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. CarltonWeddington (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 Werrot, 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 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/Nava joCodeTalker_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.
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.

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.

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.

Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Present Assignment: __________________________

Certification Area(s): __________________________

Teaching Preference for Next Year: __________________________

School: __________________________

Home Phone: (______)_________________

Mobile Phone: (______)_________________

E-mail Address: __________________________