

The Voice

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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OEA Representative Assembly recap

The Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly (RA) met Friday, Apr. 18 and Saturday, Apr. 19, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. OEA President Patricia Frost-Brooks presented Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann with the 2008 Friend of Education award. Dann has received both praise and criticism for his recent actions in prosecuting chronically failing charter schools for violating charitable trust laws.



OEA RA in session at the Columbus Convention Center

The membership of CEA voted last spring and this fall to elect 89 delegates to the OEA RA. CEA's delegates voted to approve a two-year budget for OEA that slightly reduces the dues for teachers in the second year.

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland spoke to the gathered delegates, saying "The Ohio Education Association is part of the family, and my door is always open to you."

"The public really has no idea what it is that you do," said Strickland. "Yet society heaps on public education all of its ills and wants teachers to be a scapegoat. This criticism needs to be directed to society at large—all of society that sends you the children that you teach, fashion, model and produce into effective citizens."

"We as a state have much to be proud of," added Strickland. "*Education Week* magazine ranked Ohio's educational system seventh in the country. The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), a national test that has been the nation's report card, showed that Ohio's students ranked in the top 10 of all four subjects tested. Yet as a state, the inescapable global economic climate puts pressure on you as the educators and on your students as the learners to continually do better. All of the problems that confront society can only be solved or resolved by focusing on the education of its people."

State leaders are pushing harder for reform

The Ohio Grantmakers Forum has issued a call to Ohio's legislators to speed up their work on school funding and educational reform.

The forum of philanthropists, business leaders, educators and policy makers, formed an education task force in 2005. Its general recommendations were:

- A seamless P-16 (pre-school through college) system with clear goals
- World-class standards and stronger accountability
- Guaranteed teacher/principal quality
- Increased innovation/options
- Funding tied to results

In May of last year, more than 200 educational, policy, business and philanthropic leaders met to look more deeply at these recommendations. They held meetings throughout Ohio with 1,500 educators and community members. Forum participants agreed with this agenda, but added that:

- School funding must be improved so all districts have adequate resources to serve students of all abilities and with the full spectrum of needs (special education to gifted and talented).
- A new balance is needed between state and local control.
- Academic goals must be reasonable and highly focused.
- Reform includes social and cultural issues as well.

The entire community must help efforts to educate young children. Standards should be rigorous for all students but with appropriate safety nets and teacher training. Students need to be prepared for life, and that means higher education and job training should be linked to K-12 education in relevant ways.

CEA and OEA strongly support this effort. We urge you to stay involved and stay informed.

CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet

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

Everyone is invited to attend this special evening. In addition to retirees, presentations will be made to the CEA Friend of Education, the Outstanding Faculty Representative in each CEA district and the 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. The cost for others attending is \$25. To make a reservation, call the CEA office at 253-4731. Watch for information that will reach your building shortly.

If you know someone who is retiring and who did not receive a personal invitation to the banquet, please have that person call CEA Administrative Assistant Judy Nelson.

Make a BIG difference...

It's hard to imagine influencing national public education policy. But when you are part of a large organization with a loud voice, you can do great things.

The NEA has developed the Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE), and we urge you to support this political action committee.

Contributions are voluntary. NEA does not use dues to support these activities.

Consider how NEA, through its lobbying activities is making a difference on behalf of 3.2 million NEA members.



Because the Fund backs candidates for political office who are strong education supporters, NEA is gaining headway:

- ☑ **Rewriting NCLB:** The law is both seriously flawed and underfunded. It hasn't worked. The end result has been a loss of what makes teachers special—teaching to the child—and not teaching to the test. We need friends of education in Congress and the White House who will listen to your concerns—and make the changes your students deserve.
- ☑ **Funding federal education programs:** The federal government has been quick to tell local schools what to do—but is almost completely absent when it comes to funding those growing federal mandates. We need people in office who understand that it takes resources and not just rhetoric to create great public schools for every child.
- ☑ **Strengthening teacher incomes and pensions:** Attracting and retaining high quality teachers and other school staff requires competitive salaries comparable with those in other professions. The NEA Fund is helping to elect pro-public education officials who support competitive wages and a broader retirement safety net.
- ☑ **Protecting public schools from voucher threats:** Vouchers for private and religious schools are an educational, social, legal, and political failure. The public consistently votes down these ill-advised schemes. The NEA Fund is fighting to keep this failed policy from damaging public schools.

