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, education 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 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. 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.

1 Mill Club: Brenda Bryant (Elem. Art), Jeany Heck (SuccessWorks Acad.), Janet Falter (West Broad ES), Jessica Jones (Clearbrook MS), Faye Caner (Shepard Cr.), Diane Stanley (Elem. Music), Susanne Misik (CEA-R), Deborah Ross (Weinland Park ES), Sandra Finneran (Ridgeview MS), Karleen Durkin (Ridgeview MS), Valarie Cummings (Ridgeview MS), Margaret Stumpf (Shepard Cr.), Jennifer Wosylja-Radde (Georgian Heights ES), Julia Skidmore (Georgian Heights ES), Kirsten Smith (Gifted & Talented), Gregory Wilcoxom (Welcome Center HS), Alisa Jones (Welcome Center HS), Avi Ibrirham (Welcome Center HS), Denise Payne (Westmore MS), Kristi McCord (CAHS/Whetstone HS), Gerard Tankovich (Westmore MS), Tera Stockdale (Elem. Art), Charley Nelson (Northland HS), Anson Sarsoy-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), Margaret Jade (Northgate), Nancy Dowling (Medina MS), Stephanie Burnett (Medina MS), John Rinto (Westgate ES), Gary Metzenbacher (East HS), Judith Retchey (East HS) and Mary Broschick (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)
- Community Classes and Issues of Guidance
- Differentiated Education: Focus on Mathematics and Science
- ESL: Pedagogical Grammar (EDUT&L 925OS45)
- 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

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-tax dollars on medical expenses and childcare. Please refer to your 2009 Guide to Employee Benefits.

☐ Teri Mullins (Wedgewood 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 Tuscany, 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: ________________________________
Present Assignment: ________________________________
Certification Area(s): ________________________________
Teaching Preference for Next Year: ________________________________
School: ________________________________
Home Phone: (____)___________
Mobile Phone: (____)___________
E-mail Address: ________________________________