

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

September 26, 2011

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The Voice
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intentionally
left blank because
it contains a
political endorsement.

State of the Association

The first CEA Legislative Assembly of the school year was held at Confluence Park on Thursday, Sept. 15. The gathered delegates were greeted by Superintendent Gene Harris. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work of CEA members over the past year and acknowledged our front-line role in making sure our students stayed safe in light of recent student incidents.



CEA President Rhonda Johnson addresses the Legislative Assembly

CEA President Rhonda Johnson delivered the annual State of the Association message to the delegates. Johnson reflected on the past school year and highlighted some of the accomplishments of the Association.

“This past year,” said President Johnson, “when we went to the bargaining table, we were able to maintain what we have and not lose any ground. Everything is in place until 2013.”

“I’m beginning to worry that we’re becoming complacent about SB 5,” said Johnson. “We’ve got the signatures, but I’m not feeling the momentum that we need, and I’m afraid we could lose because of that complacency.”

“This is the election of your lifetime,” continued Johnson. “It is your teaching conditions and the learning conditions of your students that are on the line.”

CEA FRs were trained on how to conduct 10-minute meetings to transform our members into activists on We Are Ohio’s Friends, Families and Neighbors campaign.

Vice President Sally Oldham began her report by recognizing new CEA FRs attending their first Legislative Assembly meeting.

Vice President Oldham reminded the delegates of the power of our profession by saying, “Teachers change students’ lives. Sometimes, just being the right person at the right time may be enough to change a person’s life forever.”

The delegates later voted to endorse the Teachers for Better Schools slate of candidates and issues.

United Way kickoff

It is time once again to kick off our annual United Way campaign. We will mark the occasion at the CEA Legislative Assembly



on Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Columbus Downtown HS. Principals and supervisors are expected to attend with their faculty representatives.

For many years, United Way has been addressing the root causes of some of the most persistent problems that we face in our community. We have made progress, but it is time to

increase our efforts and create system-wide changes.

United Way greatly benefits our neediest families and supports community efforts to improve our lives. The agency's nine Bold Goals focus on the interconnected areas of education, income, health and home. When they are achieved in 2020, more people in central Ohio will reach their full potential by having a quality education that leads to a productive career, enough income to support a family, good health and a safe place to live. The current downturn in the economy and its negative effects on thousands of people in our community emphasizes the need for ambitious action.

Join us to improve kindergarten readiness, raise the high school graduation rate, pave the way to financial stability, remove barriers to health care, encourage good nutrition and fitness, help our neighbors prepare for disasters and emergencies, create safe neighborhoods and provide safe and decent housing for everyone.

Read upcoming editions of *The CEA Voice* to learn more about the United Way strategy. LIVE UNITED.

Apply for insurance by Oct. 28

Life's unexpected events can threaten a family in more ways than you might think. Unexpected death, a diagnosis of cancer, a disabling injury, a stroke or heart attack all can be devastating. Protect your financial security.

During the open enrollment period, Sept. 28–Oct. 28, you must meet individually with a Benefit Counselor at your school or work location. The counselor can answer questions and assist you with both core (health, dental and vision) benefits and voluntary benefits (term life, short-term disability, universal life, critical illness, accident and pet insurance.)

The counselor will review your selections with you, update your information and explain the policies. If you are adding new dependents, you must supply eligibility information such as Page 1 of your 1040 tax return, marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption letter, child support order or domestic partner affidavit. You do not need to provide documentation if you are not adding new dependents.

If you have questions not answered in *Your 2012 Employee Benefits Enrollment Guide*, call the Benefits Department at 365-6475.

Medical Mutual of Ohio has been selected to administer our medical benefit programs. The rates for full-time CEA bargaining unit members are given in the chart below:

2012 Contribution Rates for Medical Benefits for Teachers

Medical 21 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	\$ 35.34	\$ 41.46
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)	70.49	82.69
Employee plus one (New Spouse/DP)	199.98	212.18
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)	104.01	122.01
Family (New Spouse/DP)	295.05	313.05

Medical 26 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	\$ 28.55	\$ 33.49
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)	56.94	66.78
Employee plus one (New Spouse/DP)	161.52	171.37
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)	84.01	98.54
Family (New Spouse/DP)	238.31	252.84

Extended Dependent Coverage is offered to unmarried dependents up to age 28 based on Ohio House Bill 1(One). This rate will be paid in addition to the employee's regular premium (i.e., Employee only, Employee + one, or Family). This rate will apply to each extended dependent on your benefit plan.

	Select	Choice
Extended Dependent Coverage—to age 28 (21 pay plan)	\$ 211.90	\$ 215.86
Extended Dependent Coverage—to age 28 (26 pay plan)	171.15	174.35

Go to <http://bit.ly/nNcmxO> to view all insurance benefit rates for teachers, tutors and latchkey teachers.

Got a will or a traffic ticket?

CEA's attorneys, Cloppert, Sauter, Latanick and Washburn, provide members a legal services plan featuring reduced rates for those personal matters requiring a lawyer.



The Basic Plan (also known as the OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program) is provided for every active member. As a member of the CEA bargaining unit, you automatically receive, at a reduced rate, legal assistance with matters in five areas: real estate, wills and estates, domestic relations, consumer protection and traffic charges.

For an additional charge, the Comprehensive Plan provides more extensive coverage for matters such as a document review or legal representation for a personal injury. Your entire immediate family is eligible.

Call the Cloppert law firm at 461-4455 if you need a consultation. As a CEA member, you automatically receive four free 30-minute meetings to discuss any legal matter except income tax preparation.

Professional development

Columbus schools will offer three professional development days to help us continue to align our curricula with state standards. Opportunities are on Sept. 28, Dec. 7 and Feb. 15. You will attend with others from your feeder pattern or cluster. Sessions are from 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with lunch on your own.

Go to <http://g.co/maps/2s53ff> for feeder/cluster locations. If you have questions, contact Mickie Sebenoler at 365-5039 or at msebenoler@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Special notes

- On Thursdays, we all wear red. Make a statement. Tell everyone we will see red until SB 5/Issue #2 is repealed.
- The deadline to check your voter registration is Oct. 11. Visit <http://bit.ly/naFro6> to check your name and address. Make changes in person or by U.S. mail using the form at <http://1.usa.gov/neNjie>.
- The CEA Members Scholarship Fund can help you get your college senior some last dollars. Application forms can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/qXNvIT> or obtained from the CEA office. The completed application form and documents must be received at the CEA office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18.
- Join the Sick Leave Bank. Donate two days to the bank and borrow ten if you run out. Download a form at <http://bit.ly/q1bbmd>. Return the completed form to the CCS Treasurer's Office by Friday, Sept. 30.
- If you participated in an out-of-district professional development activity over the past year (September 2010–August 2011) and have not yet applied for CEUs, your deadline to do so is Wednesday, Oct. 5. To assist with this process, download the *PD Planner Guide* entitled *Submitting an Individual CEU Request* from the LPDC webpage at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/staffdev/lpdc.html>.