

# The Voice

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

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Columbus Education Association

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## Teachers' positions trusted

What do scientists, police officers, members of the clergy, judges and the President of the United States have in common? According to a Harris poll, they are all examples of professions that the American public believes are not as trustworthy as teachers.

As a teacher, the trust of our stakeholders is essential for everything we must accomplish. The faith of the community and the faith of the families of the students we serve are the catalysts that reinforce each effort educators make everyday to help our students achieve their full potential.

The American public places their unyielding faith in teachers for one simple and undeniable reason—the fact that we are constant advocates for the best interests of our students. We strive to make every opportunity and resource within our power and our reach available to our students.

When the needs of our students are not being met, we work together as a team with other colleagues, our students' families and the community-at-large to make sure our students get the resources and opportunities they both require and deserve.

The trust of our students and the families of Columbus City Schools has been earned by our hard work and unending dedication to the principle that with great public schools available for every child, no child will be left behind.

We, as educators, must remember that as we step into the voting booth, we represent the best interests of our students and their families.

This area of  
*The Voice*  
has been  
intentionally left blank.

## Criticism reprehensible

CEA President Rhonda Johnson submitted a letter to *The Columbus Dispatch* clarifying points made in an Oct. 18 editorial. The editorial praised a Columbus School Board candidate for cost-cutting suggestions (including privatizing transportation and freezing teacher salaries) and chastised the Franklin County Democratic Party for withdrawing its endorsement of her candidacy.

The editorial suggested, "the union's top priority is not the welfare of students but the protection of its members against any demand for accountability and fiscal responsibility within the Columbus City Schools."

Here is a selection from President Johnson's letter: "Our union has always been deeply concerned with doing our part to maintain fiscal responsibility within Columbus City Schools. A significant district expenditure is employee healthcare. After recently completing an audit of our membership to verify dependent eligibility for health insurance, more than \$2 million of taxpayers' money will be saved..."

"We do not settle for the status quo—in fact, we are leaders in school reform. Our award-winning Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) program serves as a model for other school districts across the nation. PAR allows us to police our own ranks and to hold our teachers accountable for their performance..."

"The members of the Columbus Education Association continuously work to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Central Ohio community. The \$382,000 donated to the United Way in 2006 would not have been possible without the generosity of our membership, nor would the more than \$60,000 donated to the United Negro College Fund. Teachers donated more than 2,500 books to Nationwide Children's Hospital Pediatric Literacy Program through the Reach Out and Read campaign. Recent member participation in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk raised nearly \$13,000..."

"To say that Columbus City teachers do not care about students is not only patently false, it is reprehensible. Just ask the school board member who is a proud parent of a child in the Columbus City Schools whose teachers are card-carrying members of the Columbus Education Association."

At the time this edition of *The Voice* went to press, the letter from Johnson had not been printed. Surf to: [www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=287](http://www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=287) to see the complete text of the letter. Additionally, a letter from CEA Governor Lori Cannon to the *Dispatch* can be viewed at the same Web address.

## Leading the way

Our Association has a national reputation for innovation. Over the years, CEA has created a number of programs or concepts that are unique. We are proud of this heritage and want to keep it alive. In the following weeks, we will review many of these special ideas. We hope this will

inspire new approaches from our members as we confront today's major issues.

CEA was one of the first organizations in the country to develop a group legal services plan. Teachers had legal programs for job-related issues for many years. But a legal plan for individual domestic issues was unique.

The program had a big impact since members had more personal issues (including divorces, house closings) than job-related problems. The comprehensive program was another step forward. Now individuals with a great deal of personal legal needs had a plan that extended their coverage.

CEA soon offered our legal program to all the teachers in central Ohio through the old Central Ohio Teachers Association. The OEA noticed, and a few years later our program was offered to every member in Ohio.

NEA was attracted to the idea, and now a domestic legal program is offered nationally through the union.

Today, we are proud that our basic program concept is available to more than 3.3 million teacher members, while our comprehensive program remains specifically for CEA. A Columbus member can travel anywhere in our country and have access to local legal help.

CEA Past President John Grossman said, "Perhaps the best compliment came from entrepreneur Joel Hyatt, who publicly admitted his Hyatt Legal Services program was copied after the original plan drawn up by your CEA."

## We are making great strides

This year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk was a great success. More than 150 people showed up on Oct. 14 to be a member of CEA's walking team. Together, we raised nearly \$13,000 to provide hope to breast cancer patients of today and tomorrow.

