

# The Voice

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

Volume XXXVIII, No. 32

Columbus Education Association

April 21, 2008

## You can influence public policy

Think about it: Joining a union is big. On one level, it is about protecting the quality of your daily working conditions. But on another, it is about influencing and improving public policy.



That's the role of the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE). This 3.2 million-member national political action committee represents educators from all state affiliates.

FCPE works to support and elect candidates to Congress and to the presidency who will fight to safeguard and strengthen public education for each and every American child.

FCPE supports pro-public education candidates in gubernatorial and other important state races and advocates for those it believes voters should support. NEA never recommends or endorses a candidate for federal office without the support of state association leaders.

Contributions to the fund are voluntarily. NEA does not use dues dollars for this purpose.

Consider supporting the committee's work. You will become part of a strong legacy. The NEA Fund has been working on behalf of NEA members for more than 36 years. In the 2006 election, NEA members made more than 100,000 voluntary contributions—more than \$8 million—to support NEA-recommended candidates for federal office.

For more information, visit [www.neafund.org](http://www.neafund.org). You can donate online.

## Freedom Center field trip

The fifth grade field trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati is a district-wide initiative with a goal of having all CCS fifth-grade students participate. The field trip is a wonderful opportunity for our students, some of whom have never been outside the city of Columbus.



Students, parents and teachers will participate in the museum tour entitled, "The Coming of the Civil War." This tour will explore the coming of the Civil War from the Westward Expansion/Antebellum years to the end of Reconstruction. The tour meets Ohio history standards and benchmarks for grades 5 and 8.

To prepare students for the trip, teachers are asked to use the pre-visit activity packet from the Curriculum Department. Teachers are also asked to serve as chaperones for the trip and to help recruit parents to serve as chaperones.

CEA has received many phone calls regarding teachers' required participation and supervision for this activity. No

teacher will be forced to go on the field trip. If the fifth-grade teacher chooses not to go, the principal should then ask for teacher volunteers from the building.

Working with the administration, CEA has agreed that the field trip does amount to an extended day and is beyond the normal teacher workday for those involved. To compensate for this extra time, teachers who volunteer may receive comp time for the extra hours. An example of how comp time could be utilized is allowing the teacher to arrive to work later than the normal start time. Teachers must coordinate this with their building administrator prior to the use of comp time.

If you have any questions or concerns, call CEA.

## Capital District election results

More than 60 delegates participated in the Capital District Representative Assembly on Wednesday, Apr. 2. The Capital District provides professional development and cultural diversity activities for Columbus teachers.

Tai Hayden was re-elected Capital District President and Robin Jeffries was elected vice president. Diane Norman was elected to the OEA Board of Directors.

Tai Hayden is a kindergarten teacher at Deshler ES. Her CEA involvement ranges from Senior Faculty Representative to the Reform Panel and includes much committee work. She currently serves on the CEA Board of Governors as the governor of District 7. Tai has been a member of the OEA Board of Directors and key OEA committees. She is an elected teacher member of the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board of Directors.



**Tai Hayden**

Robin Jeffries currently works as a master teacher in the TAP Program at Lindbergh ES. She serves as Minority Governor-at-Large on CEA's Board of Governors, on the district's Uniform Dress Committee and on the CEA Minority Involvement Program (MIP) Committee. She currently serves on the OEA Board of Directors and various OEA committees.



**Robin Jeffries**

Diane Norman is a science teacher at West HS. She has served as a Senior Faculty Representative, on the Negotiations Team and on the TBS Board of Trustees. Her involvement includes the OEA Committee on Leadership and Development and OEA political action. Diane is a CEA Representative on the Reform Panel and is the CEA District 6 Governor.



**Diane Norman**

Congratulations to the Capital District elected officials.

## Save the date

The CEA will hold its 32nd Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet on Friday, May 30, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus.

