

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

September 27, 2010

State of the Association

The first CEA Legislative Assembly of the school year was held at Confluence Park on Sept. 16. The event began with a presentation by OEA Director of Governmental Services Ron Rapp on the importance of the 2010 General Election and its potential effect on education in the state of Ohio.



CEA President Rhonda Johnson delivered the annual State of the Association message to the delegates. Johnson reflected on the past school year and highlighted some of the accomplishments of the Association.

Johnson then looked toward the upcoming year and described the challenges that face the members of CEA. “Even in the face of tough economic times, CEA has been one of the few bargaining units in Ohio that continue to get raises and step increases with protections in insurance and benefits,” said President Johnson. “This year is critical. Our contract expires in August, and this means that we will be going into negotiations in the spring.”

President Johnson highlighted CEA’s receiving the NEA Foundation’s \$1.25 million Closing the Achievement Gap Grant, as well as the \$550,000 “Bringing Learning to Life” grant through Learn and Serve America, a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Johnson spoke on the importance of every member voting and voting for friends of public education. She said, “Governor Ted Strickland has been our friend. He has protected public education and has catapulted Ohio schools to No. 5 in the nation, as ranked by *Education Week*. Ohio has been designated by the Education Commission of the States as having the most innovative education system in the country.”

Johnson closed her speech by saying “We can make a difference in this election. Vote as if your job depends on it—because it does.”

Vice President Sally Oldham began her report by asking for a moment of silence to remember Gregg Lee, a student from Walnut Ridge HS, struck and killed by a car earlier that morning.

Oldham stated how teachers make a difference in the lives of students. She said, “Be the kind of teacher you always wanted to have—the one who makes a difference, who cares, who respects students and looks for the gift that each one of them brings into the classroom.”

Superintendent Gene Harris stopped in to greet the delegation. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work of the CEA membership on behalf of Columbus students.

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

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

Know your CEA Governor: Donna Baker

The CEA Constitution and Bylaws designates the Board of Governors as the Association's executive arm. Last week's *Voice* featured Jan Bell, Governor of District 2. This week's *Voice* features Donna Baker, Governor of District 3.

Donna is an elementary science resource teacher. She has also worked for nineteen years in math and science at the middle school level. She has served as a Senior Faculty Representative for the Association. Other union activities include involvement on various CEA committees. Donna is a member of the Curriculum Quality Control Council (CQCC). She is a delegate to the Capital, OEA and NEA Representative Assemblies.

Baker has served as Governor of District 3 since the fall of 2004. Schools in District 3 include: A.G. Bell Program, Arlington Park ES, Brookhaven HS, Cassady ES, Como ES, East Columbus ES, East Linden ES, Huy ES, Innis ES, I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Maize ES, Medina MS, Mifflin MS, Mifflin HS, North Linden ES and Oakland Park ES.



Donna Baker

Bringing learning into real life

Many of us wonder how we can help our students translate classroom learning for use in their lives outside the school. We want to make this knowledge relevant to real life.

Here's how: Join us on Capital Day, Oct. 15, at the Columbus Convention Center to hear more about service learning and its benefits for teachers, students and communities.

Service learning is a form of experiential education. It focuses on student participation in organized service activities that:

- Connect to specific learning outcomes
- Meet identified community needs and
- Provide structured time for students to reflect on—and connect—service and classroom experiences

For instance, picking up trash by a riverbank is service. But studying water samples under a microscope is learning. When students collect and analyze water samples and the local pollution control agency uses the findings to clean up a river that is service learning.

At this special workshop you will learn more directly from those best equipped to know: students who have engaged in service-learning activities.

The workshop will be led by Nelda Brown, Executive Director of the National Service Learning Partnership and co-chair of Voices for National Service. Voices is a coalition of national service programs, state commissions, and individual champions committed to expanding opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve and volunteer.

The NEA Foundation has given CEA a grant to fund this initiative. Please don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

Ingram grants for teachers

Each year, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation generously contributes funds to the Columbus City Schools to support educational improvement grants for teachers. Grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 are awarded for a variety of projects. Successful proposals have had one common quality—they support the district's goal of increased academic achievement for students. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers and other staff to request funding support for a creative idea that meets the needs of students.

This year's application period started on Sept. 9, 2010. All applications must be submitted online. Applicants must have

a CCS e-mail account to submit an application. Information can be found on the CCS website under the grants section. Completed applications are due online no later than 4 p.m. on Oct. 8, 2010. Please call Dr. John Farley or Betty Warnock at 365-8733, if you have questions.

10 minutes is all we ask

CEA needs 10 minutes of your time. When you leave, you will feel empowered to vote for the candidate who best will help you as an educator.

You don't believe it? Then attend one of these quick election-information meetings. Your faculty representative will tell you all about the importance of electing pro-education candidates and what's at stake in the November general election.

Here's what we will cover:

- The TBS Process (TBS is our political-action arm. It recommends candidate endorsements.)
- Key campaign messages in the Governor's race. (You will want to be present for this.)
- The *OEA 2010 Talking Points Booklet* (This is your ammunition when talking to others and taking action in the voting booth.)
- Review of endorsed candidates and issues (Information is powerful.)
- Recruiting volunteers (We need you!)

We want every CEA member to attend a 10-Minute Meeting. Please check with the Faculty Representative in your building for the scheduled session. Itinerant teachers should attend a 10-Minute Meeting in one of the buildings where they work.

Special notes

- ❑ **The deadline to join the Sick Leave Bank is Sept. 30.** If you are a new teacher or a teacher with fewer than 30 days of sick leave, you should strongly consider joining. To download an application, go to <http://bit.ly/bqK6pC>.
- ❑ **Early voting for the November General Election begins Sept. 28.** You can vote by absentee ballot, by mail or in person. Go to <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/absentee> for application and location information.
- ❑ **Potential CEA special election dates:** In the event of vacancies on the CEA Board of Governors this fall, CEA election dates are as follows: Declarations—Oct. 18–22; Campaigning—Oct. 25–29; Voting period—Nov. 2–15; Ballots tallied—Nov. 16.
- ❑ There will be a **special meeting of the Middle School Senior Faculty Representatives on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m.** at the **Arts Impact MS, Room 215, 680 Jack Gibbs Blvd.**
- ❑ **CEA thanks** Kathryn Krotz who has been added to the list of **contributors** to **Stewart ES** teachers.
- ❑ **Have dinner on Sept 30 from 4–8 p.m. at Gresso's, 961 S. High St.** When you buy the **pizza buffet, half of the proceeds go to the staff** at Stewart ES who lost their personal teaching materials due to a fire at the building. Contact **Tai Hayden** for information at (614) 306-0353.
- ❑ Interested in being a part of a **High School Credit Flexibility Application Review Committee** or a **Credit Determination Committee**? Contact your principal or SrFR.

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