

The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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Obama-Biden victory

On Nov. 4, the United States made history electing the

first African-American to the Presidency of the United States, Sen. Barack Obama—a true friend of public education. “With the election of Senator Obama, edu-



President-Elect Barack Obama and Vice President-Elect Joe Biden

cation is going to change,” said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. “The changes he plans to make are going to be in the right direction, in the best interests of students and teachers. He knows that the most important element of success is educational opportunity.”

Obama’s framework for education includes investing in innovation, integrating technology into coursework, increasing college access and affordability, recruiting, preparing and retaining qualified teachers. President-elect Obama has indicated he will expand access to early-childhood education by proposing to spend up to \$10 billion to help states throughout the country create preschool programs.

President-Elect Obama has also pledged to address the narrowing of curriculum that has been the result of the so-called *No Child Left Behind* law, with schools now more focused on getting students to learn test-taking instead of expanding educational opportunities for those children. He also indicated that NCLB was an unfunded mandate and that it had become a burden to local school districts. He has proposed to increase the funding and improve the quality of tests so that they measure higher-order thinking skills.

Obama staunchly rejects the concept and practice of school vouchers, having said publicly that he has seen no evidence that school vouchers improve student achievement.

Obama plans to recruit more teachers by starting a residency program that would combine coursework and hands-on teaching with a mentor teacher, similar to our PAR program. Under the Obama plan, teachers who work in high-needs schools or who mentor new teachers would be eligible for bonuses. President-Elect Obama has also proposed a \$4,000 American Opportunity college tax credit to students who agree to perform 100 hours of community service.

“We look forward to working with President-Elect Obama on the important task of educating our students,” said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. “This is truly the change our students, their families and we, as educators, can believe in.”

Issue 75 passes

The students of Columbus City Schools were the real winners with the passage of Issue 75 on Nov. 4. The passage of the 8.98-mill combined bond and levy package will provide the district with \$77 million a year in additional operating funds and \$164 million in bond monies, restoring the period to the shortened school day, hiring more educators to lower class sizes, purchasing new computers, school buses, textbooks and renovating or rebuilding an additional 10 to 12 schools.

CCS residents ignored the growing trend of the increasing failures of new tax millage for schools brought about by the rapidly cooling economy. By voting yes on Issue 75, voters extended the district’s election-day winning streak to 17 years. Voters have passed each of the five previous tax millage issues for the district since the General Election in 1991.

“With the dramatically increased numbers of voters choosing to vote early or vote absentee,” said CEA President Rhonda Johnson, “the message about the importance of Issue 75 to our students, our schools, our community and our future had to get out that much earlier.” Many teachers generously donated to the *1 Mill Club*. This helped to provide financial resources for the campaign to purchase television and radio airtime for commercials and to produce print materials for literature drops and direct mailings. “We prevailed because we had a positive story to tell, and teachers generously gave their talents, money, time and passion to the campaign and to the school district,” said President Johnson.

Help cover levy campaign costs

Remember those great TV and radio ads, yard signs and stickers supporting Issue 75? Now we have to pay the printing and media bills. As always, we know you will help do this. Join these folks and donate to the *1 Mill Club* to help pay these costs.

Club 75: Patricia Wilson (Africentric ES), Pamela Smith (Africentric ES), Kyra Krier (Africentric ES), Deb Matan (Welcome Center HS), Jeff Cox (East HS), William Irvin (JDC), Angela Nelson (Northgate), J. Howell-Shanchez (Northland HS), Beth Taylor (Fifth Ave. ES) and Carolyn Hancock (Yorktown MS).

1 Mill Club: Brenda Bryant (Elem. Art), Jeany Heck (SuccessWorks Acad.), Janet Halter (West Broad ES), Jessica Jones (Clearbrook MS), Faye Caner (Shepard Ctr.), Diane Stanley (Elem. Music), Susanne Misiak (CEA-R), Deborah Ross (Weinland Park ES), Sandra Finneran (Ridgeview MS), Kathleen Durkin (Ridgeview MS), Valarie Cummings (Ridgeview MS), Margaret Stumpf (Shepard Ctr.), Jennifer Wojdyla-Radde (Georgian Heights ES), Julia Skidmore (Georgian Heights ES), Kirsten Smith (Gifted & Talented), Gregory Wilcoxom (Welcome Center HS), Alisa Jones (Welcome Center HS), Awil Ibrahim (Welcome Center HS), Denise Payne (Westmoor MS), Kristi McCord (CAHS/Whetstone HS), Gerard Tankovich (Westmoor MS), Tera Stockdale (Elem. Art), Charley Nelson (Northland HS), Anton Sarossy-Christon (Centennial HS), Margaret Dorman (Brookhaven HS), Kim Roth (Oakland Park ES), Patrick Fein (Northland HS), Geri Granger (Centennial HS), Craig Koehler (NECC), Tish Hoffman (Elem. PE), Sean Billingslea (Ft. Hayes), Erin Honesty (Dana ES), Kelly Brunton (West HS), Doug Smith (West HS), Colon Charles (Linden-McKinley HS), Paula Hughes (Linden-McKinley HS), Marguerite Jaede (Northgate), Nancy Dowling (Medina MS), Stephanie Barnett (Medina MS), John Rinto (Westgate ES), Gary Metznerbacher (East HS), Judith Ritchey (East HS) and Mary Brosovich (East HS).

