

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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The Voice
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intentionally
left blank because
it contains a
political endorsement.

Waiting for Superman? Speak Out!

The documentary film, *Waiting for "Superman,"* by producer Davis Guggenheim is scheduled to open in Columbus on Friday, Oct. 15. A film that evokes strong emotions, it tells the story of injustice in America's education system. It says important things about the challenges of the public education system. However, the reductive messaging—"charters are good" and "teachers unions are bad"—oversimplifies complicated issues and threatens to thwart thoughtful discussions about improving public schools.

Improving public education is a shared responsibility—parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials and other adults must come together to determine how to make schools in their communities great. Unfortunately, this is not reflected in the film's tone, which is divisive rather than collaborative. For example, the film:

- Promotes nostalgia for a school system of years past, seemingly forgetting past inequities like: segregated schools; institutionalization of children with disabilities; and marginalization of and discrimination against female teachers and teachers of color.
- Glosses over the negative effects of testing mania and Bush-era reforms (NCLB) and ignores the impact of these so-called reforms on certain student populations, such as students with disabilities and English-language learners.
- Promotes charter schools as the silver bullet to improve public education, even as it admits that only one charter school in five is more effective than traditional public schools.
- Focuses on experts who are uniformly anti-union—mostly "reformers" who believe teachers unions are the main obstacle to great public schools. The film ignores places like Columbus where the union, superintendent, elected officials and community leaders are working together to make real change.
- Asserts that good teachers are the only solution to what ails public schools, ignoring key issues such as parental and community involvement or teaching and learning conditions.

You will be tempted to get defensive about this film. But CEA welcomes and encourages people who have seen the film to join us in our mission of making great public schools for every student. Association members have always led the fight for great public schools, and we hope the movie inspires others to become engaged in a larger discussion about the shared responsibility for public education.

Speak Out! about *Waiting for "Superman"* on the CEA Blog at <http://blog.ceaohio.org/>. Share your thoughts with us, or write a review of the film.

Classified work...still not our job

More than 80 percent of our laid-off members have been offered recall notices. However, we must remember the secretaries and other classified staff that are still in layoff status. With the reduction in front-line professionals, many of our building offices undoubtedly will run less smoothly. We want all teachers to know that classified work is not your responsibility.

If your building administrator asks you to perform the functions of classified staff, such as office duty, we urge you to say that CEA does not perform the work of another bargaining unit. Not only is it not our area of expertise, but classified employees do not want you to do their work. To do so interferes with their bargaining rights and constitutes an unfair labor practice. Would we want laid-off teachers replaced with non-bargaining unit members? Absolutely not.

We need to show solidarity with the classified staff and support each other in these difficult times. If you run into problems or have questions, call CEA.

There's nothing like Capital Day

Every year the Capital District brings you a day of learning. This well-earned chance to enhance your repertoire of knowledge is one of our most popular events. Get out your notebook and pen, enjoy the fellowship and share the enthusiasm for innovation and best practices.

Members must register on the professional development planner by Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The official Capital Day activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 15, at the Columbus Convention Center, with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The day's activities include the opening keynote address by Dr. Samuel Betances, a sociologist and educator, who will bring an inspiring and refreshing perspective to the subject of the most important "R," relationships. The keynote speaker for the luncheon is Reg Weaver, past president of NEA, known internationally as an outspoken advocate for public education and one of the country's foremost labor leaders.

Choose your learning sessions, held in the morning and in the afternoon. We have great topics planned, including a presentation about the real meaning of Service Learning and how it can work in your classroom.

Visit vendor exhibits throughout the day. The closing session will feature door prize drawings. The grand prize is a laptop computer and carrying case.

We are UNITED

The fact that we are united is reason enough to give to United Way of Central Ohio. But if you are looking for more than community spirit, consider this: United Way has developed "bold goals" within education, neighborhoods, income and health care and a 10-year strategy that builds on its previous work. The goals are designed to create broad, lasting change that will make life better for all of us.

More than 300 volunteer experts from the fields of business, government, health and human services and education worked with the United Way staff to develop these goals. The goals for education include:

- ▶ Increasing the percentage of young children entering kindergarten in Franklin County public school districts from 71 to 85 percent.
- ▶ Increasing the percentage of students who graduate from high school in Franklin County public school districts from 87 to 95 percent.



United Way will leverage extensive relationships throughout central Ohio to solve community problems, and it will hold everyone accountable for the group's progress, adjusting programs and approaches as needed to ensure that we are making the most effective use of our resources.

Be part of it all. CEA's two-week campaign is under way, ending on Friday, Oct. 22. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.

Thanks for attending!

The first CEA Legislative Assembly was held Sept. 16. The LA consists of elected faculty representatives, CEA officers and the Board of Governors. The assembly sets our direction. It stays up to date on governmental affairs and school board discussions. It also formulates endorsements of election candidates and ballot issues.

We thank those who represented their units: 5th St. Annex, 6th St. Annex, A.G. Bell Program, AAA, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Art, Arts Impact MS, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K-8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye MS, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Spanish Immersion K-8, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East HS, East Columbus ES, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, École Kenwood K-8, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes MEC HS, Gables ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Hamilton K-6, Heyl ES, Hilltonia MS, Huy ES, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8, Innis ES, International HS, I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Kingswood Center, Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden K-6, Linden-McKinley 7-12, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Monroe MS, Music, Neil Avenue Center, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, NPSS Tutors, Nurses, Oakmont ES, OT/PT, Olde Orchard ES, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Shepard Center, Sherwood MS, South HS, South Mifflin K-6, Southmoor MS, Southwood ES, Speech & Language, Starling MS, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Broad ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS, Work Study and Yorktown MS.

Please call the CEA office if your building/unit was in attendance but not in the above list.

Special notes

- ❑ The **deadline** for applying for the **CEA Members Scholarship Fund** is **Oct. 29**. **Get \$750 in tuition assistance** for your college senior. Go to <http://bit.ly/cS4HpX> to download an application. For more information, call Cora Miller at 253-4731.
- ❑ 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—Nov. 2-15; Ballots tallied—Nov. 16.
- ❑ **Anthony Kearns**, founding member of The Irish Tenors, will perform songs of Broadway, opera and Ireland on **Thursday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.** at the **Southern Theatre**. This benefit concert is presented by the Wexford Institute to improve the education of children with autism or trauma. Tickets may be obtained by going to www.ticketmaster.com or calling 800-745-3000. The **code word "Irish"** should be included to obtain a **\$10 discount**.

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.
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