This area of *The Voice* has been intentionally left blank because it contains a political endorsement.

**CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet**

Join us for our 34th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet being held this year on Friday, May 21, at the Columbus Westin Hotel, 310 S. High St. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Retirees and Senior FRs attend at no charge as our honored guests.

The evening is a moving tribute to the service of our retiring members. Awards to be presented include: Innovator in Education, Outstanding Faculty Representatives, Outstanding Member and Friend of Education. “Friends” honorees in the past have included Ohio Rep. W. Carlton Weddington, former Ohio Sen. C. J. Prentiss and Ohio Sen. Jim Hughes. In addition to retirees being honored, five scholarships will be awarded to the children of members.

If you would like to nominate someone to be honored, call your district governor.

Tickets to the banquet are $30 for non-retirees and guests. To make reservations, please return your reservation card and information sheet to the CEA office. Checks are payable to the Columbus Education Association. Reservations are due by May 11. Call CEA at 253-4731 for more information.

**Earth Day**

Earth Day is turning 40 this year. Help us all pay tribute to our planet on Apr. 22.

Founded in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. senator from Wisconsin, the day has grown into a global event. In 1970, 20 million Americans demonstrated in streets, parks and auditoriums for a healthier, cleaner environment. Hundreds of millions of people in more than 180 countries participate in Earth Day activities annually.

We, as educators, can do many things with our students to honor the occasion and involve them in this worldwide event. Here are a few ideas that can be found at www.nea.org and www.educationworld.com:

1. **Sun Cooking—Science (Grades K–8):** Help students learn about the potential of solar energy as they bake solar s’mores in the sun, an activity designed by the Southeastern Michigan Math Science Learning Coalition.

2. **Clean Up Hazardous Waste (Grades 3–12):** Identify sources of home hazardous waste and create posters to educate community members about how to handle that waste.

3. **Trees Clear the Air—Math (Grades 6 and up):** Use the Planting Trees lesson plans from the U.S. Department of Energy Web site to help students calculate how many trees it takes to suck up the pollutants their family car produces. Scientists estimate that a hectare of trees (about 1,000 trees) is able to use about 20,000 kg (4,375 pounds) of carbon dioxide.

4. **Play It Again—Drama and Science (Grades 6 and up):** Have students perform the play, *The Awful 8,* from the Air Quality Lesson Plans page of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The script includes parts for 27 students, as well as production tips.

5. **Community Clean Up:** Identify community areas filled with trash and work together to clean those areas.

6. **Cafeteria Compost:** Create a compost pile in the schoolyard using lunchroom food scraps and yard clippings.

7. **Earth Day PSA:** Develop a short public service announcement (PSA) video to raise awareness about an environmental issue. To learn more, go to www.earthday.net/earthday2010.
Year-round calendar is ready

The year-round calendar for Africentric, Weinland Park and Woodcrest schools has been established for the 2010–2011 school year. School begins for teachers on July 26 and ends on June 17. Intercessions are Oct. 11–22, Jan. 3–14 and Apr. 4–15. Winter recess will be Dec. 20–31.

The calendar includes holidays, professional meetings, records days, parent teacher conference days and student days off. The number of these days is equal to those of the traditional calendar. Check with CEA for further details.

Attend the CEA Legislative Assembly

The Legislative Assembly (LA) is the policy-making body of the Association. Make plans to attend the next LA at the Columbus Downtown HS on Thursday, May 6, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all CEA members.

The Assembly consists of Faculty Representatives, Governors and CEA officers. Meeting attendance is important to ensure effective representation.


If your building/unit is not listed but a representative was in attendance, please call CEA.

CEA-R is here (and there) for you

When you retire from CCS, your Association family stays with you. It’s called CEA-R. Members help CEA throughout the year, assisting us in office projects and charitable campaigns—even counting United Way materials, CEA communications and the weekly issues of The Voice.

They also have loads of fun. Check out the CEA-R newsletter for dozens of activities. For instance, the group is attending performances of Ballet Met (Apr. 23) and Vaud-Villlities (June 27), visiting the Titanic exhibit at COSI (Aug. 2) and traveling throughout the summer.

The fun-filled tours include day trips to Springboro, Ohio, to see LaComedia Dinner Theatre; short trips to Washington, D.C.; and visit to Vera Bradley Chocolate and Pickles in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

You also can join a bowling league, a book club, a hiking club, a musical group and bridge group.

CEA-R also organizes cruises and trips abroad. And that’s not all. Check out the Web site www.cea-retired.com to learn about benefits for retired CEA members.

Stay involved. Stay in touch. If you have retired or if you are planning to retire from CCS, get more information by calling CEA-R President Judy Valentine at 235-4572.

Honor our excellent principals

Many CCS administrators work hard to ensure teachers have resources and students have opportunities for learning. Each year CCS honors five of them with the $1,500 Ingram Award for Outstanding Principals.

If you know a principal who deserves to be recognized, submit a nomination form to the CEA Development Office by Friday, May 14.

A seven-member joint committee reviews nominations. Criteria include: high student achievement, effective leadership, supportive staff development, parental/staff involvement, effective resource management and strong interpersonal communication that supports morale.

Special notes

☐ The CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Summer Quarter 2010 will be open for pre-registration from April 19–29. For more information and to pre-register, go to http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us and click on Summer 2010 Courses.

☐ Fee waiver applications for summer quarter 2010 will be in mailboxes on Monday, Apr. 26. The completed applications are due back to Northgate by Friday, May 7, 5 p.m. If you have Priority I or Priority II status, include the proper documentation. Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.


☐ Support the OEA-endorsed STRS candidates, Mark Hill and Dale Price. By now you should have received your STRS ballot. Vote by phone, online or mail. The deadline to vote is Monday, May 3.

☐ There will be a Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) general membership meeting on Thursday, May 6, immediately following the CEA Legislative Assembly to elect members to the TBS Board of Trustees.

☐ Teachers interested in taking their professional growth and accomplishment to the next level should plan on attending one session this spring to learn about the National Board Certification process and qualify for financial support from the district. The sessions will be held at Northgate Center on Thursday, Apr. 29, 4:30–7 p.m. and Tuesday, May 4, 4:30–7 p.m. Questions can be directed to Carole Moyer at 365-8241.

☐ The Capital District is offering scholarships to members who are interested in attending the OEA Leadership Academy to be held Aug. 2–4. If you are interested, go to http://bit.ly/9sb7T to complete a scholarship application.

☐ The Central Ohio Labor Council has requested volunteers to help clean up the Workers Memorial Park and plant flowers. If interested, you should be at the park at the corner of Front and Long Streets on Saturday, May 1, at 9 a.m. If you have gardening tools, bring them with you. Extra wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels can always be used. Please RSVP by calling 257-1920.

☐ Friday, May 7, 5 p.m. is the deadline for submitting applications for CEA scholarships. Go to http://bit.ly/98ROO to download an application.