

# The Voice

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

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Columbus Education Association

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## CEA honors teachers and nurses

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 5, is National Teacher Day. Thousands of communities will take time out to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives. This year's theme is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools."



CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child.

This special day began about 65 years ago, when Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day.

NEA, along with its Kansas and Indiana state affiliates and the Dodge City (Kan.) Local, lobbied Congress to create a national day celebrating teachers. Congress declared March 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day for that year only.

The National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. From May 3–9, we show our appreciation towards our teachers in a variety of different ways. It could be anything from a simple card to a formal presentation in front of the entire school.

We also are honoring our school nurses during National Nurses Day, Wednesday, May 6.

If you think your school nurse is there simply for first-aid, guess again. Nurses do a lot, and they work with staff, parents and the community.



A typical school nurse's schedule can encompass immunizations, health care screenings, hearing and vision testing; dealing with diseases such as diabetes and asthma, student obesity; tending to special needs like tube-feeding; preventing the spread of disease through blood exposure; and handling the fallout from mental, emotional, and social problems. The school nurse is the only health care professional some students ever see.

Nurses are also activists, advocating for child health and welfare nationally and in their individual states on issues such as vaccines, use of inhalers, and child abuse and neglect. School nurses are educators, mentors, role models and are critically-needed members of every school community. NEA and CEA salute school nurses this day and every day.

Tell us about a special CCS teacher or CCS school nurse who made a difference in your school. Speak out on the CEA Blog at <http://tinyurl.com/ddzwey>.

## Grade card problems being remotely solved

Elementary teachers have been asking for remote access to the eSIS system so they don't have to stay in their buildings after hours to complete their grade cards, possibly risking their safety. Some teachers have gone so far as to request extra days in the school year to complete their grade cards.



A recent survey of 117 teachers using the system from home were asked what kinds of operating systems they were using, whether they had problems logging in or other technical problems and whether they preferred to work on grades from home.

Here are some highlights:

- ⊙ Nearly two-thirds were able to log in.
- ⊙ Certain operating systems worked better than others. Windows XP experienced the most problems.
- ⊙ Problems included frozen screens, error messages, unstable matching of data to particular students and small eSIS screen sizes.

CEA and the District are addressing these concerns. We also want to make sure principals do the following to assist in the process: View the grade cards and make needed corrections online or print out the grade cards and make suggestions for corrections. NOTE: Grade cards cannot be printed from home computers. Instructions for completing grade cards at home will be sent to all elementary teachers.

## Substitute House Bill 1 released

Substitute House Bill 1 was recently released, further clarifying the comprehensive changes that Governor Strickland proposed for the state of public education in Ohio. Many key items remain from Strickland's original proposal, with some modifications. For example, in the latest version of H.B. 1, the original eight-year phase-in period of the Governor's education reform plan was extended to 10 years.

The original goal of extending the school year is being maintained, but calamity days will be phased out over the next two years. Districts would only be allowed three calamity days in the 2009–2010 school year, one day in 2010–2011 and zero days thereafter. This time period would give the School Funding Research and Advisory council time to plan for the most effective use of the extra days.

Educators seeking a continuing contract would need five years of teaching experience, instead of nine years as was originally proposed by the Governor. "Value-added" measures of student success used in making teacher licensing decisions would be eliminated and references to Licensed Practical Nurses would be removed from the bill's school wellness proposals.

Existing mandatory closure provisions for poorly per-

forming charter schools would be strengthened under substitute H.B. 1. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) financial oversight of Dropout Recovery Schools would increase. Test scores of students using the EdChoice voucher would be reported by the state by demographic group for the first time, and for-profit management companies would be prohibited from contracting with any Ohio charter school.

Required spending plans by districts could still be subject to collective bargaining. Only core academic strategies and academic improvement strategies would be excluded from those negotiations. ODE will be required to provide guidance to school districts for the use of professional development money. ODE will also continue to pay the first-time application fee for National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) and stipends to NBCTs.

## Capital District election results

More than 80 delegates attended the Capital District Representative Assembly held Tuesday, Apr. 28, at the State Teachers Retirement System building. The Capital District provides professional development and cultural diversity activities for Columbus teachers.

Delegates established the district's positions on resolutions that will appear before the Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly held on May 8-9, 2009, and voted on the Capital District seat on the OEA Board of Directors. Diana Welsh was elected to the OEA Board of Directors.

