

# The Voice

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

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Columbus Education Association

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## Teachers: Thank you!

Tuesday, May 4, is National Teacher Day. It's another opportunity to thank teachers for the hard work they do every day and to tell the community more about the value of their work.

"Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do," said CEA President

Rhonda Johnson. "National Teacher Day is a good time to learn about the contributions educators make to our community every day. We recognize we are role models. That brings satisfaction. It also brings responsibility. We want to take it to the next level."

"This is an opportunity for all of us to reach out to each other. I ask the community to learn about how educators advocate for high standards for students, fair and meaningful evaluations of their work and resources that go directly to the classroom. Better than an apple or a thank you card, a community's active support of the work we mutually do to teach and care for the community's students would be ample reward for all of us."

Principals can show their appreciation with a special teacher breakfast, lunch or small gifts and notes left for each educator. The National Teacher Day site, [www.nea.org/teacherday](http://www.nea.org/teacherday), describes other activities appropriate for this special day, including:

- + Wearing a button proclaiming your work and your membership in your local, state and national affiliates.
- + Downloading some of the artwork on the National Teacher Day website.
- + Conducting a student essay contest, "A Teacher to Remember," where students write about special teachers who made the biggest impact on their lives.
- + Buying books for the school library portraying teachers in a positive light. Inside each, place a bookplate noting that the book was a National Teacher Day gift from the administrator.
- + Making Teacher Day a community service day, identifying one project on which teachers can concentrate their energies.

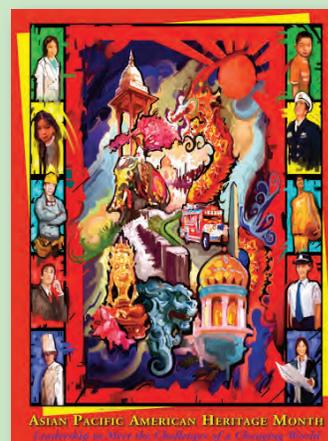


Federated States of Micronesia and New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

There are many aspects of Asian-American history that teachers can emphasize, including immigration, the influence of Asian arts on American movements, the service of Asian Americans at war and treatment of Asian Americans during various periods of history.

Draw upon your Asian-American students' own experiences. Involve parents in your school community. Visit <http://asian-pacificheritage.gov> to see what is being done on a federal level, and replicate some of these activities in your school.



## Federal legislation could prevent layoffs

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding will expire at the end of fiscal year 2010, leaving many states and school districts scrambling to shore up their finances. Columbus City Schools laid off 113 teachers on Friday, April 23. The National Education Association predicts more than 125,000 educator layoffs will happen in the next three months.



U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan

To prevent massive educator layoffs, Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) recently introduced the Keep Our Educators Working Act of 2010. The proposed legislation would provide \$23 billion in one-year aid to save education jobs across the nation. "This crucial education funding would save hundreds of thousands of education jobs, and it would be a tremendous help to states in dire financial circumstances," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. "But more importantly, it ensures that millions of America's students will not have to bear the brunt of our nation's economic woes."

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently testified in front of a Senate committee, urging Congress to pass funding that would help prevent massive teacher layoffs across the country. Ohio could receive more than \$800 million in additional one-time funding if the Keep Our Educators Working Act becomes law.

Contact Senator George Voinovich and Senator Sherrod Brown to urge passage of the Keep Educators Working Act of 2010; go to <http://bit.ly/bQwMH8>.

## Celebrate our students' Asian heritage

May is Asian-Pacific Islanders American Heritage Month. We celebrate the contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to the progress of our country. We also recall their history as immigrants and their struggles to become fully recognized U.S. citizens.

Many cultures are involved, including those of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the

## CEA Legislative Coordinator position open

CEA is seeking to fill the part-time position of Legislative Coordinator (LC). A successful applicant for this position should demonstrate experience in working with political issues related to public education and public education employees. The applicant should be a member of CEA with the ability to motivate and work with people. The LC is responsible for informing leaders and members about political issues that relate to public education and employees, working with the CEA President, Board of Governors and Faculty Representatives to increase member political activity and involvement. The LC will develop relationships with legislators to keep them informed of CEA member positions on legislative issues.

