This area of The Voice has been intentionally left blank because it contains a political endorsement.
Open enrollment for healthcare insurance

The open enrollment period for health benefit programs this year is from Oct. 15–Nov. 14. The open enrollment provides the annual opportunity for teachers and other employees to choose new health plan options or to make changes, such as choosing a different plan or adding or dropping dependents.

Each employee will receive the new 2009 Guide to Employee Benefits which outlines benefits available to CCE employees and includes the necessary enrollment forms.

Complete information is also available on the CCE intranet. If you are keeping the insurance plan you currently have, you do not need to do anything. The booklet also includes the prices for 2009, which have increased by 12 percent over 2008.

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) will be the new prescription provider for CCE. The change will be in effect Jan. 1, 2009. Employees will receive new cards well ahead of the effective date and will find a seamless transition from the Aetna prescription program. Please note that Aetna will continue to be the provider for our medical insurance program.

Aetna will also administer the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program which allows pretax dollars to be deducted and used for healthcare and dependent care. This year the FSA will include a debit card which will allow participants to pay for many eligible health expenses at the point of purchase.

Special Works accepting new students

SuccessWorks Academy (SWA), the district program which focuses on students in grades 3–7 with the most serious behavior problems, has openings for students at all grade levels.

Students must meet the following criteria in order to be considered:

- Numerous violations of Level 2 or Level 3 behaviors as listed in the Guide to Positive Student Behavior

Grossman Memorial Concert

The Columbus Männerchor will dedicate their 160th Anniversary Concert to former CEA President John Grossman. The concert was a project on which John was working prior to his untimely death. A choir from Dresden, Germany, will be performing in John’s memory. The concert will be held on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 5 p.m. at the Ft. Hayes Performing Arts Theater. Tickets are available from CEA-R member Janet O’Leary (457-7972) or Carol Wagnor at the CEA Office.

Special Notes

- The payroll deduction deadline has passed for enrolling in the Comprehensive Legal Services program. However, you can still pay the $450 retainer and enroll through Oct. 31.

- Ashland University is offering three technology courses this fall: Using Technology in the Classroom, Web 2.0 Classroom Technology, and Virtual Field Trips in the Classroom. All courses are offered online and in one-weekend session formats. Go to http://pd4me.wikispaces.com for more information.

- Ballots will be counted by the CEA Elections Committee on Nov. 18.

- Every member in District 6 is encouraged to participate in our democratic process to elect a new member to the CEA Board of Governors.

- Additional information about the position can be found in the CEA Constitution online at www.ceaohio.org.