Diana is a physical education teacher at Dominion MS. She has served as Senior Faculty Representative at Dominion, as well as a member of the TBS Board of Trustees. Her involvement with OEA includes the OEA Resolutions Committee and the Women's Caucus. Diana is currently a CEA Representative on the Reform Panel and is the CEA Middle School Governor-At-Large.

## Your health should be more than fair

Have you thought about losing weight, checking your cholesterol or learning healthier cooking methods? You can learn about all of this and more at the employee health fair.

Join CCS nurses and the CCS Wellness Committee from 3-7 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, at Northgate and from 3:30-7 p.m., Thursday, May 14, at the Arts Impact MS.

Nurses, as well as local community and health organizations, will provide cooking demonstrations, blood sugar checks, cholesterol screenings, massage therapy, advice from personal fitness trainers, free medical consultations, blood pressure screenings, body mass index (BMI) screenings and vision screenings. They also will offer free mammograms. Call 234-7400 in advance to schedule yours.

Make the change to achieve better health for a better you!

## CEA classified ads coming soon

The Economic Services Committee is a standing CEA committee whose main purpose is to create special programs to economically benefit CEA members. Those who have been in the District for a while might remember the *Bargains & Breaks* or *Save a Teacher-Save a Dollar* programs. Those programs provided a booklet of discounts and businesses owned by CEA members. The Economic Services Commit-

tee has initiated a new program that will be accessed through the CEA Web site. Any CEA member, CEA-R member and any member's spouse or partner will be able list their services or businesses in a classified ad. There will be no fee for the listing.

President Rhonda Johnson said, "During these uncertain economic times, it is more important than ever to provide a service that highlights our members' businesses and services owned by our members. This will benefit not only members who provide services but also those who need to find products or services. It's a win-win."

During the month of May, more information about this new benefit will be presented in *The Voice*. The date for the unveiling of this site is June 1.

The Economic Services Committee members are Chairperson Barbara Flu-Allen (East HS), Mel Fowlkes (CEA-R), Bob Hern (CEA), Greg Mild (Northgate), Tiffini Pannell (Windsor ES), Carol Woods (PAR) and CEA Vice President Sally Oldham.

## Member benefits retirement workshop

CEA and NEA Member Benefits business partners are sponsoring a repeat of the free workshop, *When Can I Afford to Retire...or am I Just Going to Die at My Desk?* Join us Tuesday, May 19, at 4:15 p.m. at Donatos Pizza, 1891 Tamarack Circle, North. Designed generally for members with 15 or more years of service, this presentation increases members' awareness of their retirement system, their pension payout options, health care costs and more. Participants will be able to determine if they are on the right track in their retirement preparations and; if not, what are their options, including sheltering severance pay and purchasable service credit options.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Bargaining Note:** Members of the CEA Core Negotiations Team joined the Board's Negotiations Team for the second session on Apr. 28-29. Both sides continued dialogue on each other's proposals begun nearly three weeks ago. Read *The CEA Voice* for future updates.
- ❑ **CCS's Job Fairs** for unfilled positions will be held **Tuesday, May 12**, for Subject Certificates (7-12 and 4-9 Regular) and Special K-12 Certificates (Art, Music, PE, etc.) and **Wednesday, May 13**, for Elementary-Level Certificates (K-8, 1-8, PreK-8) areas. Both Job Fairs will take place at **Northgate Center** starting at 4 p.m. Results from the job fairs will be posted **Friday, May 15**.
- ❑ **Deadline: Return the Spring 2009 Fee Waiver applications** to **Northgate** by **Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m.** If you are a Priority I or II status, include proper documentation with your fee waiver application. Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.
- ❑ The **OEA-R Spring Conference**, hosted by Capital and Central District, will be held on **Wednesday, May 20** at the **Rothchild Farm in Urbana**. Updates will be presented on health care and STRS. Workshops on *Managing Your Money in Difficult Times* and *25 Financial Mistakes You Can Not Afford to Make* will be presented. Breakfast, lunch and a garden tour is included for \$20. For more information, call **Marilyn Allen** at 299-4841.
- ❑ Make your reservation for the **CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet, Friday, May 29**, honoring retirees, Faculty Representatives, Association colleagues and friends. Contact Judy Nelson at CEA at 253-4731.
- ❑ The **Indian Springs ES** staff completed a 13-week wellness program of weekly weigh-ins, after-school group walking and fitness classes. The 22 participants lost a collective **247 pounds**.

