

# The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

May 20, 2013

## OEA RA

More than ninety CEA members attended the Ohio Education Association Spring Representative Assembly (RA) at Veterans Memorial on May 10–11.

Ed Schultz, host of MSNBC's nationally syndicated "The Ed Show," received the OEA Friend of Education Award. The award honors a person or organization whose leadership, acts and support have contributed to the improvement of public education on a statewide or national level.



Ed Schultz

Shultz was a staunch opponent of SB 5. The spotlight of his TV and radio shows helped support our efforts to repeal Issue 2 in the November 2011 election. He issued a call to action to delegates not to be passive in counteracting the possibility of so-called right-to-work legislation.

"If the right to work fight comes to Ohio," said Schultz, "all of you need to engage, not just some. We will stand tall, we will stand together shoulder to shoulder and we will defeat right to work."

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel also addressed the delegates, paying particular attention to the importance of our union for the well being of our profession and for the economic stability of the nation as a whole.

Delegates elected a new OEA President and Vice President who will serve three-year terms beginning Sept. 1. First-grade teacher Becky Higgins, Copley-Fairlawn City Schools, was elected President. High school social studies teacher Scott DiMauro, Worthington City Schools, was elected Vice President.

Delegates approved several new business items dealing with the Common Core State Standards. Delegates voted to support careful implementation of the standards, calling for the immediate suspension of outdated testing that does not align with the new standards. Representatives demanded comprehensive state and local support to bolster chances for successful implementation of the Common Core that provides challenging learning opportunities for all students.

Delegates and OEA staff contributed more than \$40,000 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). The Capital District, with a donation of \$9,183.53, was the highest contributor of the ten OEA districts. CEA members who received FCPE awards were: Ann Aeschbury and Cindy Love, Executive Club—\$500; Bob Hern, Lifetime Achievement—\$3,000; Rhonda Johnson, Hall of Fame—\$6,000.

OEA is the state's largest professional employee organization, representing 121,000 teachers, faculty members and support employees in Ohio's public schools, colleges and universities.

## May is American Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

As we celebrate the contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to the progress of our country, we also recall their history as immigrants and their struggles to become fully recognized U.S. citizens.

Among many milestones, we commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

The theme of this year's Heritage Month is, "I Want the Wide American Earth," chosen by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center to highlight the poem by acclaimed Filipino American writer Carlos Bulosan. Like Bulosan's poem, the AAPI community is aspirational and unwavering in its belief in the promise of America for all:

*Before the brave, before the proud builders and workers,  
I say I want the wide American earth  
For all the free.*

*I want the wide American earth for my people.*

*I want my beautiful land.*

*I want it with my rippling strength and tenderness*

*Of love and light and truth*

*For all the free.*

Visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov> to see what is being done on a federal level and to replicate some of these activities in your school or classroom.



## Stop 1622

Please contact your Ohio senators to stop Amendment 1622 to the state's budget bill. This amendment puts an academic distress commission in place if district employees cheat and gives it the power to strip negotiated agreements. Got a Facebook page? Shout it out. We must stop this fiasco before it gains any more traction.



We thank the FRs who have held the Stop 1622 Ten-Minute Meetings for the buildings/units listed below: Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Avondale ES, Berwick K–8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Brookhaven HS, Burroughs ES, Casady ES, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES @Stockbridge, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Cranbrook ES, Dana ES, Dominion ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Ecole Kenwood K–8, Fairwood K–6, Fifth Ave. K–8, Forest Park



ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Georgian Heights ES, Hamilton STEM Academy K–6, Hilltonia MS, Independence HS, Indianola Informal K–8, Innis ES, I-PASS, Johnson Park MS, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Linden STEM Academy K–6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Maize ES, Maybury ES, Mifflin HS, Moler K–6, North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northtowne ES, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, Psychologists, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, Starling MS, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Winterset ES and Yorktown MS.

## The survey says: Not enough

Frozen salaries, layoffs, large class sizes, pay to play: These are the realities of state education cuts, according to Policy Matters Ohio. The research group surveyed schools across the state to find out how they have fared during the most recent budget biennium and found that more than 60 percent of those responding have faced some drastic decisions. Forty-three percent—261 of the state’s K–12 districts—responded, with 70 percent saying they have continued to make cuts this school year, and 90 percent expect to in 2013–14.

