

The Voice

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Volume XL, No. 6

Columbus Education Association

September 28, 2009

LA overview

CEA President Rhonda Johnson delivered the annual State of the Association message to the gathered delegates at the first Legislative Assembly of the school year, held at Confluence Park on Sept 17.

“We had a number of victories of which we can be very proud,” said Johnson. “We were successful in electing 96 percent of the candidates we endorsed last year.”

She referenced the success of Issue 75, the CCS levy and bond issue, made possible by the donations of money and campaign efforts from CEA members. Johnson also cited district numbers that show the CCS kindergarten enrollment increasing and charter enrollment leveling.

“We negotiated a contract that included a raise and preserved our health benefits without plan changes,” said President Johnson, “and we were the only OEA local in central Ohio to do so.”

She highlighted CEA’s involvement in the NEA Foundation’s Closing the Achievement Gaps Initiative and your Association’s efforts to obtain a \$1.25 million grant from the organization.

“We continue to work hard to resolve issues through the Joint-Labor Management Committee,” said President Johnson. She said that we took the administration’s lead, and we became data-driven. As a result, the fourth quarter formative assessments were cancelled because of reliability issues pointed out by a member survey. The administration now sees that the work must be done with us, not to us.

Johnson noted that challenges still remain, saying “As good as we are, there is still much work to be done. But together we have, and together we can.”

She closed her speech by quoting the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, “The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dreams shall never die.”

Vice President Sally Oldham reminded FRs to uphold the contract. She reiterated the positive effect of teachers in the lives of students, stating, “What you say to your students today, they will remember for the rest of their lives.”

OEA Lobbyist Melissa Clark gave a descriptive overview of HB 1. Yvette Livers from the American Cancer Society encouraged members of CEA to participate in the upcoming “Making Strides” event on Sunday, Oct. 25. Mira Wright, CCS Human Resources Director, explained the upcoming insurance re-enrollment process.

The assembled delegates later voted to endorse the Teachers for Better Schools slate of candidates and issues.



CEA President Rhonda Johnson delivering the annual State of the Association address.

2009 Political endorsements

Candidates

The CEA Board of Governors and the CEA Legislative Assembly each recently met to decide which candidates and issues CEA will endorse in the Nov. 3 General Election. Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) recommended the following candidates because they best serve the interests of educators and public education. Here is the list:



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has been
intentionally
left blank because
it contains a
political endorsement.

Issues

The CEA Board of Governors and Legislative Assembly also voted to support various issues for the November ballot. Our endorsements are found below:

#1 State Issue—Proposed Constitutional Amendment: YES to authorize the State of Ohio to issue bonds to provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts

#4 County Issue—Franklin County Children’s Services—Proposed Tax Levy: Replacement and Decrease—Proposed Constitutional Amendment

School Issues—Reynoldsburg City (#46); South-Western City (#47); Westerville City (#48); Worthington City (#49).

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is a killer. While women are about 100 times more likely to get breast cancer, men can develop breast cancer. But here's the good news: Breast cancer is one of the most treatable of cancers—and research is increasing hope all the time.



You can help. Join CEA in the annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk. This inspiring event is Sunday, Oct. 25, beginning at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 10 a.m. There is no fee to register.

Last year, CEA organized more than 20 teams to participate; and we raised more than \$8,000. Form a team at your school, and join thousands of others to raise funds for a future without breast cancer. Your team members need not be district employees. Encourage students, parents, family and friends to join your team. This is a great opportunity to involve the community in your school's efforts.

To register in advance and to learn about the walk and the pledge process, go to <http://bit.ly/3QY7iE>. Be sure to list Columbus Education Association as your team company.

Capital Day

On Friday, Oct. 16, the Capital District is pleased to offer an enriching slate of professional development activities for our members. Our inspiring main event will be held at the Hyatt Regency. The morning keynote will feature brain health specialist Dr. Paul Nussbaum whose presentations are intellectually stimulating and frequently hilarious. After lunch, master teacher Dr. Adolph Brown III will educate, inspire and entertain participants with his electrifying relationship-building message. Two learning sessions will include a variety of renowned presenters focusing on *relationships, rigor and relevance*. Vendors will be on site to share their wares. Door prizes will be awarded at the closing session.

Each teacher is expected to attend some type of professional development activity on Capital Day. You may attend PD activities at the Hyatt Regency, at your building/unit or outside the district. It is a work day, but it is your choice.

The following schools have been approved to offer professional development on Oct. 16: Arts Impact MS, Beery MS, Cassady ES, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Clinton MS, Colerain ES, Columbus Global Academy, Huy ES, Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Douglas ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, East Linden ES, Fairwood ES, Ft. Hayes MEC, Heyl ES, Indianola MS, Johnson Park MS, Leewood ES, Linden ES, Linden-McKinley HS, Hubbard ES, Livingston ES, Marion-Franklin HS (Humanities Teachers), Maybury ES, Monroe MS, North Linden ES, Oakland Park ES, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Ridgeview MS, Scottwood ES, Sherwood MS, South HS, Starling MS, Trevitt ES, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Westmoor MS and Windsor ES.

If you choose to attend an activity outside of the district, you need to obtain permission from your principal who must submit the list of teachers to the Office of Staff Development by Friday, Oct. 9. Registration for Capital Day will be available online through CiMS PD Planner after Monday, Sept. 28.



Dr. Paul Nussbaum



Dr. Adolph Brown III

No talking!

If you visited a particular west side school building, you may have seen something quite odd: Teachers walking the hallways, forearms up and pinky fingers in the air.



Was it a rehearsal for the part of Dr. Evil in those "Austin Powers" films? No. But it is

part of an evil plot to sublimate teachers' basic rights. An elementary-level principal has decided that teachers lack self-control and has told staff members when they are in the school hallways they may not talk to each other or to students.

We want to remind teachers (and principals) that staff members have not forfeited their civil, constitutional or human rights upon entering employment with the Columbus City Schools. You are professionals. CEA currently is intervening in this situation. This sort of nonsense should not take place. If this happens in your building, call CEA.

Cut! That's a wrap.

Renewing your license this year?

License renewal packets will be distributed by Human Resources near the end of October. You may submit your completed renewal materials for approval to the LPDC Office at Northgate anytime after you have received the packet. Please keep in mind that the LPDC cannot submit approved renewal forms to the Ohio Department of Education until after Jan. 1. The deadline for submitting your renewal materials to the LPDC Office is Feb. 1, 2010.

If you are using college credits to renew, you will need to obtain an official transcript and attach it to your renewal application. Please have your college or university send your transcript to your home. You may open it. Do not have your college office send transcripts directly to Northgate.

CEA needs part-time hourly forms

Part-time hourly teachers recently became members of the CEA bargaining unit. We are glad to have this group. Most have already completed membership forms. But we are sure we have missed some of our newest members. Please ask the part-time hourly teachers in your building if they have completed membership forms. They will receive a small token of appreciation when CEA receives their membership forms. Call Cora Miller at the CEA office at 253-4731 if you have any questions.

Special notes

- ❑ Regular **seasonal flu shots** will be offered at **Capital Day** on Oct. 16 and at sites around the district. Check with your school nurse to find the site most convenient to you.
- ❑ The **last day** to enroll in the **Sick Leave Bank** is **Wednesday, Sept 30**. Donate two days of your sick leave, and become eligible to borrow as many as 10 days. To download an application, go to <http://bit.ly/3gPH2e>.

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.

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