

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

September 22, 2008

LA overview

CEA President Rhonda Johnson welcomed more than two hundred delegates and guests to the first Legislative Assembly of the school year, held at Confluence Park on Sept. 11, 2008.

“With our recent negotiated raise, CCS teachers now make the NEA goal of a \$40,000 salary for first-year teachers,” said Johnson.

Johnson noted that we have been successful in making the work of the the Joint Labor-Management Committee a collaborative process. “The Joint Labor-Management Committee has eliminated close to 60 assessments from the testing schedule.”

“We have kept our Continuous Improvement rating for a second year,” said Johnson, “in spite of larger class sizes and a shortened school day.

We must maintain our progress, because we are facing a funding crisis that threatens to roll back the significant gains that we’ve made. That is why this fall, it is of the utmost importance to *our* students, *our* schools, *our* community and *our* future that we support our school levy and bond issue—Issue 75.”

Superintendent Harris made a guest appearance to thank the CCS teachers for their hard work that resulted in the district’s Continuous Improvement rating. Mark Real, President and CEO of KidsOhio.org presented an overview of the group’s *Non-Partisan Guide To Issue 75*. Mark Hatch, former school board member and the labor liaison for the campaign, asked for the delegates’ endorsement of Issue 75. Ron Rapp, OEA Director of Governmental Services, spoke on the importance of electing friends of education at the local and state level in November.

Reg Weaver, former NEA President, congratulated Columbus teachers on their hard work in maintaining the district’s Continuous Improvement rating. “There is no prosthesis for an amputated spirit,” remarked Weaver. “For too many instances, the spirits of our children have been amputated, and they come to us with the expectation that we do something about it. From what I’ve heard, you’re doing a hell of a job.” He also reminded teachers about the work that needs to be done between now and Nov. 4.

The delegates later endorsed the Teachers for Better Schools slate of candidates and local issues without debate.

To see video of the event, surf to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=00Bu-Jd0H94.



CEA President Johnson speaks to FRs at LA



New FRs recognized



Former NEA President Reg Weaver energizes the LA

Sizing up the candidates

Candidate endorsements for the November election have begun. The CEA Legislative Assembly on Sept. 11 voted to support the recommendations of Teachers for Better Schools (TBS), including endorsing Senator Barack Obama for President and to support Issue 75—the Columbus City Schools Levy & Bond Issue.

Here is the list of endorsed candidates:

President and Vice President of the United States
Barack Obama and Joe Biden

Ohio Attorney General
Richard Cordray

Representative to Congress
12th District: David Robinson 15th District: Mary Jo Kilroy

Justice of the Supreme Court
Joseph D. Russo Peter Sikora

Member State Board of Education
(to be considered in October)

10th Court of Appeals
John A. Conner Lisa L. Sadler

Ohio Senate
16th District: Jim Hughes

Ohio House
19th District: Marian Harris 20th District: Nancy Garland
21st District: John Carney 22nd District: Kevin Bacon
23rd District: No position 24th District: Ted Celeste
25th District: Dan Stewart 26th District: Tracy Heard
27th District: W. Carlton Weddington

Franklin County

Court of Common Pleas General Division
Daniel T. Hogan David W. Fais
Richard S. Sheward Tim Horton

Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division
Dana Suzanne Preisse

Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division
Eric Brown

County Commissioner
Paula Brooks John O’Grady

Prosecuting Attorney Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
Ron O’Brien Maryellen O’Shaughnessy

Sheriff **County Recorder**
Jim Karnes Robert G. Montgomery

County Treasurer **County Engineer**
Edward Leonard Dean C. Ringle

Coroner
Jan M. Gorniak

Issues we support

The CEA Legislative Assembly also voted to support various city and school issues for the November ballot, including Issue 75, the Columbus City School District Levy & Bond.

Our endorsements are found below:

- #14-19 City of Columbus Bond Issues
- #74 Canal Winchester LSD Tax Levy
- #75 Columbus City SD Bond Issue and Tax Levy
- #76 Dublin City SD Bond and Tax Levy
- #77 Groveport Madison LSD Tax Renewal of Emergency Levy
- #78 Hilliard City SD Tax Levy
- #79 New Albany-Plain LSD Tax Levy
- #80 Reynoldsburg City SD Tax Levy
- #81 Southwestern City SD Bond and Tax Levy
- #82 Whitehall City SD Bond and Tax Levy

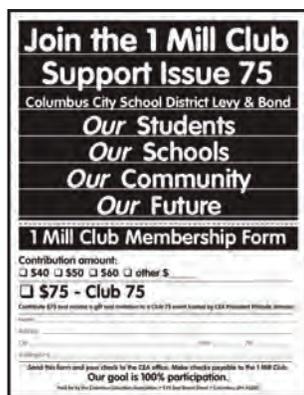
Support the levy campaign

CEA has set a \$100,000 fundraising goal in support of Issue 75, the Columbus City Schools Levy & Bond issue. Our slogan is, "Our Students, Our Schools, Our Community, Our Future."

