

The Voice

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

April 11, 2011

CEA General Membership Meeting

We are planning to hold a general membership meeting to ratify a two-year successor Master Agreement. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 14, at the Aladdin Shrine



Center located at 3850 Stelzer Road. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. You will receive the details of the proposed agreement, via your personal email by Wednesday, Apr. 13. If CEA does not have your personal email address, send it to bhern@ceahio.org.

It is extremely important that everyone show up at this meeting. Showing our solidarity is critical at this time. If this agreement is ratified, it will not be subject to the new collective bargaining law (Senate Bill 5). The new contract will expire in August of 2013 and will be subject to any laws applicable at the time. Meanwhile, we can help repeal this law by gathering signatures and getting out the vote in November.

Petition down payment made

On Sunday, Apr. 3, hundreds of Columbus Education Association members converged on the OEA Headquarters building in downtown Columbus with one thing in



CEA members pack the OEA building to gather the 1,000 signatures required for the "down payment" to get to the next step in repealing S.B. 5.

mind—*lex talionis*. Responding to an email and a text message sent by CEA late the evening before, members brought their families, friends and neighbors to fight against S.B. 5.

They arrived eager to sign the petitions that would help constitute a "down payment" towards the repeal of S.B. 5 in the November 2011 General Election. More than 1,400 signatures were gathered at the OEA building. Other CEA members gathered hundreds of signatures from congregants leaving local church services that morning.

In less than 24 hours, the We Are Ohio coalition submitted more than three times the required 1,000 signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State for verification. The Ohio Attorney General will also review the proposed ballot language before allowing referendum petitions to be circulated.

To see pictures from the event on CEA's flickr photo

page, go to <http://bit.ly/fTFWlk>. To see a short video of the event on CEA's YouTube channel, go to <http://bit.ly/eOGbP3>.

Less than 90 days to repeal Senate Bill 5

Mark your calendar for July 5. That's the deadline for collecting signatures to repeal Senate Bill 5. We need your help. The petitions are the vital part of this campaign. Without them, the repeal of S.B. 5 will not be on the November ballot.

THIS IS A BIG JOB. We need signatures from 6 percent of the number of Ohioans who voted in the 2010 governor's election.

That's at least 231,148 valid signatures from at least 44 of Ohio's 88 counties.

COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS to the OEA Building, 225 E. Broad Street, on Monday Apr. 25, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (the day before we return from spring break) to sign a petition. Any registered voter may sign the form. Parking will be available at the CCS parking lot at 270 E. State St.

WE ALSO WILL COLLECT SIGNATURES on Saturday, Apr. 30, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. at the OEA Building. This venue is also open to CEA members and the public.

Important dates:

- ☛ The petition deadline: July 5
- ☛ Signature validity evaluation by county Boards of Election: July 26
- ☛ Date to file supplemental signatures: August 5
- ☛ Deadline for the Secretary of State to determine signature validity: September 4

This legislation is pure evil. It eliminates longevity pay increases in favor of a performance pay system for teachers. It gives the public employer the right to accept its own last best offer if the parties are unable to reach an agreement. It also:

- ☛ Limits the issues that may be bargained
- ☛ Bans payroll deductions for political action committees like TBS
- ☛ Requires that public employees pay at least 15 percent of the cost for healthcare premiums, not subject to bargaining
- ☛ Removes provisions defining employee picketing and "direct dealings" by public employees with employers during labor negotiations as unfair labor practices
- ☛ Prohibits public employees from striking
- ☛ Insists that bargaining continue to impasse over an unfair labor practice

LET'S GET TO WORK!



Know your governor

The CEA Constitution and Bylaws designate the Board of Governors (BOG) as the Association's executive arm. This week's *Voice* features Diana Welsh, Governor of District 1.

Diana is a physical education teacher at Dominion MS. She has been involved in various CEA committees and is currently a member of the Reform Panel.

In the fall of 2010, Welsh was appointed to the position to fill an unexpired term. She was elected to her first full term this spring. Units in District 1 include: Centennial HS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Cranbrook ES, Dominion MS, Gables ES, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8@ Crestview, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Weinland Park ES, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES and Metro HS.



Diana Welsh

Tai Hayden for STRS Board

The STRS Board election has begun. OEA and OFT both have endorsed CCS teacher Taiyia "Tai" Hayden for the STRS board. Cast your vote and help others before the May 2 deadline. We must help Hayden get elected. We are being attacked politically, and our retirement livelihood is threatened.

Hayden believes strongly that employees, retirees and employers must all play a role in improving the long-term solvency of the pension system. She also believes we have a right to a pension that reflects our years of service in a demanding profession. She has voted to protect this right, and will continue to uphold this view.

