

# The CEA Voice

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

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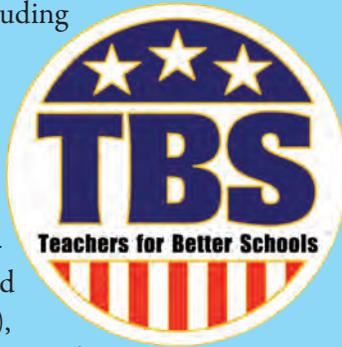
Columbus Education Association

November 8, 2010

## Mid-term election results

The votes are in, and this time, Republican candidates won many seats nationally, including John Kasich, who will become governor in January.

We want to congratulate the CEA-endorsed winners: Ohio Senator Charleta Tavares (15th Dist.); Ohio Representatives John Patrick Carney (22nd Dist.), Ted Celeste (24th Dist.), Tracy Heard (26th Dist.) and W. Carlton Weddington (27th Dist.).



Endorsed winners for Franklin County offices are: Commissioner Marilyn Brown and Auditor Clarence Mingo.

Winning judges are: Court of Appeals Judges Judi French and Julia Dorrian; Common Pleas Judges Mark Serrot, Pat Sheeran, Laurel Beatty, John Bender, Kim Cocroft and Kim A. Browne.

CEA also want to express appreciation to those who helped pass nine of the sixteen ballot requests in central Ohio, including in Bexley, Grandview Heights and Madison Plains.

We also want to thank all of you who voted. Your voice is important and will continue to count a great deal as CEA, along with OEA, begins working with this term's winners on issues that are important to our state's educators.

CEA is watching many issues, including proposals that could weaken educator control. Some of these would hire teachers as at-will employees, end teacher tenure, privatize education services and make major changes to standardized testing and assessments for our schools. We remain concerned about the safety nets in place to care for our needy families, especially with regard to funding for social services health care.

The NEA stated in its e-newsletter, posted on Wednesday, Nov. 3: "The nation is on the road to economic recovery, but the economy is still shedding jobs, especially in the education sector. High unemployment rates and a record number of home foreclosures are wreaking havoc in communities across the country."

On education specifically, Congress will have to tackle two main issues—revising *No Child Left Behind* and setting spending priorities for critical programs and services affecting students and working families, such as early childhood education, Head Start, college loans for deserving students and many others.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson said: "We stand ready to work with NEA and OEA as they continue to negotiate with our legislature and with Congress to put students first and to make sure that education remains a top priority. We must find ways to improve student achievement and to help our students develop skills that will ensure their success."

## National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. It recognizes and honors the original people of the United States and addresses the future of American Indian/Alaskan Native children seven generations to come. Here are facts about this historic month:



- › At the turn of the 20th century, people began making proposals for a day to honor Native Americans.
- › In 1914, Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfoot tribe, rode horseback from state to state in the hope of gaining support for a day of tribute.
- › The following year, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a member of the Seneca tribe, persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to designate a day of recognition for Native Americans.
- › New York was the first state to observe American Indian Day in 1916. Over the years, other states followed suit in designating a day to honor Native Americans.
- › In 1976, Jerry Elliott (High Eagle of the Cherokee/Osage tribe) authored congressional legislation that was signed by President Gerald R. Ford. The legislation declared the week of October 10–16, 1976, as Native American Awareness Week. Elliott served as national chairperson of the event.
- › The celebration was expanded to a month in 1990. Here are classroom ideas from [EducationWorld.com](http://EducationWorld.com) to use throughout the month:
  - › Discuss the meanings of the words *folktale*, *legend* and *myth*. Assign groups to read folktales and act them out.
  - › Have students interview local Native Americans to learn about their history, culture and contributions.
  - › Read to students about the Navajo code talkers from library sources or from [www.lapahie.com/NavajoCodeTalker\\_Right.cfm](http://www.lapahie.com/NavajoCodeTalker_Right.cfm). Divide the class into small groups. Give the groups an example of how the code might work. Have each group work together to create messages and then exchange papers to decode one another's messages.

## Health insurance: Don't forget to enroll

Two-thirds of CCS employees have not returned their open enrollment insurance forms to the CCS Benefits Office (CEC, Rm. 108). **You must complete your form and return it by Thursday, Nov. 18, or your pre-tax payroll deductions will not continue.** We don't want you to get your first check in January and find out you are now paying federal income taxes on health care benefits.

