

# The Voice

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

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Columbus Education Association

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## Protect your bargaining rights now



**Columbus teachers and allies demonstrate on the Ohio Statehouse steps on Feb. 22**

CEA, we are under attack. First came rating systems that challenged our competence. Then came tenure restrictions that threatened our job security. Now, legislation is popping up to destroy your ability to collectively bargain your employment contract. In Wisconsin, Idaho and Indiana, proposed bills limit collective bargaining to wages and benefits. In Tennessee, a recently introduced bill would abolish altogether teachers' ability to bargain collectively.

Right here in Ohio, Senate Bill 5 eliminates collective bargaining for state employees and employees of state institutions of higher education. While it technically retains collective bargaining for K-12 school employees, it essentially eliminates bargaining on a vast array of issues, including salary, health benefits and numerous working conditions. It is collective bargaining "in name only."

We must act now. Visit <http://aces.ohea.org> to sign an online petition and to learn about steps you can take. We need every single member to get involved to stop S.B. 5. Tell your family and your neighbors about this bill that is an assault on the middle class.

We must ask our state senators and representatives to oppose this bill. The elected officials who represent you need to hear from you today. Tell them that you do not support this bill and the efforts to eliminate collective bargaining and that collective bargaining benefits students.

Collective bargaining allows educators a voice in improving working and learning conditions and opportunities for Ohio's students. This bill would take us backwards and harm students throughout the state. In today's difficult economic times, including the serious budget deficit, we all need to be focused on the essentials. Nothing is more essential than giving our students and children a quality education that prepares them for good jobs.

## CEA S.B. 5 town hall meeting

On Sunday, Feb. 20, more than 400 Columbus Education Association members and friends filled the OEA Media Center to capacity for CEA's Senate Bill 5 (S.B. 5)



CEA President Rhonda Johnson addresses the Town Hall Meeting attendees

Town Hall Meeting, CEA President Rhonda Johnson welcomed members and allies and gave an overview of the proposed effects of S.B. 5.

OEA Governmental Services staff member Pete Haekman provided members with talking points and strategies to help them fight S.B. 5. CEA members Karen Andermills and Philip Hayes read the opposition testimony they gave at the Feb. 17 hearing on behalf of S.B. 5 opponents. Vice President Sally Oldham explained OEA and CEA's progress and what additional actions CEA members could take to support the fight against S.B. 5.

If you could not attend the event, go to CEA's Facebook Page and website to view video clips, and go to our Flickr Page to see photos from the event. For your convenience, a PowerPoint presentation developed by OEA staff can be found at <http://bit.ly/ePnEo2>. For instructions about what you can do to stop S.B. 5, go to CEA's Action Center on our website ([www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)).

## More than greens eggs and ham

Every year we celebrate the NEA's Read Across America. This year, it begins on Mar. 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday. It's a great time to get everyone involved. Every year, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, grandparents and others develop activities to bring reading excitement to children of all ages.

Here are some ways you can celebrate:

- Involve your principal. In our experience, principals love NEA's Read Across America.
- Consult with your school librarian. It's likely that he or she is already familiar with Read Across America and may have ideas to offer. Reserve books in advance—there may be a run on Dr. Seuss titles.
- Ask other teachers if they are making plans. Consider coordinating your efforts for a school-wide event.
- Invite guest readers to come to your class on



See **green eggs and ham** on back page

## Grievance in progress

Each month, we inform you of the grievances CEA is working on for you. We work every day to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise our members to try working out problems mutually first, we know this isn't always possible. This is what we're working on this month:

Building/Unit/Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
CCS Administration	The Board/Administration failed to hire a teacher or adjust classroom numbers so that the class size at third and fourth grades meet contractual requirements.	That the Board/Administration immediately hire a teacher/adjust numbers to make all classes in the building compliant with the numbers required by the contract.	Grievance withdrawn (issue resolved prior to hearing)

### Green eggs and ham from front page

March 2 and read to your students. There is something powerful about a police officer, firefighter, mayor, radio personality, pastor, high school quarterback or grandmother sharing their love for reading. Afterwards, have your students write thank you notes.

