

The CEA Voice

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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CEA members scholarships: Your dues dollars at work

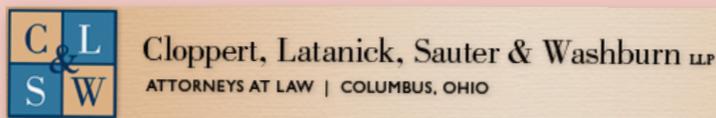
The CEA Members Scholarship Foundation can provide \$750 in college tuition assistance for CEA members' dependent children. To be eligible, students must be seniors in college during the 2009–2010 school year and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Payment will be made directly to the college or university.



Parents or guardians must have taught in the Columbus schools for four years prior to the application date and must be continuous CEA members. This benefit is also available to CEA-R Life members who previously taught in CCS.

Go to: <http://bit.ly/2Ovaccp> to download the application materials. Completed applications and documents must be postmarked by Saturday, Oct. 31. If you have questions, contact Cora Miller at 253-4731.

Need help with legal matters?



CEA membership provides a pioneering benefit: A legal services plan that offers you reduced rates for those personal matters requiring a lawyer—such as developing an estate plan, resolving domestic matters or dealing with a traffic violation. The concept has been so popular that it has become a model for other Associations.

Here's how it works: The Basic Plan (now known as the OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program) is provided for every active member. When you become a member of the bargaining unit, you automatically receive, at a reduced rate, legal assistance with matters in five areas: real estate, wills and estates, domestic relations, consumer protection and traffic violations.

For a reasonable fee, the Comprehensive Plan provides more extensive coverage for people who need it. Included here are matters such as personal injury. And the best thing is that your immediate family is eligible.

Call Cloppert, Sauter, Latanick and Washburn, the law firm administering the plan, at 461-4455 for consultations. As a CEA member, you automatically receive four free half-hour meetings to discuss any legal matter, except income tax preparation. If you need more extensive legal assistance, including a document review, you can join the Comprehensive Plan and receive services at the discounted rate. A few legal services, such as help with business dealings, bankruptcy or taxes, and defense in criminal matters, do not qualify for the discounted rate.

Sept. 11: Remember, reflect, rekindle

Patriot Day is observed on Sept. 11 each year to remember those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks. President Barack Obama has ordered that U.S. flags be flown at half-staff and asks Americans to observe a moment of silence, beginning at 8:46 a.m. (EDT) to mark the first plane crash.

The President signed legislation Apr. 21 establishing Sept. 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. By volunteering, performing good deeds or engaging in other forms of charitable service during the week of Sept. 7, your students can help rekindle the spirit of unity, service and compassion shared by so many in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. They can contribute to a historic legacy in the name of those lost and injured on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as military personnel who continue to serve to this day.

A number of Web sites offer lesson plans for teachers. Ideas for performing service activities in your area are available by surfing to: <http://www.serve.gov/>.

Textbook selection committees appointed

Your negotiated agreement provides the ground rules for dealing with matters affecting your pay and working conditions. But CEA also negotiates for your input into professional matters. Section 504.01 of the *Master Agreement* details the agreed-upon framework for the process, including matters such as textbook selections.

Representatives from pertinent grade levels and subjects are selected through building elections conducted by the principal and Association Building Council (ABC).

These joint committees are democratic, selecting their own co-chairs, meeting places and times, agendas and other procedural elements.

The Association members listed below have been selected to join the district's textbook adoption committees. They will review the suggested texts and make recommendations for school board approval.

Business/Career/Technical—Maggie Burnes, John Cooksey, Barbara Greene and Jonathan Stephanson

Foreign Language—Laura Antoniak, Brittney Daniel, Jeanne Schulte and Michele Troyer

High School Language Arts—Kriston Crombie, Joleata Howell, Amanda Reidenbaugh and Susan Truitt

Middle School Language Arts—Cheryl Copeland, Al Hernandez and Lori Blair.



Sick leave bank helps us all

Each year, members of the CEA family experience serious illnesses and conditions that require extended recovery periods. Many of us would like to help one another during these times, so your Association has negotiated the Sick Leave Bank for just that reason.

Members may enroll in the Sick Leave Bank during the entire month of September. By donating two days of your sick leave, you become eligible for a loan from the bank.

Members who have joined the Sick Leave Bank and exhausted their sick days may receive up to a 10-day loan from the bank. Borrowed sick leave must be repaid to the bank by the time you leave the district. Outstanding sick leave not repaid to the bank will be deducted from your final paycheck. If you joined the Sick Leave Bank during the past two years, you do not need to rejoin again.

Go to: <http://bit.ly/oapZB> to download a copy of the Sick Leave Bank Application form.