Members will have three voting options:

1. Mail: Fill out the enclosed ballot and return it in the postage-paid envelope.
2. Phone: Call the toll-free number included with your ballot. You will need your PIN included with your ballot.
3. Online: Go to the web address included with your ballot. You will need your PIN.



Taiyia "Tai" Hayden

National Library Week

Apr. 10-16 is National Library Week with the theme, "Create your own story @ your library®." First sponsored in 1958 by the American Library Association, the event celebrates the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and promotes library use and support.



Your school's librarian does a lot more than help your students choose books. Librarians are media specialists, dealing with ways to integrate digital technology into today's classroom and throughout the curriculum.

Today's school librarian: creates curriculum and promotes an engaging learning experience tailored to the individual needs of students; evaluates and produces information through the active use of a broad range of tools, resources, and information technologies; provides access to materials in all formats, including up-to-date, high-quality, varied literature to develop and strengthen the love of reading; and provides students, educators and staff with instructional materials that reflect current information needs.

Take some time to thank your school's librarian. Have your class make thank you cards. Hold a special "thank you" party. Create posters about your librarian and hang them in the library. Check out www.ilovelibraries.org/nationallibraryweek.

Have you joined TBS?

TBS is the political action arm of CEA. It is a separate political action committee that advocates for the benefit of teachers in the political arena. TBS screens and recommends candidates for various elected offices. TBS also raises money for political candidates, levy and bond campaigns and other ballot issues affecting Columbus teachers and the school community.



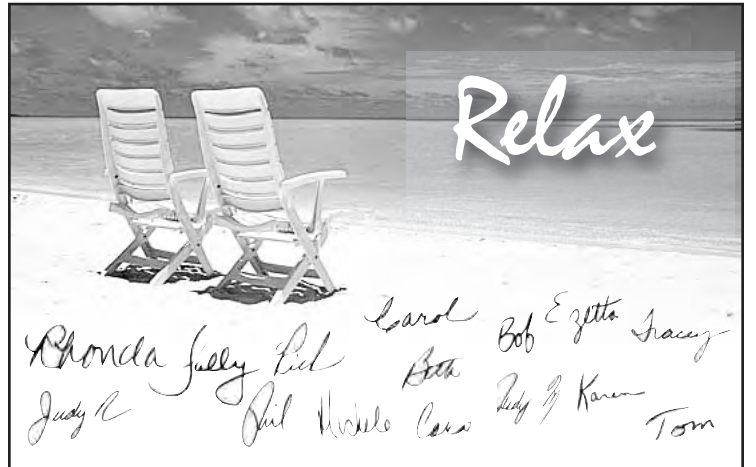
CEA does not use any dues money to promote individual candidates. Instead, CEA members can contribute by payroll deduction. Please consider supporting this important and powerful organization.

Right now, TBS is raising money for the petition drive against S.B. 5. The more TBS support we have, the more effectively this committee can advocate for you. Call CEA and take action now! Ask your CEA Senior Faculty Representative for a form, or download one at <http://bit.ly/ecXSaC>.

Have a good spring break

It's been a challenging year, and the work isn't done. However, we are all here to support each other.

CEA wishes you all a restful and enjoyable spring break. Take some time to enjoy yourself. You have earned it. Your work is among the most important in our society. You change lives every day. You should be proud.



Special notes

- Voting to elect a CEA Minority Governor At-Large** will end on Monday, Apr. 11. **Tally Day** is Tuesday, Apr. 12.
- The **Capital District** is offering **scholarships** to members who are interested in attending the **OEA Leadership Academy** to be held **Monday, Aug. 1-Wednesday, Aug. 3**. Go to <http://bit.ly/hmfDgB> to complete a scholarship application form. The **deadline** is **Thursday, Apr. 14**.
- Master Teacher application** information is available at: http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev/master_teacher.html. The application **deadline** is **Thursday, May 5**.
- Senior FRs** must submit requests by fax (253-5052) 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*: **Speech and Language, Wedgewood MS and Yorktown MS**.
- Some CEA members may be able to deduct a portion of their **union dues** on their **income tax returns**. If you are a **full-time employee** and are on **Pay Plan A** (21 Pays), you can deduct **\$774.96**. If you are on **Plan B** (26 Pays), the amount is **\$774.07**. If you have **switched from Plan A to B**, the amount is **\$720.18**; and if you **moved from Plan B to A**, **\$828.85**. **Half-time employees** on **Plan A** (21 Pays) can deduct **\$436.46** and **Plan B** (26 Pays) would allow a **\$436.46** deduction.