

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Capital Day: PD at its best

On Friday, Oct. 15, the Capital District is pleased to offer an enriching slate of professional development activities for our members. This year's Capital Day will be held at the Columbus Convention Center.

The morning keynote will feature Dr. Samuel Betances, a sociologist and educator who will bring an inspiring and refreshing perspective to the subject of the most important "R," relationships. After lunch, our speaker is former NEA President Reg Weaver, known internationally as an outspoken advocate for public education and one of the country's foremost labor leaders.

Every year, we get rave reviews for this event. All Columbus educators will receive Capital Day registration information by Friday, Oct. 1. We'll let you know more about Capital Day in the coming weeks.



Samuel Betances



Reg Weaver

Peer Assistance, teachers helping teachers

On Oct. 1, the district will reorganize and determine which teachers will be moved to different subject areas or grade levels. This can be disconcerting. Not to worry. The district has the Peer Assistance program to assist you with the transition. You can request support from caring peer mentors who are on call to meet with you privately, review your goals and help you work on achieving them.

Some facts about the program:

- ◆ Peer Assistance is voluntary and non-evaluative.
- ◆ It is not the same as the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR), which is not voluntary.
- ◆ The process is confidential. Your principal will be informed of your participation but will not be involved.

The aim is to provide resources to the teacher through:

- ◆ Observations, feedback and support as needed
- ◆ Assessments of teaching performance, pupil relations, management activities and other areas

You can request Peer Assistance if you:

- ◆ Recently transitioned to another teaching level (elementary, middle or high school)
- ◆ Recently transitioned from a non-classroom setting to a classroom setting
- ◆ Recently changed your teaching area
- ◆ Recently completed the PAR intervention or intern program but want some additional assistance
- ◆ Want refresher support

If you would like to request Peer Assistance, contact Mira Wright at 365-8307. Call CEA if you have questions.

Know the evaluation process

Building administrators or supervisors should have informed you if they will need to complete a professional evaluation for this school year. Administrators may conduct between one and three prearranged observations and are permitted to conduct a maximum of three additional unannounced observations in order to complete the evaluation process. The total number of unannounced observations cannot exceed the total number of observations arranged in advance. At least one of the classroom observations should be a minimum of 15 minutes in duration. The observations should be conducted openly with the observer visible to the teacher.

The following tips are intended to assist you in the evaluation process:

- ◆ Do understand that the evaluation process is subjective and can only be grieved if there is a procedural error.
- ◆ Do request a pre-evaluation conference in writing, preferably via e-mail. The purpose of this conference is to learn what the evaluator will be looking for and to set up announced observations.
- ◆ Do submit in writing the dates and times you would like to have your announced observations.
- ◆ Don't agree to an announced observation at the last minute. Announced observations are agreed upon between both parties.
- ◆ Do follow up each observation with an e-mail stating the following: *Thank you for coming to my classroom on (date) at (time) for an (announced/unannounced) observation. I would appreciate any feedback that you can provide regarding the observation.*
- ◆ Do follow-up in writing if you are in disagreement with the feedback you receive.
- ◆ Do save all e-mails, dates, observation notes and conference notes.

For more information about the evaluation process, read Article 401 and the Syllabus (p. 247-251) in the contract.

Get connected at the Fall Fling

Come connect with CEA and your colleagues at the annual Fall Fling from 4-8 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Enjoy live music and free food. Beer and wine are available for \$2.

The fling is a longstanding tradition for members, and it's the ultimate networking opportunity. You will meet many fellow educators and find out more about the dynamic people who make CCS great.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson is fond of saying that when you accept a CCS job, you're not just accepting a position; you are joining a family.

Join your family! It's a great way to kick off the year.

Know your CEA Governor: Jan Bell

The Columbus Education Association Board of Governors (BOG) is the executive arm of the CEA. It is responsible for the development and execution of all CEA programs. The governors oversee all of the Association's financial affairs.

In addition to attending BOG meetings twice a month, Governors are present for CEA Legislative Assembly meetings. Members of the BOG maintain close contact with faculty representatives, holding district meetings once a month.

This week's *Voice* features Jan Bell. She has served as the Governor of District 2 since 2004. Schools that comprise District 2 include: Alpine ES, Avalon ES, Beechcroft HS, Devonshire ES, Forest Park ES, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Parkmoor ES, Valley Forge ES and Woodward Park MS.