Here's how you can get involved and help:

- ☑ Make a personal contribution to support The NEA Fund.
- ☑ Get informed about the 2008 elections by signing up for e-mail alerts.
- ☑ Visit the NEA Legislative Action Center and speak out on critical education issues.
- ☑ Visit www.neafund.org for more information.

Joining TBS is the right thing to do

TBS is our political-action arm, a separate entity from CEA developed to focus on the political arena. It raises money for political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other ballot issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community.



We want to thank and to congratulate the following members from CEA District 7 who have chosen to support Teachers for Better Schools: Christine Ault, Marial Burr, Shirley Cannon, Felix Catheline, Phyllis Cline, Michelle Coneglio, Olga Delinikos, Susan Fadley, Cheryl Gulling, Michelle Hall, Tai Hayden, Nicole Hunter, Jeanette Johnson, Cleopatra Lauderdale, Carol Lynch, Johnny Merry, Denny Mulloy, Char Potts, Melanie Shafer, Edna Thomas, John Thomas, Ann Ventling and Carol Woods.

CEA does not use any dues money to promote individual candidates. Instead, we ask you donate to TBS. You can do this through payroll deduction. To download a TBS form, go to www.ceahio.org/staticDocs/tbs_form.pdf.

Compare your pay

Tired of hearing critics argue that teachers are well-paid considering they *only work six hours a day and have their summers off*? NEA has installed a pay calculator on its Web site at www.nea.org/pay/teachercalc.html.

You'll find simple instructions for entering your salary, contractual days and hours worked and time spent on *offline* tasks such as grading and tutoring students.

This can be a great tool to help you make your argument: Teaching is NOT a nine-month, seven-hour a day job. Chances are, you're underpaid.

A member benefit of CEA

A valuable benefit of union membership is legal representation. You may never need it; but, as a CEA member, you can rest assured that you are part of the association's Professional Liability Insurance and Attorney Referral programs.

The Ohio Education Association board recently decided that non-member union dues payers won't be able to use these benefits starting in the fall. If you are a non-member who pays CEA fees, you still will be represented during negotiations and grievance proceedings. But if you need a lawyer or liability protection, you won't have them through CEA.

Why not take full advantage of what CEA has to offer? We have spent decades crafting these legal protections. Please consider becoming a full CEA member. If not, you miss out on many valuable benefits. Give us a call at 253-4731 for more information on how to become a full CEA member.

Special notes

- ☐ The **Summer 2008 Fee Waiver 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.**
- ☐ **Pre-registration for the CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Summer Quarter opens on Monday, Apr. 28, and will close on Sunday, May 11.** For more information, and to register, go to www.columbus.k12.ob.us/osu
- ☐ Join CEA-R at the **BalletMet** performance of **Romeo and Juliet** on **Thursday, May 1**, at 11 a.m. Following the performance, attendees will meet for lunch at the **Florentine Restaurant** on West Broad Street. The cost for the performance and lunch is \$27. Call Marilyn Allen at (614) 299-4841 to make a reservation and for more information.
- ☐ **Safelite Auto Glass'** Inbound Contact Centers in Dublin and Westerville are **offering summer employment opportunities to teachers.** Schedules are flexible and can be part-time. Pay starts at \$10 per hour (bilingual Spanish speakers start at \$13 per hour). Contact Patty Eisele at 901-1733, or e-mail her at patricia.eisele@safelite.com.

See us on the Web at

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



To read more and make a contribution to the **NEA Fund for Children and Public Education** go to: <http://www.ceahio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=327>

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.