

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XXXVIII, No. 7

Columbus Education Association

October 8, 2007

CEA asks IRS to investigate

The CEA is asking the IRS to investigate apparent political coordination between the Buckeye Institute and the mayoral campaign of Bill Todd. In a letter sent to IRS Acting Commissioner Linda E. Stiff, we allege coordination and participation in developing and filing Bill Todd's lawsuit against the Columbus Board of Education, et al.

"We've undertaken this petition because Bill Todd's coordination with the Buckeye Institute raises serious legal questions," stated CEA President Rhonda Johnson.

The Internal Revenue Code places an absolute prohibition on 501(c)(3) non-profits such as the Buckeye Institute participating or intervening in the political process. CEA points to the following as evidence of apparently illegal participation and intervention in the political process:

- Political lawsuit coordination: In two Associated Press articles, as well as a *Columbus Dispatch* article, Bill Todd admits to developing and basing his political lawsuit and campaign positions on research coordinated with the Buckeye Institute.
- Media rollout coordination: The research in question was timed for release the same week Todd filed his lawsuit and was not publically available until after the lawsuit was filed.
- Material coordination: Todd's lawsuit was provided to and actively promoted by the Buckeye Institute via their Website, though copies of the lawsuit were not available to the general public from the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas during the same timeframe.

In responding to CEA's petition, Buckeye Institute President David Hansen said, "The Buckeye Institute will not be intimidated by union bullies who seek to silence opposing points of view."

Support United Way

There are many reasons to fill out the the United Way pledge form. You look at them everyday. They are your students. Many of us know that our students and their families benefit from the services offered by the various Central Ohio non-profit organizations supported by United Way.

United Way improves the quality of people's lives by uniting the community to address human needs and potential. Dollars you give benefit the spectrum of services.

Our goal this year is \$390,000. Let's meet—better yet, exceed this goal. We invite you to complete your pledge form, and return it to your campaign key worker. If you did not receive a pledge form, notify your SrFR or CEA Vice President Sally Oldham at 253-4731. Thank you for helping our district's drive for the United Way.

CEA launches blog

On Monday, Oct. 8, CEA will officially launch the *CEA Blog* (<http://blog.ceaohio.org>) with the first installment of the *Voices from 1975: The Strike* series. With the addition of the blog and the subsequent expansion of CEA's online presence, members of the Association will now be able to browse informative posts on topics including contract issues, proposed education public policy at the state and federal level, labor-related news, Association events, negotiations updates and much more.

After completing a brief registration form on the site, CEA members will be able to respond to topics posted in the blog. The blog is also open to individuals from the greater Columbus community to comment, including administrators, elected officials, parents and the media.

At this time, the CCS email system filters out the automated reply that sends newly registered users their username and password. Please use a non-CCS email account in order to ensure delivery of your login information. The blog will be updated on a daily basis and will complement existing member information sources like the CEA Website and *The Voice*.

Share and borrow sick leave

Each year, some of our colleagues experience devastating illnesses and injuries that require long recovery periods. Many of us would like to assist one another during these times. That's why we have a sick leave bank to which you can donate two days of your sick leave. A needy employee may receive as many as 10 donated days.

But there are features of *this* program that now can help the donor. Anyone who has joined the bank by donating at least two sick days, and then exhausts his or her own share of sick days, may take a loan from the bank of up to 10 days.

The days are a loan. Any sick leave you borrow must be repaid when you leave the district. Any outstanding sick leave will be deducted from your final paycheck.

We encourage you to donate days and to borrow from the bank if you need it. Bear in mind that if participation in the bank program drops below 10 percent, the program will be canceled.

The donation form is available on Columbus City schools' HR and the CEA Websites along with a detailed description of the plan.

Sign up to walk for a cure

There still is time to register for the Making Strides Walk-A-Thon being held Sunday Oct. 14. When you register, you join thousands of others to raise funds toward breast cancer research.

The walk will begin at 10 a.m. at COSI, 333 W. Broad Street. CEA will have a booth at the



walk, and this is where you will return your donations.

Team members do not need to be employees of the district. There is no registration fee, and you can register up until the day of the event.

Visit the CEA Website to find more information. Or, call Ezetta Murray at CEA, 253-4731, if you have any questions.

Les Brown speaking at Capital Day

Sometimes a day to reflect on the profession, hear an inspiring speaker and share ideas with colleagues is exactly what we need. Such an opportunity is coming up. Capital Day is Friday, Oct. 19, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.



