

# The CEA Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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## Whose right to work?

Once again, it is a bad day for the middle class. The Indiana legislature rushed through a “Right-to-Work” bill. Our neighbor to the west now is the 23rd state with this anti-worker legislation on its books.



We could be next. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine just approved language for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the Mar. 6 ballot. If it passes, this will mean that Ohio workers will not have to join labor unions if they chose not to.

But here’s the good news: Voters can move mountains. We proved it during the last election, when our efforts repealed Senate Bill 5. Now it’s time to rally our supporters again. We must do so as a united front, regardless of political affiliation.

What’s the big deal? Tell your family and friends. A Right-to-Work law would:

- + Remove an important protection that we enjoy as union members: the right to bargain our level of pay.
- + Negate our ability to require union membership (or fair-share dues) and open the door to those who agree to work for less.
- + Allow non-union members to reap the benefits of union negotiations without paying their fair portion of the costs associated with representation.

This is a wake-up call. None of us can afford division. We must unite around the principles that make our country and our state great. Please: Vote between now and Mar. 6 for the candidates who will take a stand to protect our rights and our children’s futures.

We need to be vigilant and keep the pressure on those who represent us. Ohio voters have spoken before. This is not the time to start trying to destroy what is left of Ohio’s private-sector middle class.

CEA will keep everyone as up-to-date as we can about where this possible Constitutional Amendment initiative goes. For a copy of the text of the proposed Constitutional Amendment, go to <http://bit.ly/yFk9fN>.

Also, don’t forget the politicians who tried to strip away worker rights with Senate Bill 5. For a list of legislators who voted YES, go to <http://bit.ly/AERqgj>. Remember their names when you vote in the 2012 elections. To find your senator, go to [www.ohiosenate.gov/map.html](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/map.html). To find your representative, go to [www.house.state.oh.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1).

## Educators for Obama

Thirty years ago, the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in National Labor Relations Board v. J. Weingarten protected you. The NLRB stood up for American teachers by ensuring we are entitled to union representation in a disciplinary meeting with our principal or supervisor. The former governor that is seeking the Republican Presidential nomination called NLRB members “stooges.”



That same former governor wants to protect your right to work for less. According to a study by the AFL-CIO, right to work for less states pay the average employee 15 percent less than those in free-bargaining states (like Ohio). Right to work for less states have higher poverty and infant mortality rates, fewer people with health care and more dangerous workplaces.

That New Englander wants to make sure all Ohioans have the right to work for less. He’s already said that such legislation “makes a lot of sense,” and has pledged to sign a federal right-to-work bill if it reached his desk. The multimillionaire that is taxed at a lower rate than you also said, “...right to work [for less] is the way you want to go if you want good jobs.”

Last year, we fought, and beat, our legislators’ version of right to work for less. Then it was called Senate Bill 5. Now, it’s called right to work for less. We need someone in the White House who supports the middle class and our families. That person is President Obama.

We need to stand up and fight for the President who has stood up and fought for us. Go to [www.neafund.org](http://www.neafund.org) to help us win our fight by becoming an Educator for Obama. Your President, your country and your students are counting on you.

## School calendar approved

The CEA and the CCS board have reached agreement on the school calendar for the 2012–13 year. Here are some pertinent dates.

School begins	Aug. 20, 2012
Students report	Aug. 22, 2012
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 21 (early dismissal)–23, 2012
Winter Recess	Sat., Dec. 22, 2012–Sun., Jan. 6, 2013
Spring Recess	Fri., Mar. 29–Sun., Apr. 7, 2013
Last Day for Students	May 30, 2013

For the complete 2011–13 calendar, including the payroll and deduction schedule, go to: <http://bit.ly/xfSx5o>.

## Joint District Area Meetings

Due to potential conflicts with parent conference dates, CEA has scheduled two joint district meetings in place of regular CEA district meetings. CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Vice President Sally Oldham will be present at each of these meetings.

The meetings are for faculty representatives, but any CEA member may attend. Candidates for offices and delegate positions are encouraged to attend and to speak.

The meeting for Districts 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 4:30–6:30 p.m., at The 94th Aero Squadron, 5030 Sawyer Road. Districts 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 will meet on Thursday, Feb. 16, 4:30–6:30 p.m., at Champps Lennox, 1827 Olentangy River Road.

If you cannot the meeting assigned to your district, feel free to attend the other meeting.

