winterset ES), Phil Hayes (CEA Office), Cindy Love (Northland HS), Nichole Martin (E. Linden ES), Kim Ogilbee (Starling K-8), Sarah Priebe (Dominion MS), Mike Smith (A.G. Bell/Huy), Diana Welsh (Dominion MS) and Dwayne Zimmerman (Elem. Music). CEA is asking for phone bank volunteers to make calls to other CEA and OEA members in Central Ohio in support of CEA's endorsed candidates. If you are interested, contact CEA Vice President Phil Hayes at 253-4731 to sign up for a shift between the hours of 3:30 and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28. The phone banking will occur at OEA Headquarters, 225 E. Broad St. Volunteers will be provided with training and given a script. Refreshments will be provided. Parking will be available at the CCS Board of Education lot, 270 E. State Street.

## Know the Contract: Covering a Colleague's Class

Sometimes teachers are absent from the classroom and there is no sub to teach that day. Section 209.04 of our contract addresses this situation. The contract requires teachers who receive students from teachers who are absent for a full day with no substitute provided to be compensated in the following manner:

- Elementary teachers who receive students from colleagues without a substitute receive additional pay at the rate of six times three-quarters of the supplemental hourly rate per day. No compensation is provided when an elementary unified arts specialist is absent without a substitute.
- Middle school and high school teachers who are assigned during their conference periods to cover an absent teacher's class will receive pay at the rate of three-fourths of the supplemental hourly rate for each 45-minute period.

If a teacher in your building is absent without a substitute, please let your Association know by sending an email to [tellcea@ceaohio.org](mailto:tellcea@ceaohio.org). Include your school, the teacher(s) without substitute(s) and the date(s). If you are due compensation because you covered for an absent substitute, keep track of the dates of your coverage. If you are not being paid for your coverage, please call CEA.

## Special Notes

- ❑ **Live United:** That's the motto of the **United Way**, and now you have your chance to support the Columbus City Schools campaign. **Fill out your pledge card and authorize a payroll deduction.** A small pledge will do a lot for your students, their families and many other people across our communities to help them obtain health care, job training, access to preschool and much more.
- ❑ **CEA's special election** will be held **Oct. 27–Nov. 10** for **District 4 and 5 Governors** to fill unexpired terms ending in 2017. Take the time to vote. Your participation in this election is central to the work we do.
- ❑ **Oct. 30 is the last day for Open Enrollment for your medical benefits. All CCS employees are required to complete an insurance enrollment form, even if they are not making any changes to their benefits.** Use enrollment #61436 and log into your **Employee Self-Service Account** to register for a plan counseling appointment.
- ❑ *The CEA Voice* will feature a list of **all our members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.** We want to include all of you. Send your **name and branch of service** to **Bob Hern** at [bhern@ceaohio.org](mailto:bhern@ceaohio.org). We will publish your name in the **Nov. 9** issue. **Veterans Day is Wednesday, Nov. 11.**

### 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.

Contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

(614) 461-4455 • [www.cloppertlaw.com](http://www.cloppertlaw.com)