

# The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

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

Volume XXXIX, No. 7

Columbus Education Association

October 6, 2008

## Late layoffs

Nine Columbus teachers received devastating notices from the Administration on Sept. 25: Their services to the district's children would no longer be needed. The district's immediate suspension of their contracts and their health, vision and dental insurance benefits will terminate at the end of November for the teachers, their spouses and their children. One of the laid-off teachers had 13 years of service to the district.

"The administration knew there were no positions for these nine teachers in the spring," declared CEA President Rhonda Johnson, "and based on the reduction in the unified arts program at the middle school level, the administration should have issued layoff notices last spring. There is never a good time to be laid off, but the administration's failure to act in a timely manner took away teachers' options to find positions in other school districts." Laid-off teachers will receive fee waivers, but classes for the fall quarter have already started.

"I was told by the Administration that they were 'close' to estimating the number of teachers they needed," continued Johnson. "Close is not good enough when it affects a person's livelihood."

"The Columbus City School District faces a serious financial crisis if Issue 75 does not pass. More layoffs are imminent. We must do everything necessary to support this levy. At stake are our students, our schools, our community and our future."

A meeting was held by the Administration on Oct. 1 to review the terms of the layoff and to discuss recall options. CEA consultants were on hand to represent the affected teachers and to negotiate other employment opportunities.

The Administration has pledged to work with CEA so that this scenario does not occur a second time.

## Why we need Issue 75

We want to thank the supporters of Issue 75 and members of the 1 Mill Club and Club 75. They know there are dozens of reasons why you should vote to pass Issue 75 and ensure additional funding for the Columbus City Schools.

Here are the top reasons:

- ➔ A funding crisis will roll back significant gains of the past four years. These gains are helping us regain the public's faith and trust.
- ➔ So far, graduation rates have risen to 70 percent in 2007 from 54 percent in 2001. The district has also maintained its rating of Continuous Improvement.
- ➔ Funds will help restore important programs, including in-school suspension programs in middle and

high schools, professional development days and the one hour of the school day that was lost.

- ➔ Funding also will help restore:
  - ➔ Unified arts program in middle schools
  - ➔ Electives in high school
  - ➔ Classes for specific levels of foreign language
  - ➔ Smaller class sizes
- ➔ The district has kept its promise not to ask for new funds since the 2004 levy passed, including:
  - ➔ Placing a 3 percent cap on spending
  - ➔ Closing and/or consolidating 21 schools
  - ➔ Strengthening financial oversight with an expanded Audit and Accountability Committee
  - ➔ Issuing a quarterly fiscal report card
- ➔ The cost is relatively low. Columbus homeowners would pay an additional \$275 a year for every \$100,000 in property valuation, which is less than \$23 per month. Seniors (65+) would pay much less.

Become a 1 Mill Club or Club 75 member and support Issue 75. Go to [www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org) to download a form, and return it along with your donation to Sally Oldham at the CEA office.

At the time this issue of *The CEA Voice* went to press, the following members recently joined the 1 Mill Club:

**Club 75 Members:** Patricia Oliver (CAHS), David Fawcett (CAHS), Dean Fowls (Northgate), Beth Masters (West HS), Rita Barksdale (West HS), Dianne Stickel (Cedarwood ES), Jan Bell (Northland HS), Gerry Curran (PAR), Jane Roth (PAR), Phil Hayes (Brookhaven HS), Deb Starr (Broadleigh ES), Rose Bokman (Broadleigh ES), James Noice (Elem. PE), Rosalie Perry (Sullivant ES), Bonita Agnew (Elem. Art), David Perry (Westmoor MS), Greg Goodlander (École Kenwood), Christine Root (Eastmoor Academy), Susan McCoy (Eastmoor Academy), Catherine Bauer (Eastmoor Academy), Susan Levitin (Eastmoor Academy), Heather Djafi (Eastmoor Academy), Claudia Eschelbach (Marion-Franklin HS), Barbara Reed (CEA-R), Diana Welsh (Dominion MS), Deborah Huffman-Mirib (Independence HS), Michele Mays (Sherwood MS), Karen Spooner (Georgian Heights ES), Mickie Sebenoler (Northgate), Gigi Morelli (Northland HS), Maggie Glasgow (Heyl ES), Sara Chang (Broadleigh ES), Nicholas Brandt (Forest Park ES), Brenda Rucker (Hilltonia MS), Cindy Jamison (Leawood ES) and Greg Mild (Northgate).

**1 Mill Club:** Chris McMahon (Nurses), Monica Martin (Gifted & Talented), Valerie Parks (Como ES), Amy Bridges (Como ES), Eric Hulteen (Como ES), Michael Mitchell (Como ES), Deborah Harris (Como ES), Greta Langston (Como ES), Rachel Renkes (Como ES), Sue Zepernick (Como ES), Patricia Kiefer (Speech Pathology), Karin Trabue (Ridgeview MS), Jai Scott (École Kenwood), Deb Smith (Ridgeview MS), Betsy Bhasker (Northgate),

**Join the 1 Mill Club  
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Columbus City School District Levy & Bond

Michelle Stasa (West HS), Loren Bucek (Easthaven ES), Carol Woods (PAR), Sharon Clay (Nurses), Michelle Coneglio (Dana ES) Pam Kindinger (Work Study), Dagmar Wolcott (Mifflin HS), Robin Cook (Eastmoor Academy), Paul Parks (Northgate), Nicole Hernandez (Como ES), Kathryn Lown (Como ES), Alice Munnerlyn (South HS), Christine Arnold (PAR), Susan Hall (Como ES), Cynthia Ryan (Northgate CL/D), Laura Cua (Northgate), Linda Wright (Northgate), Mia Prewitt (Eastmoor Academy), Robert Turner (Eastmoor Academy), Alison Hursey (Como ES), Marc Ramsey (CAHS), Steve Schack (Livingston @Beck ES), Paul Froehlich (Indianola MS), Theresa Mahoney (Olde Orchard ES), Mike Thorn (Westgate ES), Tawana Thorn (Broadleigh ES), Brenda Wander (Nurses), Kelly Rasberry (Sherwood MS) and Molly Mott (AAA Academy).

