

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XXXVIII, No. 24

Columbus Education Association

February 18, 2008

Strickland has the right idea

Gov. Ted Strickland's State-of-the-State Address on Feb. 8 included a wealth of observations about the role of education in Ohio's economy. His recommendations included more flexible opportunities for Ohioans to get college degrees, including allowing high school students to begin college early. CEA found great encouragement in the governor's remarks.



Strickland recognized the progress that public-school teachers have made: "Just last month *Education Week's* report card on the nation's schools placed Ohio 7th among the 50 states. In September, results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that Ohio ranked in the top 10 in all four of its measures."

But we were most impressed with his core principles:

- ▶ Strengthen the public's commitment to education
- ▶ Link education to economic prosperity
- ▶ Identify and build on the strengths of the public school system
- ▶ Ask teachers what works, and follow their lead
- ▶ Develop curricula that meet the varying needs of students
- ▶ Use testing data to inform the process in a productive way

"The principles show Gov. Strickland has recognized the absolute necessity for strengthening the public school system, his appreciation for the ideas and leadership of our teachers, and his understanding of the clear link between a successful education system and a successful Ohio economy," wrote OEA in a press release issued shortly after the governor's address.

CEA concurs. Association President Rhonda Johnson said, "This is the kind of support we have been seeking. We hope to work with Gov. Strickland as he develops plans around these ideas. We are excited about the opportunity to show him and the public that our teachers have made great strides in educating our students; that we have the creativity and expertise to reach all children. We know we have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are equal to the task, and it's extremely comforting to know that our governor is, too."

We will continue to monitor the governor's plans and to participate as much as possible as his strategy develops. Some aspects remain yet to be weighed. Strickland is proposing \$100 million in education cuts over the biennium.

Strickland also announced his intention to increase state control over education policy by creating a cabinet-level Director of Education. It could be an idea worth exploring. We have not yet adopted an official stance on this plan.

More research is needed. But our governor, thinking of the future of Ohio and its children, has given us much to be optimistic about.

Support UNCF

The campaign for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) begins this week. All Faculty Representatives should receive campaign materials by Wednesday, Feb. 20. The campaign will run until Mar. 20.



The UNCF program started more than 60 years ago. This program is the nation's largest, oldest and most comprehensive minority education assistance organization. UNCF provides scholarship support to more than 65,000 students at nearly 900 colleges and universities. Statistics show that nearly 60 percent of these students are the first in their families to go to college, and 62 percent of their families have annual incomes of less than \$30,000. Many former Columbus students have benefited from UNCF support over the years.

Join in this year and support the United Negro College Fund. Members making donations of \$100 or more will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Please complete your form, and return it to your UNCF coordinator. If additional forms and information are needed, please call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731.

Surf to: <http://www.uncf.org/aboutus/index.asp> to find out more about their programs and goals.

It started with a tax

In recognition of Black History Month, CEA will offer a few historical items. Here's one from John Kazalia, who researched historical documents for the Web site *About.com*.



"Many blacks in Ohio were unable to receive any formal education as they were not allowed to attend white schools. This situation began to change when a law was passed in 1829 stating that while black and mulatto Ohioans could not attend public schools, townships were required to spend all taxes assessed black property owners for school purposes for the education of black persons and for 'no other purposes whatsoever.' And so black schools were born in Ohio.



"In 1839 the Negro School Society of Columbus and the School Fund Institution of the Colored People of Ohio opened the first Negro school in Columbus; 63 students attended the first year. In 1848, legislation passed the Ohio legislature requiring all jurisdictions with 20 or more Negro children to create a Negro school district. (Areas with less than 20 Negro children were instructed to have them attend a white school unless a white person objected.) It would be 1861 before the Columbus Board of School Directors would purchase a building exclusively for Negro education."

Support Labor Solidarity Agreement

Reason #1: Strength in Numbers

More than 130,000 teachers in Ohio belong to the Ohio Education Association, our state affiliate—another 30,000 belong to the Ohio Federation of Teachers. Both groups do an excellent job of advocating for their members' best interests in the field of education, a considerable voice in a state with a population of 11 million.



The active membership of the Ohio AFL-CIO exceeds 650,000 members. Those individuals live, vote, work and send their children to schools in every community in Ohio. With more than 55,000 active members of the AFL-CIO in Central Ohio, organized labor provides a bulwark of support on issues of social and economic justice.