## Deadline: CEA Members Scholarship

Wednesday, May 2, at 5 p.m. is the deadline for applications for CEA scholarships. This 25-year-old program provides scholarships for children of Columbus teachers. Two scholarships are available: the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship awarded to an education student and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. We finance the fund with interest earned from Association bank accounts. Both are renewable for up to four years, at a reduced level from the first-year award. Also, a one-year scholarship is awarded by CEA-R, and a senior at South HS will be awarded the Grossman Memorial Scholarship.

Go to <http://bit.ly/AwBqdI> to download an application form.

## CEA elections

We are now in the campaign period of the election cycle. We kindly ask faculty representatives and members to distribute candidates' campaign materials in their buildings. The formal campaign period continues until Mar. 5. Voting begins Feb. 21. The Elections Committee will tabulate votes on Mar. 6. In the event of a run-off election, the formal campaigning period will be from Mar. 12–Apr. 2. Voting takes place Mar. 20–Apr. 2. The Elections Committee will tally votes on Apr. 3.

Congratulations to the following individuals who ran unopposed and, therefore, were elected to the following positions by acclamation: CEA President Rhonda Johnson, District 2 Governor Carla Davis, District 3 Governor Donna Baker and District 6 Governor Teri Mullins.

## Homeless, but not alone

Homeless youth in our community need our support. Show yours by attending a fundraising/awareness dinner from 6:30–9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Westin Great Southern Hotel, 310 S. High Street.

You will learn more about Caring Hearts, Helping Hands, a non-profit collaboration involving the Ohio State University Star House, COHHIO's Youth Empowerment Program and Columbus City Schools' Project Connect Program. The evening consists of a cash bar, dinner, silent auction, entertainment and guest speakers.

Tickets are \$50 per person. These organizations have been working tirelessly to advocate for homeless youth providing direct care, education and developing solutions to end homelessness.

To reserve your space or order tickets, please contact Angela Lariviere at [angela.yepdirector@gmail.com](mailto:angela.yepdirector@gmail.com) or Mary Jane Quick at [mquick@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:mquick@columbus.k12.oh.us).

## The search has begun...

I Know I Can is excited to begin its search for the 2012 Founders' Scholars. Piloted in 2010, the Founders' Scholarship is offered to CCS graduating seniors planning to enroll full time at a college or university for the following academic year. Seniors are selected using a holistic and competitive process that assesses their extra-curricular and scholastic achievements along with total financial need. Worth up to \$10,000 and renewable for up to four years, this scholarship was developed in response to the growing gap between the cost of college and the financial capacity of CCS families. It is also designed to promote the development of college aspirations, academic rigor and community involvement among CCS high school students.

If you have a current senior who you feel is qualified, please encourage him or her to apply today. Applications are due by 8 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 1. Applications, along with further information, can be found at [www.iknowican.org](http://www.iknowican.org) or by talking to your school's I Know I Can college advisor.



## Travel the Mediterranean this June

Join the CEA Travel Group as we sail Royal Caribbean through the

Mediterranean on a seven-day cruise commencing June 8. The trip will begin with a flight into Rome, then will proceed to the port of Civitavecchia to board the



ship. Ports of call include Genoa, Corsica, Barcelona, Mallorca and Tunis. Make sure you are included; there are only four openings left. The total cost per person is \$3,950, which includes round trip air from Columbus to Rome, the cruise (outside cabin with balcony) and all port charges and fees. Mail your check to Bexley Travel, 2940 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209.

## Special notes

- Early voting** for the **Mar. 6 primary election** has begun. Request an absentee ballot or vote in person at your local county board of elections now. Check the Ohio Secretary of State's Website at [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us) for locations.
- Article 211 training** will be held at **Northgate Center** (Room G) on **Wednesday, Feb. 22**, from 8–10 a.m. for all high schools, 7–12 schools and career centers; and from 1–3 p.m. for elementary and middle schools in Regions III, IV and V. On **Thursday, Feb. 23**, training for all district programs and offices will be from 8–10 a.m. and for elementary and middle schools in Regions I and II from 1–3 p.m.
- Please note that the **CCS-CEA PAR/Bullying Workshop** has been **canceled**. These workshops will be scheduled next school year.
- 2011 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A** (21 Pays) **\$752.41**, **Plan B** (26 Pays) **\$747.07**. If you switched from: **Plan A to B: \$692.41** or went from **Plan B to A: \$807.07**. **Half Dues** are **\$474.32** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$243.37**.