- Put out reading resources for parents. The NEA site, below, contains some you can print and copy.
- Have fun! Get some hats! Everyone wants the famous Cat in the Hat hat, available at discount from NEA's *Cat-alog*, or make your own from red and white construction paper. This makes a fun class project. Go to <http://bit.ly/euLl5E> to check out the pattern.

Want more ideas? Visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

## Thank your social worker

We call on our school social workers when a student is troubled and when we need help getting to the root of the problem.

It's time to say "thank you." Today begins National School Social Workers Week. It's a great time to acknowledge t



provide to our schools. You may not be aware that School Social Workers are specially trained to work in school districts across the country on crisis intervention, mental health assessment, counseling, linking and referring students and families to community agencies, collaborating with school staff and community agencies to reduce or minimize barriers to student achievement and attendance. In short, they are our purveyors of hope.

CCS wants to keep students in school. We cannot do that without these professionals. Social workers are close to the critical events that shape the quality of American life. They are on the frontlines, developing, advocating and delivering programs that respond to such human needs as homelessness, poverty, family break-up, mental illness, disability, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence and many other issues. Social workers help people live more rewarding lives.

Elizabeth Clark, director of the National Association of Social Workers, said in a 2009 speech:

*Often, our clients are victims of imperfect systems. They are the disadvantaged, disenfranchised, invisible and forgotten. As social workers, we stand squarely on their side. Given this, perhaps we can say that the greatest—the grandest—of our social work grand narratives is social justice.*

Join CEA in saying thanks today. Honor your social worker with a staff lunch. Make a banner. Write cards acknowledging all that these highly trained professionals do for your students and their families.

## Bargaining update

The CEA Bargaining Team and the Board of Governors met on Feb. 24 to recommend bargaining priorities that will be sent to the CEA Legislative Assembly. Faculty Representatives will vote on these recommendations at a special meeting of the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, Mar. 3, 4:30 p.m., at the Columbus Downtown HS.

Our bargaining team will soon address the traditional school calendar and the year-round calendar with board representatives.

CEA thanks the members who participated in the CEA School Calendar Survey and other bargaining surveys during this round of negotiations.

## CEA trip changes to Spain and Portugal

Due to the civil unrest, we have had to cancel our trip to Egypt. We are now offering a fabulous trip to Spain and Portugal. We will see Madrid, Toledo, Avila, Salamanca, the Shrine of Fatima, Coimbra and Lisbon and many other nearby sights. See ancient and modern aspects of these two colorful countries.

The dates will be the same, June 10–21. The cost for the excursion will be \$3,532, airfare included. A deposit of \$500 is due by Tuesday, Mar. 15, to Marty Adler, Bexley Travel, 2940 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43209. Call CEA at 253-4731 to let Carol, Rick or Ezzetta know if you are interested. We are looking for 20 travelers.

## Special notes

- A special meeting of the **CEA Legislative Assembly** is scheduled for **Thursday, Mar. 3, 4:30 p.m.**, at the **Columbus Downtown HS**. FRs will vote on the bargaining priorities CEA will take to the table. It is critical that all FRs attend this very important meeting.
- Voting** in the CEA Elections ends on **Mar. 7**, with **ballot tallying** on **Mar. 8**. See your FR to obtain a ballot.
- The **deadline for applying for a continuing contract** is **Mar. 4, 2011**. If you have questions, call the CCS Certification/Licensure Department at 365-5658.
- Applications for the **Teacher Dream Grants** must be submitted online to the CCS Development Office by **Friday, Mar. 25, at 4 p.m.** To access the online application go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/dreamgrant>. For further information, contact the Development Office at 365-8733.
- Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-0465) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. These are the buildings/units that have been approved since the last edition of *The Voice: A.G. Bell Program/Huy ES*, and **AIMS**.
- Gables ES** will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Wednesday, Mar. 2**, from **1–7 p.m.** To schedule an appointment, go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), and use **sponsor code: GablesElementary**.
- Attend the **Region 1 OEA's New Member Forum** to be held on **Saturday, Mar. 5, 11:30 a.m.**, at the **Quest Conference Center**, 8405 Pulsar Place. The **forum is free and open to first-, second- and third-year Association members**. To register, contact Debbie Roberts at (800) 282-1500 ext. 3116, or e-mail her at [robertsd@ohea.org](mailto:robertsd@ohea.org).