

# The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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## CEA members ratify two-year contract

More than 1,200 members of the Columbus Education Association converged on Veteran's Memorial on Tuesday, June 2, to consider the two-year tentative agreement between the CEA and the Columbus Board of Education. After the introduction of local dignitaries, gathered members were welcomed by CEA President Rhonda Johnson.



"We are living in uncertain economic times," said President Johnson. "Compared to when Issue 75 passed in November at 7.85 mils, fewer people are paying property taxes. This reduces the effective amount that the levy collects." "Despite the passage of the levy and the federal stimulus money," continued Johnson, "the treasurer would only certify a two-year contract."

"Your bargaining team has worked long and hard to bring you the package that you see before you," stated Negotiations Chair Deborah Huffman-Mirib.

"I got worried as I saw the economy happen," said Chief Negotiator Rick Logan. "This round of bargaining was some of the hardest work from the core team since CEA's first contract in 1969."

Among the items included in the package:

- Clear and grievable expectations of elementary grade-card access and entry.
- Duty-free periods for elementary Senior Faculty Representatives
- Additional professional development related to special education
- Increased days for adoptive leave
- Expansion of catastrophic sick leave provisions
- Preservation of insurance benefits for current members
- Addition of domestic partners for primary coverage under insurance and use of sick leave
- Elimination of the Comprehensive Major Medical plan and the addition of the "single plus one" premium tier
- Use of teacher-level value-added data as one factor in determining teacher eligibility for the Performance Advancement System (PAS)
- A \$4,000 stipend for eligible teachers who elect to serve at the superintendent's discretion in "high-needs" schools
- Addition of step 15 to the salary schedule and index changes in longevity steps
- A 1.75 percent raise in the first year, and a 2 percent raise in the second year of the contract

After questions and debates, 89 percent of members voted resoundingly to ratify the tentative agreement. The Columbus Board of Education is scheduled to take its vote at a later date.

## 33rd Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet

The Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet was held on Friday, May 29. More than 300 guests were present at the Hyatt Regency. This is always a very festive occasion as a large number of our members complete their work for the Columbus City Schools and matriculate into retirement.



### Association Service

Robin Jeffries was presented with a Distinguished Service Award, concluding her term on the Board of Governors. Robin has also served the Association in other capacities. Diane Norman was also presented with a Distinguished Service Award, posthumously. Diane was the District 6 Governor and served CEA in numerous ways prior to her passing.

The Outstanding Member Award was presented to Karen Andermills. Karen has served the members of CEA in many roles, most recently as a member of CEA's Core Negotiations Team. CEA is proud to honor Karen, who is known for advocating against discrimination of any kind.

The Friend of Education Award is given for commitment and dedication to the educational mission of Columbus City Schools. This year's award was presented to Citizens for Strong Schools, the group responsible for the district's levy and bond issue campaign. On hand to receive the award were Columbus Board of Education President Carol Perkins and members Ramona Reyes and Bryan Steward and Supt. Gene Harris.

The Builder of the Association Award is given to individuals whose time and effort have helped further CEA's mission. The Innovator in Education Award was created to honor the memory of Tom Mooney, a cherished friend of CEA and President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers. Both awards were presented posthumously to Immediate Past CEA President John Grossman.

"There will never be enough words to describe John Grossman," said CEA President Johnson. "John was a major architect of Columbus' PAR program and helped conceive and implement the Northland Teaching Academy, site-based decision making and multicultural education, to name a few. John did more to level the playing field for poor and minority students in Columbus than anyone I know."

### Outstanding Faculty Representatives

CEA is proud of our Faculty Representatives. They are the backbone of the Association. Each year, the District Governors select a Faculty Representative to be honored for exemplary work. We salute the following for their service:

District 1	Stephanie Barrows	Gables ES
District 2	Vernell Washington	Alpine ES
District 3	Mary Barber	Columbus Spanish Immersion
District 4	Brad Oglesby	CAHS
District 5	Angela Kipfer	Fairmoor ES
District 6	Nancy Moore	West Broad ES
District 7	Cheryl Gulling	SuccessWorks Academy
District 8	Robin Thalgott	Southwood ES
District 9	Karen Shoemaker	Liberty ES
District 10	Bob Chestnut	OT/PT
District 11	Steve Stefanick	Pupil Services

### 2009 retirees

CEA congratulates all of our members who are retiring this spring. The following individuals were honored at the CEA Awards Banquet:

Sue Arnold	Gayle A. Johnson	Ted Reed
Jo Annette Byas-Marston	Milburn Johnson	Maureen Sharp
Mary Callahan	Karen Landis	Paula M. Sondej
Monecca Chadwell	Greta Langston	Nancy C. Southers
Rosanne Chilton	David Marhover	Dianne Stickel
Susan Corwin	Roger Masten	Wendy B. Tatman
Mary Crowley	Katie McCann	Vanita Annetta Thomas
Thomas Dunlap	Mary F. Medary	Mary Truelove
Alice Flowers	Carol Messer	Wanda Venson
Brenda Gibson	Martha Ndile	Mary Vieth
Darrell E. Guess	Paulette Owens	Carol Welk
Diana Hahn	Susan Padgett	Anna Y. Wheeler
Gail B. Heffner-Charles	Kristine Plisga	Gwendolyn C. Williams-Wade

### Retirees look to the future

Retiring CEA members were introduced individually at the Annual Retirement Banquet. As they came forward to be recognized, biographical information provided by the retiree was shared.

Retiree Mary Vieth wrote the following as an example of her goals and plans for the future. She said, "After writing hundreds of IEPs for all my special education students and working hard to help them meet their goals, it is time to finally write a modified IEP for myself:"

**PRESENT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE:** Still working hard and enjoying parts of teaching, but energy is flagging, knee joints are failing, weight is increasing and stress levels are over the top! My world revolves too much around school.

**GOALS:** Relax, rest and reassess my talents and interests to plan this next phase of my life. Then—learn some new things, see some new places, make some more friends and support my daughter, Julianna, in her new teaching career. Take time to enjoy the present and be grateful for everything in my life, especially my husband, Bob (another CCS retiree)!

### CEA scholarship recipients

For more than two decades, CEA has honored and supported students with scholarships at the banquet. We congratulate this year's winners and their CEA-member parents.

**RaLynne Muse, daughter of Lynne Prillerman**  
(East HS)

*CEA Christa McAuliffe Scholarship*  
(Named in memory of the late teacher-astronaut and awarded for pursuing a degree in education)

**Chad Hyer, son of Melissa Hyer**  
(Oakland Park ES)

### CEA General Scholarship

(Awarded for pursuing a degree in higher education)

**Erinn McClure, daughter of Joseph Quaranta**  
(Ridgeview MS)

*CEA-R Scholarship*  
(Funded by retired teachers through fund-raising efforts)

**Grace Moore, daughter of Nancy Moore**  
(West Broad ES)

*Joan Donley CEA-R Scholarship*  
(Awarded in honor of the first CEA-R President)

**Malinda Aphayarth**  
*The John E. Grossman Memorial Scholarship*  
(Awarded in honor of the long-time CEA President to a student leader at South HS)

## CEA endorses city income tax issue

The CEA Legislative Assembly (LA) held its final meeting of the school year on Thursday, May 28. The LA is the policy-making body of the Association, and its delegates are the duly elected Faculty Representatives of each CEA unit.

In a new business item, CEA President Rhonda Johnson recommended that the delegates of the LA endorse the proposed 0.5 percent Columbus City income tax increase. This measure had previously been approved by Teachers for Better Schools, the political action arm of the Association, and by the CEA Board of Governors.

Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman addressed the LA to seek the body's endorsement of the upcoming income tax proposal. The mayor delivered a presentation and answered delegates' questions regarding the city's proposed tax increase.

"I want to maintain our quality of life," said Mayor Coleman, "but our city is at a financial crossroads, where things might change overnight. In my judgment," continued the mayor, acknowledging the half-penny increase, "it wasn't prudent for me to go to the public and ask for a 1 percent increase, resulting in a city surplus during hard economic times."

The Legislative Assembly voted overwhelmingly for CEA to endorse the Columbus income tax issue.

In other business, delegates to the LA also approved the CEA budget for the 2009–2010 school year.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Correction:** Two of the OEA-endorsed candidates won seats on the STRS Board. Congratulations to Carol Correthers and James McGreevey. We apologize for the error.
- ❑ **Don't forget about CEA** over the summer. **Check the CEA Web site** for updates. Also, be sure we have your summer address, cell phone number and personal e-mail address. Send your information to the CEA office or e-mail us at [jnelson@ceaohio.org](mailto:jnelson@ceaohio.org).
- ❑ The **c.e.a.list** is up and running. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/nzqzad> to check out the latest deals and services or to download a form to have your business listed.

**Quote of note:** "Teachers are our greatest asset, and we need to help empower and develop teachers. When I was in Chicago, I didn't think that Washington had the monopoly on good ideas. There are great ideas out there, and we need to listen and learn. Ultimately, we need to do two things—raise the bar and close the achievement gap."  
—U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in a post-rally conference in response to the important role teachers can play in this educational transformation.

*Have a great summer break. You deserve it!*