Forms can be returned in person or mailed to the Benefits Office. The best way to confirm that the Benefits Office has received your form is to hand deliver it and to get a time-stamped copy for your records. You do not need to meet with a benefits counselor to submit the form.

All eligible employees who want medical coverage must re-enroll in the Core Benefits program that packages medical, dental and vision coverage. You must include the names of covered dependents on the enrollment form. If you are not making changes, you do not need to provide documentation of your dependents. If you are making changes, adding dependents to your plan, you must submit:

- A copy of the first page of your 2009 IRS Form 1040
- Applicable evidence, such as marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption-award letters, child-support orders and domestic-partner affidavits

There are new requirements for adding dependents up to age 26. To be eligible for coverage, such dependents must be your natural children, stepchildren or in your care legally. Legal proof, as we've listed above, is required. However, such dependents do not have to live with you, nor must they be students or dependents listed on your IRS tax return.

Ohio law allows coverage for dependents up to age 28, but you must pay 100 percent of the contribution rate for a dependent older than 26. This coverage does not include vision or dental insurance.

Note, benefits counselors will be in your building to assist you with enrolling in several voluntary benefits: universal life insurance with long-term care benefits; short-term disability insurance; accident insurance; critical illness insurance; pet insurance; and LegalEASE, providing legal coverage for non-CEA members

We believe that many employees are waiting for appointments with counselors. The voluntary benefits counselors will not take your Core benefits enrollment forms. They must be returned directly to the CCS Benefits Office. Let CEA know if you run into problems. For questions, call 365-6475.

## Calamity days gradually disappearing

Members have been asking if we still have calamity days. The answer is yes, but not for long. Our state legislature has begun eliminating calamity days.

Last year, we had five calamity days to use. This year we have three days. Next school year, we will have one day. Calamity days will be gone entirely by the 2012–2013 school year. We then will have to make up any time lost because of weather or other unforeseeable events.

## Thanks for attending the LA

We thank everyone who participated in CEA's Legislative Assembly on Oct. 7. This is the best way to keep up with and have a voice in the policies and positions of your Association. The Assembly consists of Faculty Representatives, Governors and CEA officers. At the last LA, we kicked off our CCS United Way campaign and voted to make changes to the CEA Constitution and Bylaws.

The following buildings/units were represented at the Oct. 7 meeting: A.G. Bell Program, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Arlington Park ES, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K–8, Binns ES, Brookhaven HS, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clearbrook MS, Clinton ES, Cols. Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Global Academy, Columbus Spanish Immersion K–8, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Eakin ES, East HS, East Columbus ES, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, École Kenwood K–8, Fairmoor ES, Fifth Ave. K–8, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes CC, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Innis ES, International HS, I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Kingswood Center, Leawood ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden K-6, Linden-McKinley 7–12, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Music, Neil Ave., North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Shady Lane ES, South HS, Southmoor MS, Southwood ES, St. Vincent, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Broad ES, Westgate ES, Whetstone HS, Windsor K–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

If your building/unit was represented but not listed, please contact CEA.

## Special notes

- ❑ Thanks to the generosity of the CEA-R, the **David and Joanne Katonak Arts Enrichment Fund** is awarding **grants to CCS arts teachers** (instrumental and vocal music, visual art, dance and drama). Applicants may apply for funding from \$250–\$750 to enhance student experiences in the arts. Applications must be submitted by Nov. 23. For applications, contact Betty Warnock at 365-8733 or at [bwarnock@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:bwarnock@columbus.k12.oh.us). If you have questions, contact Linda Wright at 365-5024 or John Farley at 365-8733.
- ❑ **CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Winter Quarter** opened for **registration on Monday, Nov. 1**. To register, go to [www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu) for more information.
- ❑ For a limited time, you can **purchase Cleveland Browns tickets for as low as \$25 per ticket**. Share in the excitement of Cleveland Browns football—extend this offer to your friends and family. Use PROMO CODE: MB2010. For more information, contact Mike Brown at (440) 824-6186 or at [mbrown@clevelandbrowns.com](mailto:mbrown@clevelandbrowns.com).

## Job-Sharing Request

If you are looking for a job-share partner, fill out the form below and return it to the CEA office. A list will be printed and mailed to each person who submits the form to assist in finding a partner for job sharing. Even if you submitted your name last year, **fill out a new form this year**. Please return this form to **Carol Wagner** at CEA by **Friday, Nov. 12**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Preference for Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_