

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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CEA preparing for MLK dinner

CEA's Minority Involvement Program Committee is pleased to announce CEA's 32nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, January 13, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The CEA King Dinner is the oldest such celebration in Columbus. It is always a moving and inspiring experience and one of our members' favorite events each year.



Nomination forms for our two annual awards, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and the Helen Jenkins Davis Award, have been sent to the buildings. They can also be found at <http://bit.ly/bt9h4r>.

The King Award recognizes those who have demonstrated efforts to keep alive the ideals and spirit of the late Dr. King. Former recipients include the late Jerry Hammond, State Senator-Elect Charleta Tavares, Mayor Michael Coleman and former State Representative Joyce Beatty.

The Davis Award is named in honor of the first black teacher hired by the Columbus City School District. This award is presented to a Columbus teacher who has worked to promote social justice, diversity and human and civil rights. Former recipients are Dorothy Wilson, Cathy Nelson, Carol Moyer and Sandra Waters-Holley.

The deadline for submitting nomination forms for both awards is Tuesday, Nov. 23.

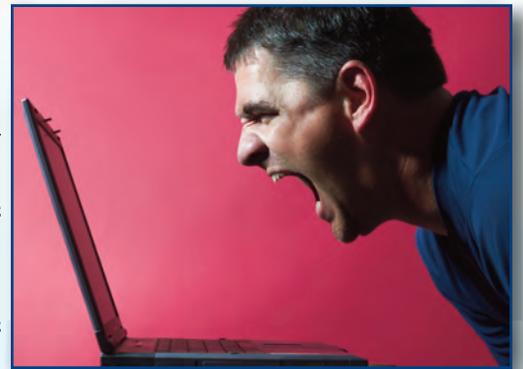
Our speaker this year is Rev. Al Sharpton, one of America's most renowned and controversial civil rights leaders. Over the years, Sharpton has gotten involved in many high-profile cases that affected the African-American community, leading protests against what he believed were injustices and incidents of racial discrimination.

Sharpton's stance, in his own words, has taken him "from the streets to the suites" and his irrefutable impact on national politics has been applauded by both supporters and non-supporters alike. Sharpton continues to challenge the American political establishment to be inclusive to all people regardless of race, gender, class or beliefs. In his 2003 book, *Al on America*, Sharpton describes this vision for America. His radio show draws on his experience as a grassroots organizer, community activist and politician to offer commentary, practical answers and solutions.

We anticipate having a sell-out crowd this year, so we encourage you to buy your tickets early. Reservations can be made by calling the CEA office at 253-4731. Tickets are \$30. Tables of eight are \$240.

Technology grievance response

The administration has responded to the grievance filed by CEA on behalf of the bargaining unit regarding the numerous issues with the district's technology system. The verbatim response is as follows:



Based on the information presented at the second step hearing, it is the Hearing Officer's position that there has been no violation of Section 206.01 of the CEA/Board Agreement. However, the District does recognize that there are legitimate concerns and/or issues with the technology and appreciates CEA and its members for bringing those issues to the forefront. Moving forward, the District and the Technology Department are committed to working collaboratively with CEA and its members to resolve and/or address technology issues as expeditiously as possible.

Do not be disconcerted by the administration's response. CEA did prevail. The administration patently responds to every grievance filed by CEA with "no violation" of the agreement even though they admit fault. There are issues that need to be resolved, and they have expressed a willingness to work collaboratively with CEA. Executive Director of Human Resources Cynthia Picciano responded by saying, "Both Rod Houpe, Chief Information Officer, and I are committed to addressing the concerns and frustrations that were brought forward via the grievance channel. We are in the process of creating a communication [sic] plan to share how the technology issues are being addressed."

CEA will continue to monitor technology issues and will take other actions as necessary if these issues are not resolved in a timely manner.

CEA thanks the more than 100 people who attended the grievance hearing on Oct. 27, specifically, Merele Wilder (Weinland Park ES), Liz McNally (Easthaven ES), Kriston Crombie (Centennial HS), Tom Shrilla (Woodward Park MS), Rita Hinz (Beechcroft HS) and Nancy Barron (OT/PT) who gave testimony at the hearing. They eloquently described the failure of the administration to provide us with the right tools and right teaching and learning conditions so we can perform our professional duties.

If you are still experiencing problems with technology in your building, continue to submit tickets to the Help Desk. Follow up with a call to Bob Hern at CEA (253-4731) or e-mail him at bhern@ceaohio.org in the event we need to take further action.

Celebrate all of us

American Education Week began Nov. 14 and runs through Nov. 20. The National Education Association is spotlighting the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. The tag line is “Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.”