## Get on the phones

The Ohio Education Association is asking for phone bank volunteers to make calls in support of OEA-recommended candidates in targeted state and congressional districts and for the State Board of Education.

Here is your opportunity to volunteer! *RSVP* to Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 for one of the following dates:

☎ Tuesday, Oct. 14

☎ Tuesday, Oct. 28

☎ Or any Monday or Thursday through Oct. 30

Volunteer times are 6–9 p.m. at the OEA Headquarters Media Center, 225 E. Broad St.

The calling process is computerized. Volunteers will receive a short training, an on-line script, computer-initiated calling, and drop-down menus from which to check off caller responses.

Volunteers who give two hours will receive \$20 gas cards.

## Important voting information

If you are not registered to vote, you still have time. Visit the CEA office, your local public library or the Board of Elections. You must be registered by Oct. 6 to vote on Nov. 4. For more information, visit <https://www.ohea.org/GD/Templates/Pages/OEA/OEADetail.aspx>.

To find out if the Board of Elections has your information, fill out the form at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Voterquery.aspx?page=361&Aspx.AutoDetectCookieSupport=1>.

If you discover inaccurate information, or do not find your registration information, request directory information by contacting your local elections board. The link is: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/boeDirectory.aspx>.

In order to vote absentee, complete an absentee ballot application, and return it the Franklin County Board of Elections. You can get one online or by mailing a letter to the Board of Elections. Here is the link: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterinformation/absentee.aspx>. To fill out a form, visit: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/upload/elections/forms/11a.pdf>.

If you just moved, changed your name or for other reasons are not registered in a particular precinct, information on provisional voting can be found at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterinformation/provisional.aspx>.

## Attend Capital Day

A number of schools have been approved to hold professional development activities in their buildings on Capital Day. You may choose to attend the activity at your school or attend the main event at the Hyatt Regency.

The following schools/sites have been approved to offer professional development on Capital Day: 6th Street Annex (Nurses), Arlington Park ES, Beery MS, Berwick K–6, Cas-

sady ES, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Dana ES, Douglas ES, East Linden ES, Fair ES, Forest Park ES, HS Welcome Center, Huy@Gladstone ES, Indian Springs ES, Indianola MS, Leawood ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lit. Based@Hubbard ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Moler ES, Monroe MS, Northgate (Art/PE), Northtowne ES, Oakland Park ES, Parsons ES, Ridgeview MS, Scottwood ES, South HS@Barrett, Trevitt ES, Watkins ES, Weinland Park ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS and Whetstone HS.

## Help out and speak up

OEA is keeping track of members who volunteer with various 2008 campaigns and issues. If you have attended a rally, worked for a candidate or issue, participated in literature drops or labor walks, or helped in other ways, e-mail your name, school and activity to Ezetta Murray at [emurray@ceaohio.org](mailto:emurray@ceaohio.org).

## Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank

The Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank is in need of donated days. There are currently no days remaining in this bank. The Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank is for colleagues or their families who are experiencing very serious or life-threatening illnesses. A teacher can receive up to 45 days of Catastrophic Leave, providing there are enough days in the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank and the request for the leave has been approved by the Catastrophic Sick Leave Committee. Donations can be made directly to the bank by filling out a sick leave form, or days can be given for specific teachers. These days can be donated at any time.

The above is a different sick leave bank from the regular Sick Leave Bank, which can grant up to 10 days at a time for teachers needing additional sick time for illnesses that are not life threatening.

## Ohio government: For teachers by teachers

Ohio Government in Action (OGIA) was designed for teachers by teachers using the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Social Studies as their guide.

Presented Oct. 22 and 23 at the Ohio Judicial Center in Columbus, the professional development focuses on authentic, hands-on experiences designed around all three branches of Ohio government, citizenship rights and responsibilities and Ohio history. All participants will receive a binder with a wide variety of valuable teaching materials that extend classroom resources.

This program is especially valuable for teachers in grades 3–6. Contact hours are available. Sign up now and visit [www.oclr.org](http://www.oclr.org) for more information.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Supt. Gene Harris** will speak on “**The State of Columbus City Schools**” at **5:30 p.m., Oct. 9**, at the Performing Arts Center at Ft. Hayes. Information will be coming to your building or CCS e-mail address.
- ❑ The **Comprehensive Legal Services program** payroll deduction deadline has passed, but you can still pay the \$425 retainer and **enroll through Oct. 31**.
- ❑ The deadline to become a member of the *regular Sick Leave Bank* has been extended to **Tuesday, Oct. 7**. You can download the donation form from the CCS and CEA Web sites, along with a detailed description of the plan.

**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!*