Les Brown will be the keynote speaker for Capital Day, co-sponsored by CEA and the Columbus City Schools. Brown is an internationally recognized motivational speaker and author of highly acclaimed books such as *Live Your Dreams* and *It's Not Over Until You Win*. He is the former host of the nationally syndicated *Les Brown Show*, which focused on solutions rather than problems.

The convention center activities begin at 8:30 a.m. (registration desk opens at 7:30 a.m.) with a keynote address by Brown. Breakout sessions follow, with lunch at noon (for those pre-registered) and more breakout sessions until 3:30 p.m.

Throughout Capital Day, organizers will give out door prizes. You can win an iPod, a laptop computer and more. You can also browse vendor booths and check out new products and services to help you in the classroom.

To find out more, visit www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev, or call CEA at 253-4731.

Support Charity Newsies

If you have students in your school who need to obtain new, clean, warm clothing so they can be successful and attend school everyday, the Charity Newsies may be able to help. For more than 100 years, the Newsies have been working to make sure no child is kept from attending school for lack of proper clothes. Nearly 14,000 students were clothed during the 2006–2007 school year. Sixty-five percent were Columbus City students.



CEA member, Jay Fields, (I-PASS, Linden-McKinley Annex) is the 2008 Charity Newsies Drive Chairman. He is urging CEA members to purchase a special edition of the *Dispatch* on Newsies Drive Day, Saturday, Dec. 8. Newsies members will be selling papers for the 100th year on major streets throughout Columbus. One hundred percent of all donations will purchase school clothing for Franklin County students.

If you know students who could benefit from Charity Newsies, the student's parent or legal guardian should contact the Newsies headquarters, 4300 Indianola Ave., 263-4300.

Ingram Grants for Teachers

Each year, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation generously contributes funds to the CCS to support educational improvement grants for teachers. Grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,500 are awarded for a variety of projects. Successful proposals have had one common quality—they support the district's goal of increased academic achievement for students.

Application information has been emailed to teachers and applications were sent to principals and SrFRs. Copies can be obtained by calling the Grants Office at 365-8733 and can be found on the CCS Website under the grants section. Completed applications are due to the Grants Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 16. All applications must be originals. No faxes will be accepted.

Transporting students

At times, teachers, coaches, nurses and other professional staff are asked to transport students to appointments, events, or to their homes. The occasional transportation of students is termed *incidental driving* by the district and the district does not require that staff take a specialized driving course or use special equipment on their cars. The Board of Education does carry primary insurance for those employees who transport students.

CEA offers a few caveats for those members who chose to drive students in their own cars.

First, check if your private automobile insurance covers you and the child if you are involved in an accident while driving for work-related events.

Be aware that our legal plan through the OEA/NEA declines to offer legal representation if you are in an accident while transporting a student.

CEA has cautioned all staff to never be alone with a student in an enclosed, intimate space without another adult staff member present. If a situation arises where you are transporting a student in your private vehicle, it is best to have parent permission and a district employee accompany you.

CEA members are urged to decide for themselves. Is it worth the small but potentially serious risk to career and family to transport students?

It's not too late to sign up

Even though the deadline has passed for payroll deduction, the open enrollment period for signing up for the CEA Legal Services Plan doesn't end until Oct. 31.

You may find yourself in a situation when you may need legal advice. This could include personal injury, workers compensation, estate planning, domestic relations and credit problems.

Coverage provides services for an annual retainer of \$425 per year, including six hours of consultation services with a \$100 deductible for the first hour. Consult your *CEA Membership Handbook* (p. 87) for more details.

Special notes

- Voting for candidates in the **CEA fall elections** ends on **Oct. 8**. The Elections Committee will **tabulate the votes** on **Oct. 9**. Please see your SrFR if you have not received a ballot.
- The **Teacher Quality Enhancement Partnership** is now accepting applications for its 4–9 Math and Science Licensure program's second cohort. Application deadline is Oct. 15. Space is limited. If you are interested, contact LaShaun Carter at 365-8600 or scarter4491@columbus.k12.oh.us. **Tuition and books are free.**
- CEA Scholarship Assistance** is available for members who have **dependent children who are seniors in college**. Eligibility requirements and forms are available on the **CEA Website**. Send completed applications to Cora Miller. The **deadline is Nov. 2**.
- You should have received the new **Guide to Positive Student Behavior**, the revised version of the old **Guide to Student Conduct**. Much of it may seem familiar, but this one focuses on positive steps for positive results. If you haven't received this guide, please let your principal know.

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.
(614) 461-4455 or www.cloppertlaw.com