Time off for religious holidays

CEA has worked hard through the years to ensure that teachers have the right to participate in their religious traditions. Section 702.11 of the contract allows teachers to be absent, with pay, for a maximum of three days to observe established religious holidays throughout the school year. This leave is not deducted from any other time off.

This provision is particularly important to Muslim and Jewish members since some of their major holidays do not fall during the breaks found in the regular school calendar.

Remember that a request must be made in writing to Human Resources at least five school days prior to the holiday.

You've got Facebook, we've got Facetime

The Annual CEA Fall Fling is coming once again to Villa Milano. Join us Friday, Sept. 25, from 3:30–7:30 p.m. at 1630 Schrock Road for an afternoon of fun and friendship with your peers. Admission, soft drinks and food are free. Beer and wine are \$1.

The Fling is a long-standing tradition for new and returning Association members. You will meet many dynamic, fellow educators. Great entertainment, live music, a raffle and networking with other CCS professionals and some Columbus elected officials are just a few of the reasons to come to the Fall Fling.

Join us. It's a great way to kick off the year.

Ingram grants for teachers

Each year, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation generously contributes funds to the Columbus City Schools to support educational improvement grants for teachers. Grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,500 are awarded for a variety of projects. Successful proposals have had one common quality—they support the district's goal of increased academic achievement for students. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers and other staff to request funding support for a creative idea that meets the needs of students.

This year's application period starts on Sept. 1. For the first time, all applications must be submitted online. Applicants must have a CCS e-mail account to submit an application. Information can be found on the CCS Web site under the grants section. Completed applications are due online by 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9. Please call John Farley 365-8733 if you have questions.

CEA needs your contact information

CEA communicates with its 4,400 members through multiple platforms. While *The Voice* is the highest profile communication from CEA, it is not the most timely. Your Association will need to communicate critical, employment-sensitive information to you instantaneously throughout this school year. Text messages and e-mails are the most efficient and environmentally conscious ways of achieving this goal. Please fill out the cherry-colored card provided by your Faculty Representative, and return it to the CEA office.

A small image of a form titled 'CEA' with the subtitle 'Columbus Education Association'. The form asks for contact information: 'Name', 'E-mail Address', and 'Cell Phone ()'. It includes a note: 'CEA would like to be able to communicate to all members. Please provide your e-mail and cell phone number below. Help us keep you informed about Association business.' At the bottom, it says 'Return card by electronic mail.'

Communities In Schools event

Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation's leading community-based drop-out prevention organization helping kids stay in school and graduate. In central Ohio, CIS works across school districts—Columbus, Whitehall, Westerville and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus.

Support CIS by participating in the 1st Annual Walk/5K Run on Saturday, Sept. 19 at Genoa Park. The CIS walk/run finishes at the Riverfront Art Festival which opens at 12 noon on the day of the event. To participate in this event, register online at www.premierraces.com.

Help Communities In Schools work with central Ohio students so they can be successful and graduate. Go to: www.ciskids.org to learn more.

Special notes

- ❑ Copies of the **new 2009–2011 CEA Master Agreement** will be distributed to members starting on Sept. 1. You can also find the contract on the CEA Web site under the *Publications* tab on the home page. Non-members can purchase copies of the contract from CEA for \$25.
- ❑ On July 28, CEA members **Karen Andermills, Stephanie Barrows, Jane Butler, Greg Goodlander, Byron Lockett, Becky Meske and Diana Welsh** called members to encourage their support of Issue 1. We appreciate their hard work that helped passage of the issue.
- ❑ The **SchoolMasters Bowling League** informational meeting will be held **Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 4:30 p.m.** at Gahanna Lanes. Bowling starts on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 4:30 p.m. Call Toby Rodock at 519-5447 with questions.
- ❑ The **CCS Hudson Distribution Center warehouse** will hold an **Open House** from **4–6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 31**. View items for your classroom and building. For questions, contact Don Jackson at 365-5059 or e-mail him at djackson9110@columbus.k12.oh.us.
- ❑ **Learn about pensions and health care** at the **OEA-R Fall Conference**, Thursday, Sept. 24, from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at STRS, 275 E. Broad St. Cost is \$15. Send checks to Don Holub, OEA, Box 2550, Columbus, OH 43215.
- ❑ Attend an **Autism Intervention Workshop**, featuring Dr. Richard Solomon of the PLAY Project, on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Rd. Learn about trends, research and intervention techniques. Cost is \$95 for teachers and includes lunch. Call 856-9111, Ext. 15 or register at www.relateandgrow.com.

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Please contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.
(614) 461-4455 or www.cloppertlaw.com