

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

June 1, 2009

General membership meeting approaching

Members are reminded that the CEA General Membership Meeting will be at Veterans Memorial on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Free parking will be available at Veterans Memorial and across the street at COSI. You need to show your OEA Membership card to gain free access to parking lots. Members are encouraged to car pool.



OEA Membership (Access) Card

“We need every CEA member to be in attendance at Veterans Memorial,” said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. “The decisions that will be made collectively at this meeting will affect thousands of teachers.”

CEA’s Core Bargaining Team met with the Board’s team for the final time on Friday, May 22, for nearly 12 hours. At the time this *Voice* went to press, the CEA Board of Governors was scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 28, to vote on a recommendation to present to the membership.

Association members will be admitted with their OEA membership (Access) card or a picture ID. Seating for members will be by CEA unit and by CEA district.

United Way raises \$51.8 million

The district’s 2009 United Way Campaign has ended, and we are pleased to announce that we raised \$328,358.

Because of you, United Way of Central Ohio had a solid campaign in a difficult



economy and managed to raise \$51.8 million. We thank you. Your dollars:

- Provide basic needs for people in crisis
- Improve education
- Provide job-skills training
- Connect people to vital health resources
- Create safe and vibrant neighborhoods

Our United Way agency has created a new agenda centering on public-policy issues such as revitalizing vacant and abandoned housing and property, improving the financial stability of low- and moderate-income households and preparing more children for school.

Contributions to United Way of Central Ohio support more than 200 programs and initiatives, including Start Smart, a school-readiness program; the Franklin County EITC Coalition, providing tax-preparation assistance; and the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant program, already engaging more than 1,300 volunteers in 24 different community-based projects designed to improve neighborhoods.

Learn online

The National Education Association has agreed to partner with Educational Impact to provide online professional development courses to its members.



With the new program, the NEA seeks to strengthen educators’ skills in the areas of language and ESL education, inclusion of students with diverse backgrounds and instructional and curriculum design and assessment.



Courses are \$69 for NEA members. Offerings at this time include:

- ◆ Effective Teaching in Diverse Classrooms
- ◆ Teaching for the ESL Learner
- ◆ Differentiated Instruction for Successful Inclusion
- ◆ The 5 Practices of Highly Effective Classrooms

Visit <http://sites.nea.org/academy/onlinecourses/> for details and a full catalog. CEA has applied for our members to receive CEUs. The LPDC will be meeting Wednesday, June 3, to determine if, and how many CEUs will be granted for these online courses.

Stop wasting money, use Express Scripts

CEA announces a way members (and the Board of Education) can save on prescriptions. The Express Scripts program, a mail-order service,

can save you as much as



67 percent on many drugs.

For instance, a Tier 3 non-preferred brand name drug that costs \$30 for a 30-day supply at the pharmacy would cost you \$30 for a 90-day supply from Express Scripts. This is a savings for you and the school district. Here is an example:

LESCOL XL TAB 80 MG (maintenance drug)	
90-day supply by mail order\$30
30-day supply filled at Pharmacy\$30

Through the mail order benefit, the member can save \$60 (or 67 percent) by ordering a 90-day supply instead of three 30-day supplies. The yearly savings for this maintenance drug is \$240 (\$120 for *four* 90-day supplies vs. \$360 for *twelve* 30-day supplies).

Visit express-scripts.com/services/members/money/ for information. If you have questions or are experiencing any difficulty with Express Scripts, call Pat Hord at 365-6448.

Know the contract: Your lounge privileges

The CEA office has been receiving questions about the expenditures of the funds collected from the vending machines located in teachers' lounges. Those funds should be deposited in the employee benefit account, unless the ABC has established some other guideline.

But take note: The funds from the vending machines in the teachers' lounge should not be deposited in the principal's fund or used for school purposes unless the ABC has decided to do so. These funds are for staff members' benefit and are not to go into the same pot with funds from other school vending machines.

Unfortunately, some administrators have not paid attention. We know of one building where the principal *inadvertently* deposited funds from the teachers' vending machine into his fund. Fortunately, he was able to reverse the transaction but not until CEA was contacted.

Please call CEA if you have questions. Contact your school treasurer to see the financial record of your employee benefit funds. If you believe these funds have not been properly deposited, let us know immediately. Read more about this issue in Section 206.03 of our contract.

