

# The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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## General membership meeting called

At the recommendation of CEA President Rhonda Johnson, the CEA Board of Governors voted to hold a General Membership Meeting at Veterans Memorial on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m.

At the time of publication of this *Voice*,

the Association and the Board had not reached a tentative agreement. CEA's Core Negotiations Team was scheduled to meet with the Board's team on Friday, May 22.

Bargaining between CEA's team and the Board's team started nearly eight weeks ago. A mediator from the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) has been in attendance to mediate since both teams began to meet.

"It is important that we have this General Membership Meeting," explained President Johnson. "CEA members will do one of two things—vote on ratification of a new contract or take other action. It is essential that CEA is represented in person by its 4,000 plus members," she added. The Board of Governors will be in touch with their Faculty Representatives with additional information.

Association members will be admitted with their OEA Access (membership card) or a picture ID. Seating for members will be by CEA unit and by CEA district. Keep reading *The Voice* and your e-mail for updates.



## Not our job

CEA has been receiving calls from elementary teachers asking, "Who is in charge when the principal is out?" One thing we know for sure is that *that person is not* a teacher. The position of "teacher in charge" does not exist. Teachers are not responsible for administrative duties. They are not required to nor should they assume them.

Your principal should know this—and should also know that the school district and its executive directors have established protocols to be followed when the principal is absent for a half-day or more. Check with your administrator to see what the plan is for your building.

All this is not to say that teachers would not gladly take over the front-office chair temporarily, if it became part of the contract. In fact, the "in charge" position has been the subject of previous negotiations rounds. However, the administration is not interested in paying for such a position, so we strongly advise teachers not to accept this role.

Any time your building has no administrative coverage, contact the executive director assigned to your school for assistance. If you have more questions about this, call CEA.

## The c.e.a.*list* for members

CEA will begin posting its c.e.a.*list* (classified ads) online, Monday, June 1. The classifieds will be located on the Association's Web site at [www.ceahio.org](http://www.ceahio.org). This service is open to active and retired CEA members and their spouses/partners.

Members received an e-mail during the week of May 15 inviting them to participate in the classifieds, a free benefit provided by CEA for you. Members may list items for sale, and services may also be posted on the c.e.a.*list*.

Members must complete a c.e.a.*list* application form before their items or services can be added to the classifieds. CEA's Economic Services Committee will review and approve member ads for the c.e.a.*list*. To download an application form, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/qvddy4>.

## Thanks for the teamwork

CEA would like to thank the NEA Foundation for awarding us a planning grant to work on a plan to close achievement gaps. But this grant did not happen by itself. We thank everybody for the hard work it took to assemble the elements of our case.



We owe a debt of gratitude to CCS's Director of Grants/Special Projects John Farley. We also thank CCS personnel, Supt. Gene Harris, Elaine Bell, Cynthia Picciano, Robyn Essman and DeWayne Howard; Randy Flora, OEA Director of Education Policy and Coalition Relations; community partners, Board President Carol Perkins; Barbara Boyd, Nationwide Insurance; Diane Biggs, United Way; and Michelle Mills, President & CEO, St. Stephen's Community House.

We also offer a heartfelt thanks to the Board of Governors and the CEA staff for participating in the site visit made by the NEA Foundation.

# Grievances update

CEA works hard to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise our members to try working out problems mutually on the building level first, we know this isn't always possible. Each month we will inform you of the grievances CEA is working on for you. This month's grievances are listed below.

Building/Unit/Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
Sullivant ES Lisa Stamos	Adm. subjected grievant to verbal abuse.	Adm. apologize to the grievant for her conduct that occurred within earshot of children and other staff; that the administration work with the principal to control such behavior in the future.	Withdrawn
Highland ES Jamie Taylor	The principal failed to use instructional asst. to reduce the number of duties performed by teachers, which has resulted in teachers having an excessive number of duties.	Instructional assistants be used to relieve teachers of duties; that the instructional assistants supervise the students under the direction of a teacher, allowing the fullest possible utilization of teachers' professional training and have the teachers' non-teaching duties minimized; that the one-half time instructional assistant be used to REDUCE the number of duties that teachers at Highland ES are required by the principal to do.	Step 1—Management has found no violation of the contract. Duty schedule will remain unchanged for the remainder of this school year. Management agrees to work with staff members to create a duty schedule for next school year that takes into consideration the safety of students and, where possible, lessen the amount of duties teachers have to perform. (Jamie Taylor)
Mifflin HS (1) Jonathan Stevens Amy Dennis	The asst. adm. redirected a staff member in front of students and fellow staff members during the district-wide tornado drill.	The asst. adm. apologize to the grievant for her conduct that occurred within earshot of students and other staff; that the administration work with the asst. adm. to control such behavior in the future and give her a letter of reprimand for repeated behavior.	Step 2—No violation of the contract has occurred; however, the district will meet with the teacher(s) in an attempt to bring closure to the matter. (DeWayne Howard)
Mifflin HS (2) Jonathan Stevens Amy Dennis	The asst. adm. redirected a staff member in front of students and fellow staff members during the district-wide tornado drill.	The asst. adm. apologize to the grievant for her conduct that occurred within earshot of students and other staff; that the administration work with the asst. adm. to control such behavior in the future and give her a letter of reprimand for repeated behavior.	Step 2—No violation of the contract has occurred; however, the district will meet with the teacher(s) in an attempt to bring closure to the matter. (DeWayne Howard)