Of the 70 percent of the responding districts that reported cuts for 2012–13:

- 84 percent said they reduced or froze compensation
- 82 percent said they reduced staff
- 57 percent cut materials, supplies, textbooks or equipment
- 43 percent reported larger class sizes
- 23 percent had reduced course offerings
- 22 percent introduced pay-to-play for extracurricular activities or reduced extracurricular offerings

The survey concludes that in fiscal year 2015, under our current funding formula, Ohio’s schools will end up about \$1.2 billion behind where they would have been if the state had funded increases at the rate of inflation. This does not change, even with state increases proposed so far for the coming biennium.

“Neither Gov. Kasich nor the Ohio House have adequately addressed the needs of Ohio’s schools in their budget proposals,” said Policy Matters director Piet van Lier. “The Senate must now lead the way in crafting a stronger, more predictable funding system for the next two years and beyond.”

Policy Matters is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute. Read all the results at <http://www.policymattersohio.org/district-survey-apr2013>.

## Retiring? Wait 60 days

Many of us want to return to the classroom after we’ve retired. We welcome you—but only after you have waited the required 60 days after you separate from CCS. Public employment or volunteering during the first two months will result in the loss of one or two months of retirement benefits. If your last workday is May 31:

- You may not participate or volunteer in any way in school activities until Aug. 1.
- You may not hand out diplomas or be a line leader in a graduation ceremony, but you may attend graduation exercises and sit with the public.
- You should not attend the final staff meeting if it is being held on June 1. Instead, you should check out with your administrator by May 31.
- You may not come back right after school is out to help your administrator or colleagues with schedules,

but you may help them in August.

Do not let your administrator fool you or make you feel guilty about not volunteering. Doing so may result in the loss of two months of retirement checks.

## LA attendance on May 2

We want to thank the faculty representatives that attended our last CEA Legislative Assembly meeting on Mar. 7 at the Columbus Downtown HS. The following is a list of buildings/units that were represented:

A.G. Bell Program, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avondale ES, Berwick K–8, Briggs HS, CEA Office, CAHS, Cassidy ES, Cedarwood ES @ Stockbridge, Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, Fairwood K–6, Fifth Ave. K–8, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K–8, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Lindbergh ES, Linden-McKinley STEM 7–12, Livingston K–6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Music, Neil Avenue Center, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Sherwood MS, South Mifflin STEM Academy K–6, Southwood K–6, Speech & Language, St. Vincent, Starling MS, Sullivant ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Academy K–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

## Special notes

- ❑ Congratulate **Veronica Bryant** for her **30 years** of teaching service at her **retirement party** to be held at **Valley Forge ES** on **Thursday, May 23**, from **5:30–7:30 p.m.**
- ❑ **Elections of CEA Faculty Representatives** for a two-year term, beginning **Aug. 19, 2013**, should be held by the end of the school year. Senior FRs received the FR election packet from **Elections Chairperson Michele Mays** last week. Call her at CEA at **253-4731**, if you have questions.
- ❑ The **PAS**, **Gainsharing** and **TAP awards** remain on hold pending the issuance of a final state report card. CEA is working with our attorneys so that we are apprised of any updates regarding the State Auditor’s investigation of our school district. The money is still there. You will be paid, but we don’t know when. We will inform you of the outcome of the investigation as information becomes available.
- ❑ **Background checks:** If you were last fingerprinted in **2008 (permanent or eight-year certificate holders)**, you must complete your background check **by May 31**. If you hold a **five-year license**, you must get **fingerprinted** when you renew your license. Visit the CCS main offices from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. A **valid driver’s license** or a **state-issued ID** must be presented and a \$40 fee be paid by **credit or debit card or money order. No checks accepted.**
- ❑ Register for the **Middle School Summer Institute** through **CiMS/PD Planner** by **Wednesday, May 29**. The event is **June 3 and 4**, from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the **OSU Ohio Union**. If you have questions, contact **Northgate** at **365-5039**.
- ❑ **National Board Certification (NBC) Orientation:** Teachers interested in taking their professional growth and accomplishment to the next level should attend the **spring session** to learn about the NBC process and qualify for financial support from the district. The session will be held at **Northgate Center, Tuesday, May 21**, from **4:30–6 p.m.** Questions can be directed to **Kristy Leigh** at **365-5039**.