NEA summer services, giveaways

One of the perks of NEA membership is all the neat stuff you can get. When you visit www.NEAMB.com you will find a wealth of services and items to enhance your personal and professional life. For instance:



- Rental car discounts
- Door-to-door transportation with select vacation packages
- NEA bookstore savings
- Tips on home buying through the NEA Home Financing Program
- Savings on hearing aids, glasses and prescriptions
- Discounts on laptop computers
- Guidance on investing for retirement
- Web-based columns by experts on finance, health and other topics

And each month, NEA offers special drawings:

- June 1–15: Ten \$500 laptop computers
- June 16–30: Fifty \$100 Target gift cards
- July 16–31: Ten school supply kits
- July 1–15: Five weekend getaways
- Aug. 1–15: Fifteen health & wellness baskets
- Aug. 16–31: Four subscriptions to *uBoost.com* online student rewards program

Every NEA member who registers on their new site from May 1–August 31 will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$5,000 cash grand prize to be awarded in September. Visit www.NEAMB.com for more information.

Dispatch NIE program

The *Columbus Dispatch* Newspaper in Education program will hold three for-credit workshops with Ashland University. Each workshop is \$65, plus \$166 to Ashland for each credit hour.

- ➔ June 18–19: Language Arts & Newspaper Genres. Grades 7–12. Uses hands-on activities and the newspaper to help students recognize and create real-world connections through reading and writing. The course will take place at The Dispatch Printing Facility, 5300 Crosswind Dr. Limited to 40 participants.
- ➔ July 21–22: America in Adversity 1860–1950: An Investigative Approach. Grades 6–12. Focuses on

The Civil War and The Reconstruction; The Great Depression; World War II and economic, political and social adversity. Emphasis on investigative approaches, political cartoons of the times, economics, The Great Migration and the use of documentary films. The course will take place at the Ohio Historical Society.

- ➔ Aug. 5–6: Personal Finance with SMG. Grades 4–12. Learn to play and teach the exciting, real-world lessons of The Stock Market Game. This is a computer workshop, using The Stock Market Game Web site, www.smgww.org. *The Dispatch* will supply all materials, but you are asked to bring your laptop so you can store information for later teaching. Space is limited to 24 participants.

You can register for any of these courses at www.Dispatch-NIE.com or by calling 466-8775.

c.e.a.list now online

CEA will begin posting its *c.e.a.list* classifieds online June 1. Members can take advantage of this opportunity by listing items for sale, as well as services for hire. Postings for items for sale will be renewed on a monthly basis; services postings remain active for one year.



Members must first complete a *c.e.a.list* application form before they can list items or services for sale. Once CEA's Economic Services Committee reviews and approves members' ads for the *c.e.a.list*, their classifieds will be added to the Web site.

This service is open to active and retired CEA members and their spouses/partners, free of charge. To see what's on the *c.e.a.list*, go to the CEA Web site and click on the *c.e.a.list* button.

Salute Caribbean heritage

June is Caribbean-American Heritage Month. During the next few weeks, our nation celebrates the great contributions of Caribbean Americans and pays tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

More than five million Americans proudly share this heritage, and you can participate in activities and carnivals around the country being held the rest of the year. To read more about activities, conferences and celebrations, visit www.caribbeanamericanmonth.org.

Summer's coming, but we're here

CEA summer hours will be 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, June 1–Sept. 1. We will be closed Friday, July 3. We will keep in touch during the summer via e-mail and through the CEA Web site at www.ceaohio.org.

Special notes

- ❑ Cruise into retirement with **Jo Annette Byas-Marston June 5 at 6:30 p.m.**, Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Ave. Send \$35 check (*includes gift*) payable to **Judy Wright at Northgate**. *RSVP* to Jlw4dst@aol.com by June 3.
- ❑ **Alpine ES** participated in a **Biggest Loser** contest. Twenty staff members participated in the Alpine Booty Busters Contest which ran for 10 weeks. The staff lost a total of 151.75 pounds (21.2 percent of total body weight).
- ❑ The **OEA endorsed candidates** won their seats on the STRS Board: **Carol Correthers** (active member); **Jim McGreevy** and **David Preslan** (retired members).