Money raised from this year's Making Strides will provide mammograms to underinsured and uninsured women, research grants to promising scientists and support services like Reach to Recovery for breast cancer patients. We are making a difference.

CEA finished third in the top companies for dollar amount raised. One of our teams, the CEA Dream Team finished in the top ten teams for dollar amount raised. Heidi Cortes (Woodward Park MS) was the first CEA member to cross the finish line after running the course in 33 minutes.

We would like to thank the following teams for participating in this worthwhile event: Arlington Park ES; Beery MS; Buckeye MS; CEA Dream Team; Clearbrook MS; Clinton ES; Nurses; Psychologists; Cora's Champion Crusaders; Dana ES; Devonshire ES; Dominion MS Striders; Duxberry Park Dragons; Fifth Ave. ES; Heyl Eagles; Hubbard ES; Huy Bells; Jo Jo's Steppers; Leawood ES; Linden-McKinley Lady Panthers Basketball; Mr. E's Slingers (Indian Springs ES); Northland Nation; North Linden ES; Sistahs That Bind; Southwood ES Team Pride; Woodward Park Walkers; and the Yorktown Patriots.

## Know the contract: *Classroom atmosphere*

Achieving school climate goals is a partnership between teachers and administration. *Section 208.01* of the contract clarifies that partnership, particularly with respect to the administrator's role.

Building administrators have a responsibility to support teachers in their efforts to maintain control and discipline in their classrooms. This means administering the school's and district's discipline policies and backing teachers when issues arise. Teachers must know the policies as well and rely on them. But they are not alone in this responsibility. It's a team effort.

## Elementary grade reporting

The CEA office has received numerous calls about grade reporting procedures for elementary art, music and physical education teachers. According to the *CEA Master Agreement* (Section 307.02), specialists should provide regular classroom teachers with grades for pupils in the respective classes.

It is important that specialists submit their grades to the homeroom teacher in a timely manner. Homeroom teachers will then be able to enter the art, music and physical education grades at the same time they enter the grades for the subjects they teach.

## MS & HS grade reporting deadlines

Please make sure you report your grades on time. There are new deadlines, depending on the type of school:

- Year-round middle and high school: the last Friday of each grading period
- All other high schools and middle schools: third school day following the close of the grading period.

The deadline for entering grades has been changed due to Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) grade reporting requirements.

You may use your school or home computer to enter the grades, but each building administrator must ensure that machines are available for all teachers in their classrooms.

Quarterly assessments are for diagnostic purposes only and are not intended to be a part of the quarterly grade. The results are used to aid teacher instruction. Therefore, you do not need to wait for the results of these tests to enter your grades.

## Special notes

- ❑ **CEA Faculty Representative Workshop:** Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at Northgate Center, Room G. **Harry Lawson, Jr. from NEA** will be here to provide professional development to all faculty representatives including alternates on the topic "Organizing...A Fancy Name for Relationship Building." It is very important that a representative from each building is in attendance. Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. and refreshments will be served. CEUs are also available for attending the workshop.
- ❑ The **deadline to participate** in the **Sick Leave Bank** has been **extended** to the close of the business day on **Dec. 20**. Please consider joining the Sick Leave Bank. If you have questions call CEA at 253-4731.
- ❑ **Winter 2008 Fee Waiver** applications will be in all buildings on **Monday, Oct. 29, 2007**. Send the completed application to Northgate by **Friday, Nov. 9, by 5 p.m.** If you are in Priority I or a Priority II status, be sure to include the proper documentation with your completed fee waiver application. Your priority status could change to Priority III without proper documentation.
- ❑ The **CEA run-off election for Middle School Governor-at-Large** ends **Nov. 5**. The votes will be **tabulated** on **Nov. 6**. Please see your SrFR to obtain a ballot.
- ❑ **Friday, Nov. 2, is the last day** to submit applications to the CEA office for the **CEA Members Scholarship Fund**. Assistance is available for members who have **dependent children who are seniors in college**. Eligibility requirements and forms are available on the **CEA Website**.
- ❑ **Open enrollment** for legal services **ends on Wednesday, Oct. 31**. The annual retainer of \$425 per year includes six hours of consultation services with a \$100 deductible for the first hour. Contact CEA for details.
- ❑ **Blue Jacket Tickets** are available from the CEA office for the following dates: **Nov. 4**, St. Louis (4); **Nov. 12**, Nashville (4); **Nov. 14**, Chicago (4). Call the CEA office at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.

### 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](http://www.cloppertlaw.com)