You can become part of this exciting effort by joining the *1 Mill Club*. Ask your FR for a membership form. We are asking every teacher to contribute at least \$40. Our goal is 100% participation.

You can join an elite group of supporters by making a contribution of \$75 or more. Become a part of *Club 75*. You will be invited to the Club 75 event hosted by CEA President Rhonda Johnson. Members will also receive a special gift.

The names of every contributor will be published in future issues of *The Voice*.



CEA tutoring to begin in 13 schools

The Columbus Education Association Foundation has been given the green light to start its reading, math and OGT tutoring services to students in the following schools: Douglas ES, Fair ES, Innis ES, Maybury ES, Oakmont @Shady Lane ES, Salem ES, Champion MS, Franklin MS, Johnson Park MS, Westmoor MS, Yorktown MS, Brookhaven HS and Walnut Ridge HS.

If you know students who need to enroll, contact the SrFR in your building. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 26. We will keep you posted regarding when specific tutoring opportunities will be available for these buildings.

Capital Day is coming

On Friday, Oct. 17, the Capital District is pleased to offer an enriching slate of professional development activities for our members. Our inspiring main event at the Hyatt Regency features nationally respected educator and author Ron Clark.

If a school plans to hold its own educational activity, the deadline for submitting the school-activity prospectus is Thursday, Sept. 25. You must include the signatures of your principal and the FR.

Teachers who want to attend a professional development activity outside the district must obtain the permission of their principal and their names must be submitted to the Office of Staff Development by Friday, Oct. 10.

Each person is expected to attend an approved professional development activity on Capital Day. This is a workday but you may attend the approved activity of your choice.

CEA legal services

We've got a great benefit: Our Comprehensive Legal Services program.

When you join the program, you get help with such matters as divorce, estate planning, living trusts and property purchases.

You can enroll until Oct. 31 to cover this school year, along with payment of a retainer of \$425 to the Plan attorneys. There are many benefits of enrollment, namely reduced legal fees and substantially reduced hourly rates, with a \$100 deductible.

The firm, Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn, has created a "members only" Web site where you can find out all about the program. E-mail jnelson@ceaohio.org for the user name and password.

CEA urges all members to take advantage of these benefits for legal services. Check out the site or contact the firm at 461-4455.

Register to vote

Are you registered to vote? Are your friends and relatives registered to vote? There is still time. Here are the eligibility rules and deadlines:

To vote, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old at election time
- A resident of Ohio for at least 30 days

Registration forms may be completed in person or returned by mail to:

- Any county board of election
- The Ohio Secretary of State's office
- Designated agencies including any BMV, ODJFS, or Deputy Registrars
- Any county treasurer's office
- Any public high school or vocational school
- Any public library

For more information, call 466-2585, e-mail election@sos.state.oh.us, or visit www.sos.state.oh.us.

Wexner free open house

The Wexner Center for the Arts at OSU is opening its doors to teachers from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25. The annual Teacher Open House will preview a new year of educational programming.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and hear from Cynthia Weiss, artist and associate director for school partnerships at Columbia College Chicago's Project AIM program. See the new show, "Andy Warhol: Other Voices, Other Rooms," free of charge.

Register for the International Performing Arts for Schools series and for school-day screenings from Zoom Family Film Festival a day in advance of everyone else.

Special notes

- Registration for the **Making Strides Breast Cancer Awareness Walk** begins at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 5. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. at COSI, 333 W. Broad Street. CEA will have a tent, and this is where you will turn in your donations. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call Ezzetta Murray at CEA (253-4731) if you have questions.

CEA members: Take advantage of the legal benefit plan offered by CEA.

You are entitled to four free one-half hour consultations per year, a free living will, a free medical durable power of attorney, free notary services and reduced legal fee rates.

Contact the law firm of Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn for all of your legal needs.

Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn

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Protecting School Teachers Like You!