Join us in honoring those who have given their time to your association. Each year, we include special awards, such as CEA Friend of Education, Outstanding Faculty Representative in each CEA district and Outstanding CEA Member. Scholarships will be awarded to some very talented students whose parents are members of CEA.

All retirees and senior faculty representatives are invited to attend at no charge. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *The Voice*.

## Legislative update: Financial relief to new fees

The costs of license renewals and background checks for our members have increased dramatically due to new policies passed by the State Board of Education. We are not alone in recognizing this new financial burden to teachers. Representative Allan Sayre (D-Dover) has introduced House Bill 507.

This bill would relieve some of this burden by allowing educators to pay for multi-year license fees in equal annual installments or to make a one-time payment. This bill would authorize a refundable credit against the Ohio personal income tax for 75 percent of amounts paid to obtain or renew a license. H.B. 507 would also authorize a refundable credit against the Ohio personal income tax for 75 percent of the out-of-pocket cost of a criminal records check.

This bill currently has 14 co-sponsors. To find out how you can take action, e-mail CEA Legislative Coordinator Greg Goodlander at [ggoodlander@ceaohio.org](mailto:ggoodlander@ceaohio.org).



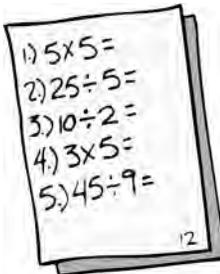
## Testing regulations

We all want our students to succeed. At a time when public education relies heavily on the results of high-stakes testing, it may be tempting to give our students extra assistance and, as a result, questions of ethics arise.

School districts, teachers and administrators have been accused of sharing test questions in advance, not following proper procedures and many other testing irregularities.

The Ohio Department of Education has procedures to identify and report testing irregularities. The guidelines include such vital information as how to define a test incident and what to do if you discover one. Here are the high points:

- ☒ A test incident is an occurrence that inappropriately influences a student's performance on a test, including: distractions such as noises, fire drills, sudden illness and defective test booklet pages; extra time given to take a test, use of a calculator or denial of 504-Plan accommodations; and security violations such as use of cheat sheets, distribution of test copies before administration and altering of a student's answer.



☒ Staff must report all test incidents immediately to the district's designated staff person, who then reports it to the state education department within two business days of the occurrence.

☒ Non-district staff, school board members, parents or friends/relatives of a student or staff also can make reports.

Be sure you know and understand all testing procedures prior to the administration of the Ohio Achievement Tests. Your certification or licensure could be jeopardized for any testing violation.

## Reward our effective school leaders

The Columbus City Schools Development Office is accepting nominations for the Ingram Award for Outstanding Principals. Five CCS principals will receive this award and a \$1,500 professional development grant.

Anyone may nominate a principal who has been an outstanding leader committed to academic achievement, leadership, staff development, parent and staff involvement, resource management and interpersonal communications.

All principals in the district are eligible. The deadline is May 11. Contact the Development Office at 365-8733 if you have questions.

## Special notes

- ☐ The **Summer 2008 Fee Waiver Applications** should be in teachers' mailboxes on **Monday, April 21. Applications are due back to Northgate by Friday, May 2, by 5 p.m.** If you have Priority I or Priority II status, be sure to include the proper documentation with your completed application. **Applications without documentation will be processed as Priority III status.**
- ☐ CEA is in the process of **administering an online survey** regarding the possibility of joining the **NEA/AFL-CIO Labor Solidarity Partnership**. CEA needs your **immediate feedback**. Go to the following link to take the survey, <http://www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=326>.
- ☐ A **retirement reception for Marilyn Wikoff and Arlene Rucker** will be held at **Northgate Center** on Friday, May 2, from 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- ☐ The **CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Summer Quarter** will soon be available for viewing online. **Pre-registration opens on Monday, Apr. 28, and will close on Sunday, May 11.** Information about the specific courses will be sent at a later date. For more information, and to register, go to [www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu)

See us on the Web at

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



Explore the Freedom Center on the CEA Web site at <http://www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=325>

## 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.