In addition to the 55,000 active union members in Central Ohio, the AFL-CIO maintains an allied organization of workers without a union in their workplace, Working America (WA). Approximately 140,000 Working America members live, work, vote and send their children to schools in the Columbus area. The officers and leadership of your Association wholeheartedly recommend voting to join the AFL-CIO Labor Solidarity Partnership.

CEA scholarships

It is time to start preparing applications for CEA scholarships. This program, which has been in place for more than 24 years, is designed to provide scholarships to the children of Columbus teachers. The fund is financed with interest earned from Association bank accounts.

Two scholarships are available, the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an individual pursuing a degree in education and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. Both scholarships are renewable for up to four years but at a reduced level from the first-year award.

The committee has established Friday, May 9, at 5 p.m. as a final date to submit an application. Teachers may request an application form by completing the tear-off sheet below and returning it to the CEA office via school mail. An application form will be sent on receipt of this request.

This scholarship program is not to be confused with the CEA Members Scholarship Foundation, which started in 1993 and experienced its eighth disbursement earlier this school year.

Testing...keep up the pressure

CEA's blog is growing with buzz about how much time teachers spend preparing for and giving standardized tests. The tests are repetitive, the answers often inaccurate, and the time given for follow up inadequate. Keep it up! We want to hear from you on this and other issues that affect your ability to do your job. Keeping CEA informed will ensure we keep the pressure on administration to work collaboratively now and in the future.

The Joint Labor-Management Committee met on Feb. 11, and an ad hoc committee has been formed to address issues related to testing. A more comprehensive report will be in the next issue of *The Voice*.

Legislative update

Public education is under attack on several fronts at the Ohio Statehouse. CEA is working closely with the Ohio Education Association (OEA) and other partners in public education to monitor and defeat a damaging bill that attacks CEA's strength.

Sponsored by State Senator Carey (R-Wellston), Senate Bill 264 bill would eliminate a teacher association's right to strike and instead would force binding arbitration if contract negotiations reach an impasse.

The Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) and the OEA have vehemently opposed this bill, criticizing many aspects of its implications. The Ohio School Boards Association has remained neutral on this bill. *The Dispatch* has opposed this bill because it takes collective bargaining procedures from local control to a hired, unelected arbitrator. CEA has given opposition testimony to this bill.

You can take action now by becoming an OEA Advocate for Children and Education (ACE). To begin cyberlobbying, surf to <http://ga1.org/ohea/home.html> and begin lobbying from home. It is free, quick and effective.

Special notes

- Belated honors to the CCS counselors: **National School Counseling Week was Feb. 4–8**. It is not too late to say *thank you* to those in your building who work countless hours before and after school planning classroom guidance, writing recommendation letters, preparing college applications/transcripts, coordinating testing and much more. Thank you from CEA.
- Take your professional growth and accomplishment to the next level. Plan on attending an **orientation session this spring to learn about the National Board Certification process**. Also, hear how you can qualify for financial support from the State of Ohio. Sessions will be held at **Shepard Center on Thursday, Feb. 21, and Tuesday, Mar. 11**, from 4:30–7 p.m. Prior registration is not required. Any questions can be directed to Carole Moyer at 365-8241.
- Members can sign up for a **travel opportunity** to the **Austrian Alps** this summer. A **ten-day excursion** starting **June 8–18** will land travelers in Munich and go directly to the beautiful resort town of Zell and See. The four-star Hotel Lebzelter will be the base hotel, located on a beautiful lake in the middle of the Alps. Side trips will take travelers to Salzburg, Innsbruck, Salzkammergut (*Sound of Music* area) and the Grossglockner Pass. The last two days of the trip will be in Munich. All sightseeing tours, entrance fees, transportation, breakfasts, dinners and hotel fees are included in the surprisingly reasonable fare. Call CEA at 253-4731.
- Campaigning** in the **CEA Spring Elections** is occurring now until Feb. 25. Voting will be conducted Feb. 26–Mar. 10. Votes will be tabulated Mar. 11.
- Four **Blue Jackets Tickets** are available for the **Feb. 27** San Jose game. Call CEA at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.
- Does CEA have your personal email address? Send it to bhern@ceaohio.org.**

Request for CEA Scholarship Application Form

Name of member making request: _____

Send application to (CCS address): _____



A completed scholarship application, along with a transcript and two letters of reference, must be returned to the CEA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008.