## OSU partnerships

Wonder what additional activities you can provide for your students? Check out Ohio State's P-12 Project. Each year, Ohio State works with Columbus schools to provide more opportunities for learning and growth, especially for children whose families lack the resources to provide them many additional educational experiences.

The P-12 Project last year provided hundreds of connections throughout Ohio, including these:

- An after-school program at Indianola Math, Science and Technology MS provided 70 opportunity-challenged youth the chance to engage in tutoring, educational projects and field trips.
- The Micki Zartman Scarlet and Gray Ag Day, an agricultural literacy program for fourth- and fifth-grade students, taught students about agricultural food production with hands-on, interactive learning centers allowing them to dye wool, check for egg fertility, explore the properties of milk and milk processing, make and taste their own sausage and other activities.
- Ohio State's Urban Arts Space in the old Lazarus building downtown provides OSU students and faculty the chance to exhibit and collaborate with the community. For instance, Ohio State faculty taught mask making to students from Columbus Africentric School. Theater students from Marion-Franklin HS talked with resident artists about the art making process.

To learn more about activities for teachers and their students, visit <http://p12.osu.edu/>.

## Online giving boost

Is your classroom project listed on DonorsChoose.org? If so, you can say thanks to Bill and Melinda Gates. The Gates Foundation has provided a \$1.4 million grant to the donation Web site to help it match half of every dollar donated for teacher-developed projects promoting college readiness in high-needs urban and rural public schools.

The public can log onto DonorsChoose.org, choose the projects it will support and help 17,000 teachers and more than 300,000 students across the nation. Such projects include student trips to college campuses, as well as classroom

books, SAT/ACT preparation materials and other resources that strengthen the learning experience.

To date, 88,000 public and charter school teachers have used the site to secure funding for \$30.3 million in books, art supplies, technology and other resources that their students need to learn.

## CCS Nurses Recognized

Congratulations to Shirley Smith, Carol Lynne O'Neil, Annabelle Van Meter and Tammy Krug. Each of these school nurses has earned recognition for her work in the field.

Smith's article on the challenges faced by school nurses was published in the April issue of the *Journal of School Nursing*. O'Neil's abstract detailing the efforts of urban school nurses to address rising obesity and diabetes rates is now part of the slate at the National Association of School Nurses Conference this June. Van Meter received the Special Needs Pre-K Division's Building Wings Award, given annually for exceptional support. King has been nominated for a Nationwide Children's Hospital Cameo of Caring Award.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Correction:** *The Voice* article, "Access elementary grade card at home," contained incorrect information. Please note that the e-mail you received on the "5 Easy Steps" is the correct information to access the elementary grade card. We apologize to you and the Information Support Services Department for this error and any inconvenience.
- ❑ The **UNCF Campaign runs until May 28**. Donated dollars provide students with scholarship support. Give \$100 or more to enter a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate. Call Ezetta Murray at CEA at 253-4731 for information.
- ❑ **MidState Educators Credit Union Seminar:** Learn answers to all your **home loan questions, 6:30-8 p.m., May 27 and July 15**, North Office; **June 24 and Aug. 24**, Main Office.
- ❑ **Textbook adoption nomination selection forms** for business/career/technical, foreign language and MS and HS reading language arts should be sent via school mail to Rhonda Johnson at CEA no later than Friday, May 29.
- ❑ The **GLBT and Allies Caucus** will hold an end-of-the-year party, **Wednesday, June 9, at 2 p.m.** For location, contact Jimmie Beall at [jkbeall@gmail.com](mailto:jkbeall@gmail.com).