

# The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

[www.ceahio.org](http://www.ceahio.org)

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## Tell your students: Women made it happen

March is Women's History Month. This is a great time to talk to your students not only about an important aspect of the American historical narrative but also to talk about some of its key players: teachers. Here are some points you can cover:

- ❖ For hundreds of years, women's lives were limited to the home. They were considered extensions of their husbands and caretakers of their children, and their opinions were not considered important. Many were not educated.
- ❖ In the 1800s, wealthier girls began attending secondary schools. They learned mostly languages and fine arts. Catherine Beecher changed all that. She opened a school, the Hartford Female Seminary, to teach math and science. She believed that girls were just as smart as boys and should be given learning opportunities.
- ❖ In the 1900s, the teaching profession grew tremendously. New laws required every child to go to school. Female teachers faced terrible working conditions, including low pay and strict rules banning them from marriage, dating, wearing shorter skirts and sporting certain hairstyles. Teachers began forming unions. Margaret Haley was president of the Chicago Federation of Teachers. She quit her job teaching to help organize the AFT (though because she was a woman, she didn't get the job as its first president).
- ❖ In the early 1900s, Mary McLeod Bethune opened a school for black girls. It was called the Daytona Educational and Industrial School for Negro Girls. As well as learning basic academics and domestic chores, the girls learned to respect themselves and to strive for excellence. The school grew into Bethune-Cookman College, which still exists.

You can find much more information at [www.nwhm.org/exhibits/education](http://www.nwhm.org/exhibits/education). You can also find great information on women's roles in history at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).



## I will read one every day; I will learn stuff on the way

March 2 is Dr. Seuss' birthday and is the perfect time to work with the community to promote the joys of reading.

It's also time again for Read Across America. Through this program, the National Education Association is building a nation of readers. Now in its 14th year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships and reading resources.

Visit [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org), [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com), [read-writethink.org](http://read-writethink.org) and <http://atozteacherstuff.com> for lesson plans, activities and much more. For older readers, try [www.adlit.org](http://www.adlit.org).

Save your photos and videos and enter the NEA 2010 Read Across America Awards. Winners in each category receive \$250 and bragging rights for the year. Applications are due Apr. 20 and winners will be announced June 1, 2010.

Read Around the Planet is an initiative of the National Education Association's Read Across America program. Classrooms use interactive video to connect with other classrooms around the United

States to celebrate reading. Each connection is scheduled for an hour: 15 minutes for microphone and camera testing and introductions; 30 minutes for the reading activities (15 minutes per class); and 15 minutes for exchanging information about respective schools and communities.

The following CCS classrooms were matched with another class participating in the event: Duxberry Park ES: Feb. 22, Jeri Smith's second-grade class connected with a classroom in Flint, Michigan; Oakmont ES: Feb. 23, Amy Crossin's kindergarten classroom connected with a class in Port Washington, New York; Windsor STEM K-6 Academy: Feb. 25, Melanie Gabriel's fourth-grade class connected with a class in Sterling Heights, Michigan; Oakmont ES: Feb. 26, Janet Crockett's second-grade class connected with a class in Suffern, New York; and Olde Orchard Alternative ES: Mar. 2, Katie Higby's second-grade class will connect with a class in Houston, Texas.

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## Capital District Assembly

The Capital District Representative Assembly (RA) will be held at the STRS Building on Tuesday, Apr. 27, at 5 p.m. The goal is to elect the Capital



District President and Vice President and one member of the OEA Board of Directors.

Delegates of the OEA RA are the delegates to the Capital RA. This assembly is a delegate briefing for the OEA Spring Representative Assembly.

What does the Capital District do? It works to raise our education standards, cultivate a spirit of cooperation and unity and form a representative body to speak with authority for our interests.

The Capital District Board is its governing body, establishing procedures, setting assembly dates and calling other meetings as necessary.

The Capital District, along with CCS, plans Capital Day which is held on the third Friday in October each year.

## Graduate course for foreign language teachers

The Ohio State University is offering a three graduate credit-hour course entitled Linguistic Institute for Language Teachers (LILT). LILT is a weeklong summer program designed specifically for teachers of foreign languages. The goal is to provide language teachers with greater linguistic awareness and understanding, with the ability to think critically about language, and with a deeper appreciation for all aspects of language and language study.

The philosophy behind the program is that language teachers and learners can be well served by knowledge that offers them insight into the structure and use of their own language. The objective is to provide the teacher and learner with what he or she needs to know about language, in general, in order to study a particular language more effectively.