Each day during the week spotlights a different aspect of school life:

- ❖ **Monday:** Kick-off Day, with national commemorations to local community events.
- ❖ **Tuesday:** Parents’ Day, with invitations to parents to visit classrooms for a hands-on experience of the school day. Ongoing research shows that parental involvement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism and restores confidence amongst parents in their children’s education.
- ❖ **Wednesday:** Support Professionals Day, recognizing individuals who provide invaluable services to schools. Although we do not represent this group, we highly appreciate their contributions and our collaborative relationship with OAPSE.
- ❖ **Thursday:** Educator for a Day, featuring invitations to community leaders to serve as educators and get a glimpse of daily school life. The program, originally developed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, enhances understanding among educators and community leaders. In addition, it demonstrates to public officials and other decision makers, the successes and challenges our teachers face and underscores the need for adequate staffing, materials and facilities for students.
- ❖ **Friday:** Substitute Educators Day, honoring the educators who stand in regularly for employed teachers. These professional educators provide a critical link in the education of public school-children by serving as a bridge to provide continued quality education to children in the temporary absence of regular classroom educators.

NEA has provided numerous resources for your school to use during this special week. Go to www.nea.org, under “featured events.”

CEA district changes

At the September meeting of the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA), several amendments to the CEA Constitution and Bylaws were introduced and referred to the CEA Constitution and Bylaws Committee. This committee is responsible for keeping the Constitution up to date and making sure it is in compliance with national- and state-affiliate governance requirements.

At the October LA, the representatives approved the proposed amendments that included changes in CEA Constitution Article VIII (Nominations, Elections, Removals and Vacancies) and in CEA Bylaws Article 9-1 (Number of Electoral Districts) and Article 14 (Collective Bargaining).

The amendment to Article VIII of the CEA Constitution eliminated the pre-determined number of eleven electoral districts and made the CEA Board of Governors responsible for determining the number of CEA districts.

At its Oct. 28 meeting, the CEA Board of Governors voted to reduce the number of electoral districts to 10 from

11 by merging CEA Districts 7 and 8. Districts 9, 10 and 11 will be renumbered/renamed Districts 8, 9 and 10, respectively. These changes will become effective August 1, 2011, and will be incorporated in the CEA Spring Elections. Information about the elections will be posted in *The Voice* and will be mailed to members’ last-known home addresses.

You did it! Thanks for donating

CEA wants to thank you and all of your Columbus City Schools peers for contributing to this year’s United Way campaign. Most of the funds raised go to support education programs in our community. You are helping our youngest children get ready to attend kindergarten. You also are helping our oldest students graduate.

The following buildings/units have completed their campaigns: 17th Ave. Service Ctr., 5th Ave. International K–8, 6th St Annex, Academic Acceleration Academy, AIMS, Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Arlington Park ES, Avondale ES, Beatty Park ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K–8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Cassidy ES, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES, Champion MS, Clearbrook MS, Clinton ES, Colerain, Columbus Prep. School for Girls, CAHS, Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy, Como ES, Cranbrook ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Downtown HS, Duxberry Park ES, East Columbus ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, École Kenwood K–8, Fairmoor ES, Fairwood ES, Forest Park ES, Ft Hayes MEC, Ft. Hayes General’s House, Gables ES, Georgian Hts. ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Community Ed. Ctr., Hudson Ctr., Huy ES/A.G. Bell, Indian Springs ES, I-Pass @ Mifflin, Kingswood Data Center, Leawood ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM, Linden-McKinley STEM, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Moler ES, Morse Road Bus Compound, Northgate, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Psychologists, Salem ES, Shepherd Ctr., Sherwood MS, Southmoor MS, Southwood ES, Starling MS, Stewart ES, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Wedgewood MS, West Broad ES, West HS, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

Correction: In the Nov. 8 *Voice*, we reported that calamity days would be reduced to one day next school year, and calamity days would be completely gone by 2012–2013. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is required by statute to study extending the school year and to submit recommendations to the General Assembly by Dec. 31, 2010 on what to do in subsequent years. Therefore, it is undetermined if calamity days will be further reduced or will be completely restored in the 2011–2012 school year.

Special notes

- ❑ Return your **Verification and Open Enrollment forms** to the CCS Benefits Department by **Thursday, Nov. 18 to continue insurance coverage for 2011**. Complete and return this form **even if you do not wish to make any changes in coverage**. You must verify benefits coverage, confirm dependent’s eligibility (documentation is not required if existing) and authorize payroll deductions.
- ❑ **Briggs HS** and **Cranbrook ES** were omitted from the attendance list of the Oct. 7 CEA Legislative Assembly in the Nov. 8 issue of *The Voice*. Please excuse our error.
- ❑ **Purchase Cleveland Browns tickets for as low as \$25 per ticket**. For more information, contact Mike Brown at (440) 824-6186 or mbrown@clevelandbrowns.com. Use **PROMO CODE: MB2010**.