United Way campaign begins

You will be receiving United Way information and your donation information from your faculty representative soon. Please GIVE UNITED. Your dollars do a great deal of good in central Ohio.



One of the agency's goals is to improve the health of adults and children. Too many of our neighbors lack access to basic health care—in particular the kind of care that can reduce the incidence of certain chronic conditions like diabetes and treat conditions such as high blood pressure.

In Franklin County, nearly 25 percent of all children and 48 percent of African-American children are overweight. As of 2004, nearly 60 percent of Franklin County adults weighed too much—37 percent were overweight, and another 22 percent were obese—an increase of almost 10 percent since 2000. United Way has helped reach 37,996 children with programs designed to improve nutrition and physical activity.

In 2007, 88 percent of participants in fitness awareness programs reported engaging in more physical activity. In 2006, 32,253 central Ohioans received screenings for diabetes and/or information or education about the disease.

Let's keep these efforts going. CEA's campaign is one of the largest in the region. We raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for this community effort. Our children benefit. So do their families. When you get your materials, give generously. Let's LIVE and GIVE UNITED.

NEA Member Benefits financial seminar

CEA, in collaboration with NEA Member Benefits business partners, is sponsoring a free workshop on *23 Financial Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make*.



This presentation helps members understand financial mistakes commonly made in areas, including home financing, life insurance selection, retirement savings, high-debt interest, taxes, auto purchasing and many more.

The seminar will be held at Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill, 3939 Morse Crossing, (near Easton) on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 4:15 p.m. Refreshments and giveaways will be provided. Call Ezetta Murray at 253-4731 to register.

Take tuition-paid graduate-level courses

The CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Winter Quarter 2009 will be available for pre-registration from Monday, Nov. 10–Sunday, Nov. 23. The available courses are listed below:

- ☞ Advanced Course in Children's Literature (EDUT&L 817)
- ☞ Classroom Communities and Issues of Guidance
- ☞ Differentiated Education: Focus on Mathematics and Science
- ☞ ESL: Pedagogical Grammar (EDUT&L 925O45)
- ☞ ESL: TESOL Methods (EDUT&L 640)
- ☞ Exploring Diversity in the Hearts and Minds of Teachers
- ☞ Instructional Tools and Strategies for Teacher and Student Success
- ☞ Mentoring Student Teachers
- ☞ Sheltered Instruction for English Language Learners (SIOP)
- ☞ Strategies for Integrating Technology

☞ Using the Arts to Support Student Proficiency through the Theme of Identity: African Art and African-American Artists

For course details, including dates and times, and to pre-register, go to: www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu.

ODE's Master Teacher program

Do you...

1. Hold a valid professional license or certificate?
2. Have at least seven years of teaching experience?
3. Work a minimum of 120 days during the school year?
4. Work under a teaching contract?

If so, then you are eligible to apply for Master Teacher designation. Go to: [www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/\(ccs_pages\)/Staff_Departments?opendocument](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/(ccs_pages)/Staff_Departments?opendocument) to find out more about this program.

Informational work sessions will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13, 4:30–7:30 p.m. at Eastmoor Academy (\$75 stipend & 0.3 CEUs) and on Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. at Gables ES (\$135 stipend & 0.6 CEUs). Submit entries to Mickie Sebenoler at Northgate by 5 p.m., Dec. 1.

Interested in job sharing?

The CEA/Board agreement stipulates that teachers may be granted job sharing opportunities annually with the approval of the principal or supervisor. Teachers involved in job sharing must work 50 percent of the time to get credit on the salary schedule (It takes two years of job sharing to earn one year's credit.) and to be eligible for insurance. CEA assists teachers in finding a job-share partner if there is no one else in the building who wishes to job share. A list of those seeking job-share partners for the 2009–2010 school year will be compiled by CEA.

The list will be distributed in early January to those who have submitted their names. If you are interested in having your name on this list, please fill out the tear-off slip below and send it to the CEA office.

Special notes

- ☐ The **open enrollment for health benefits** will end on **Friday, Nov. 14**. This will be your last opportunity to either choose a new health plan option or to make changes, such as adding or dropping dependents, to existing options. Also, consider participating in the **Flexible Spending Account** option. It will allow you to spend pre-taxed dollars on medical expenses and childcare. Please refer to your *2009 Guide to Employee Benefits*.
- ☐ **Teri Mullins** (Wedgwood MS) ran unopposed for **CEA District 6 Governor**. CEA thanks Teri for taking on this responsibility to serve the teachers in District 6.
- ☐ CEA staff members Rick Logan, Ezetta Murray and Carol Wagner are continuing the planning for the **trip to Tuscan, Venice and Milan** that was started by the late John Grossman. The trip will be from **June 14–23**. The final price of the trip is still being negotiated and depends on the number of people going. If you are interested in this trip, please contact one of the CEA staff members at the CEA office at 253-4731.

Job Sharing Request

If you are looking for a job-share partner, fill out the form below and return it to the CEA office. A list will be printed and mailed to each person who submits the form to assist him/her in finding a partner for job sharing. Even if you submitted your name last year, please fill out a new form this year. Please return this form to Carol Wagner at CEA by Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008.

Name: _____

School: _____ Phone: _____

Present Assignment: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Certification Area(s): _____

Mobile Phone: (____) _____

Teaching Preference for Next Year: _____

E-mail Address: _____