Course times are 9 a.m.–3 p.m., June 21–25. Tuition is \$575; however, 25 full-tuition waivers are available thanks to generous support from the Ohio Humanities Council. Participants need not be teachers in Ohio to qualify for a tuition waiver. The application deadline is Friday, Apr. 30. Go to <http://bit.ly/d7xL1q> to download an application.

## Health

In 2006, cardiovascular disease cost \$403 billion in medical bills and lost productivity. By 2025, an aging population is expected to drive up the total by as much as 54 percent. But we can take steps to reverse the trend:



- ✎ Encourage legislators to require more graphic warnings on cigarette packages.
- ✎ Create commitment contracts to quit smoking. A Yale economist tried this successfully in the Philippines: As smokers quit, they deposited the cost of their cigarettes into a special bank account. Those who quit, kept the money. Those who didn't, forfeited the money.
- ✎ Lobby for the food-stamp program to subsidize whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Right now, \$1 buys 100 calories of carrots but buys 1,250 calories of cookies.
- ✎ Advocate making physical fitness part of ESEA

(*No Child Left Behind*). We prep for standardized tests but fail to acknowledge that exercise improves mood, concentration and overall health.

- ✎ Find ways to reduce stress in your life. Get more exercise and eat better. Take a yoga class. Begin meditating daily. Spend more time with friends and family and less time working overtime.

Read about a remarkable strategy that could save all of our lives. It's called the AARP/Blue Zones Vitality Project, started by Dan Buettner, author of *The Blue Zones*. Residents of Alberta Lea, Minn., were the test subjects. They created a new kind of community with walking paths, community gardens and better school nutrition. For instance, schools banned hallway eating and sold wreaths instead of candy to raise money during the holidays. Within six months, participants boosted their life expectancies by nearly four years. Within 10 months, city and school-district health-care claims fell by 32 percent. Check it out at [www.bluezones.com/vitality-project](http://www.bluezones.com/vitality-project).

## Special notes

- ❑ In late February, the **HR Department revised the Art. 211 calendar** which affects postings, interview dates and notification deadlines. **Postings for Round 1** begin **Mar. 12** and will close on **Mar. 23**. **Interviews for Round 1** begin **Mar. 15** and end on **Mar. 31**. Please note that the deadline to notify members of **staff reductions** is **Mar. 1**.
- ❑ **Vote now through Mar. 8** for CEA President; CEA Vice President; 2010 NEA delegates; and 2010–11 OEA delegates. Ballots will be picked up by the Elections Committee on **Mar. 9**. **Ask your Senior Faculty Representative for your ballot.**
- ❑ Senior FRs must submit requests for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. These are the buildings/units that have been approved to date: **Africentric EC HS, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Kingswood Data Center, Northtowne ES, OT/PT, Speech & Language Pathologists, Starling MS, West HS and Windsor ES.**
- ❑ Brush up on your **job-interviewing skills**. CEA and CCS will conduct **interview training** at **Northgate Center, Room G, on Wednesday, Mar. 3, at 4:30 p.m.** to help you prepare for the Art. 211 process.
- ❑ **CEA's Reach Out and Read book campaign** wraps up on **Friday, Mar. 5**. Members can continue to donate new books until then. Faculty Representatives or designees can **begin dropping off donations to the CEA office Mar. 5–12**. If you have any questions, contact Tracey Johnson at 253-4731.
- ❑ The **deadline** to apply for a continuing contract is **Friday, Mar. 5**.
- ❑ **Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m.** is the **deadline** for applications for **CEA scholarships**. Two scholarships are available: the **\$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship** awarded to an education student and the **\$1,000 CEA General Scholarship**. Both are renewable for up to four years but at a reduced level from the first-year award. Go to <http://bit.ly/98fROO> to download an application.
- ❑ **IRS deductions for union dues:** Some CEA members may be able to deduct a portion of their union dues on their income tax returns. If you are a **full-time employee** and are on **Pay Plan A** (21 Pays), you can deduct **\$778.02**. If you are on **Plan B** (26 Pays), the amount is **\$777.31**. If you switched **from Plan A to B**, the amount is **\$724.20**; and if you **changed from Plan B to A**, the amount is **\$831.13**. **Half-time employees** on **Plan A** (21 Pays) can deduct **\$437.18** and **Plan B** (26 Pays) would allow a **\$437.18** deduction.