Jan teaches English, social studies and math to hearing-impaired students at Northland HS and currently sits on the Peer Assistance and Review Panel.

Bell previously served as the Northland HS SrFR and is a delegate to the Capital, OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies.



Jan Bell

Registered to vote?

A big election is coming in November. It is extremely important to place education-friendly politicians in office to address the needs of public education.

But you can't vote if you are not registered, and unfortunately, many of our members are not registered to vote, or need to re-register because of a recent move.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2, 2010, General Election is Oct 4, 2010. Your form must be postmarked by that date.

You must return the registration form to your Board of Elections, Secretary of State's office, Office of the Registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, the office of a county treasurer, or a state or local office of a designated agency.

Forms are easy to find. If you need to register, you may download the form from the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/regToVote.aspx> or pick up a form at your local public library.

Don't wait until Election Day to find out that you can't vote.

Professional leave? Great! But follow these rules

Since 1986, CEA members have had the right to attend professional conferences and workshops in and out of town. The district provides \$200,000 per year to cover travel, registration and other expenses for these activities. Section 702.16 of our *Master Agreement* establishes the professional leave fund, which is governed by a Joint CEA/Board Committee. Here are the guidelines:

- ❖ Download and print the current application and forms from the district's Human Resources Intranet.
- ❖ Advance approval is required, and you must apply approximately two months prior to the event. The next two deadlines: Sept. 24 for an event in or after November and Oct. 22 for an event in or after December.
- ❖ Preference is given to workshops in the Columbus area and in Ohio.
- ❖ No trips are allowed outside the continental U.S.

- ❖ Applicants are limited to \$1,800 over a two-year period.
- ❖ Generally, no more than two teachers per building and no more than five teachers in the district may attend an out-of-state conference for a particular activity.
- ❖ Expenses will not be approved in conjunction with personal-leave use.
- ❖ Professional memberships are not reimbursable—unless such membership reduces the conference registration cost.
- ❖ Approved applicants must reserve and pay for their own lodging expenses and be reimbursed.
- ❖ Air travel is approved only if a conference is more than 300 miles away. Mileage costs are reimbursable at the approved IRS rate.

Check airline ticket prices at Uniglobe Travel Designers (237-4488) or Kenley Konnection (898-9505). Identify yourself as a CCS employee. Get an approval number to have your reservations billed directly to CCS.

A chance to grow, professionally

The Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) office will be offering a series of professional growth opportunities for teachers of all skill and grade levels. All participants will receive 0.2 CEUs and free resource materials, along with a chance to win a door prize. Register today on the district's PD Planner for any or all of these sessions.

Classes will be held on the following Tuesdays from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at Arts Impact MS, 680 Jack Gibbs Blvd.:

- Sept. 21—Classroom Management: ES/MS/HS
- Sept. 28—21st Century Strategies
- Oct. 5—Conferencing with Parents/Reporting Child Abuse
- Oct. 19—English Language Learners
- Oct. 26—Data Analysis as an Educational Tool
- Nov. 2—Differentiated Instruction
- Nov. 16—Safe Learning Environment for All

Special notes

- ❑ Join the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Allies (GLBTA) Caucus** of CEA at its first organizational meeting of the new school year on **Thursday, Sept. 30**, from 4:30–6 p.m. at **Panera Bread, 4519 N. High St.** The goal of the GLBTA Caucus is to create safe and inclusive schools for all staff and students. We will be planning events and activities, as well as discussing issues for this school year. For more information, send an e-mail to jkbeall@gmail.com.
- ❑ Apply for **\$750 in tuition assistance** for your **college senior**. Students must have a 2.0 GPA. The scholarship **deadline** is **Oct. 29**. If you have questions, call Cora Miller at 253-4731. Go to <http://bit.ly/bmKk1B> to download an application.
- ❑ Attend the **Underground Railroad Tour** on **Saturday, Oct. 16**, and travel northbound with the Friends of Freedom Society to Lake Erie. See several landmarks, including the **Follett House Museum** and the **Maritime Museum**. Depart at 7 a.m. from 270 E. State St., and return at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$65. Call (614) 868-1246 or e-mail INFO@ohioundergroundrailroad.org.

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