In addition, the LC will work with OEA and NEA political action personnel to relay information from the state and national level to local leaders and members. The LC will also work to increase member participation in raising contributions to the Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) Fund. A stipend for the position will be determined annually by the CEA Board of Governors. The LC selected will not be released from the classroom. Interested applicants should submit resumés to: Greg Goodlander, CEA Legislative Coordinator, CEA Office. The deadline for submission is Friday, May 14. Applicants will be contacted for selective interviews.

## Know the contract: teacher evaluation

Chapter 400 of our *Master Agreement* defines the parameters that administration must follow to complete a successful evaluation for our bargaining unit members.

Among them: There must be at least two observations conducted. One must be announced in advance. There can only be six total observations, with no more than three unannounced. Association members must be granted a pre-evaluation conference if one is requested by either party.

It is imperative that you keep track of the dates and times you were observed. You should also note if the observation is announced or unannounced. CEA also suggests you ask for feedback after an observation. Make such requests in writing so you have documentation that the request was made.

If there is a concern regarding your performance, your administrator should discuss the concern with you, develop goals, provide strategies and suggestions for improving, give a timeline for you to demonstrate improvement and follow up with you regarding your progress.

Review the contract, and call CEA if you have questions.

## Capital District election results

More than 55 delegates attended the Capital District Representative Assembly held Tuesday, Apr. 27, at the STRS building. The Capital District provides professional development and cultural diversity activities for Columbus teachers.



Delegates endorsed candidates for OEA President Pat Frost-Brooks, Vice President Bill Leibensperger, NEA Board of Directors Mary Biniger and Martha Mitchell and OEA Board of Directors At-Large Janifer Trowles. Delegates will elect candidates at the Spring Ohio Education Association Representative Assembly that will be held on May 7–8.

Capital District delegates also voted on the Capital District President, Vice President and Capital's seat on the OEA Board of Directors. Tai Hayden and Robin Jeffries were re-elected President and Vice President of Capital District. Kriston Crombie was elected to the OEA Board of Directors.

## Looking for a celebration? Join us for the banquet!

The deadline is May 11 to buy your tickets for the CEA 34th annual Awards & Retirement Banquet to be held Friday, May 21, at The Westin Columbus. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Full tables are available. Reservations can be made by calling Judy Nelson at 253-4731. You don't have to be a retiree to attend this most-anticipated event of the CEA calendar.

This is the time we recognize the CEA Friend of Education, Innovator in Education, Distinguished Service Awardee, Outstanding Faculty Reps and Outstanding Member. We also award five scholarships to children of CEA members.

The banquet is free for senior faculty representatives, retirees and honorees.

## Shop for groceries, support United Way

It's easy...just shop, swipe your card and earn. Kroger is committed to helping central Ohio grow and prosper. As a long-time supporter of the



United Way, Kroger's Community Rewards program is one of many community commitments Kroger makes towards advancing the common good. By participating in the Community Rewards program, you can help raise funds for United Way of Central Ohio to continue its work in the local community. Participants must re-enroll each year. To enroll:

1. Go to [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.com), and register with your Kroger Card.
2. When asked which nonprofit you would like to support, enter **United Way of Central Ohio** or organization number **83523**.
3. Shop at Kroger, and watch your points add up.

## Special notes

- ❑ **Art. 211–Round 2 postings close on Tuesday, May 4.**
- ❑ Completed **Fee Waiver applications** are due back to Northgate by **Friday, May 7, at 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.**
- ❑ 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.**
- ❑ **Friday, May 7, at 5 p.m.** is the **deadline** for submitting applications for **CEA scholarships.** Go to <http://bit.ly/98fROO> to download an application.
- ❑ **Summer employment opportunities for K–6 licensed teachers:** The SMART Summer Enrichment Camp will be held at Douglas ES building from June 7–July 30. The camp focuses on web-based learning through compass learning. Teachers will work two hours in the morning, Monday–Thursday. Excellent pay will be offered. Contact Dr. Carl Allen at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church at 221-3446.
- ❑ Teachers interested in learning about the **National Board Certification** process can attend the session held at Northgate Center on **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/93s0bT> to complete a scholarship application.