

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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You are appreciated!

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7–11, and includes National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 8. Thousands of communities will take time out to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives.



CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child.

Remember, teaching is not an easy job. This year, NEA is highlighting the trends that have played a critical role in shaping the teaching profession, including changes in the workforce and the student population:

- There are 3,232,813 teachers in K–12 public schools. About 16 percent of these positions become vacant each year.
- Forty-five percent of new teachers abandon the profession in their first five years.
- There's a growing demographic divide between America's predominantly white teaching force and an increasingly diverse student body. The proportion of women teachers continues to rise.
- Nearly 40 percent of those entering America's classrooms today are coming from other careers.

For more information, visit www.nea.org/.

North side school reconstitutes itself

Round 1 of the 211 process did not end well for one of our north side elementary schools. More than 70 percent of the teachers are transferring.

There have been plenty of red flags. The big one is lack of administrative support in discipline. CEA has tried to work with the administration to address staff complaints but to no avail. On last year's School Climate Survey, nearly 70 percent of teachers in that school disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, "Students at this school behave properly in the classroom." More than 60 percent of the teachers surveyed disagreed with the following statement, "Students at this school behave properly when they are not in their classroom."

It is a tragedy that will reach far beyond just this one building. As Round 2 transfer requests roll in, we expect to see the staffs of other schools pack up their supplies; and the students won't be far behind. Parents will want to know why all of the teachers are leaving. The real reason is inept leadership. However, they will suspect that these schools are not safe—the main reason our families opt for charter schools.

Teacher turnover is not a positive consequence for our students. We in American education know this from experience. When ODE identified SIG schools, we considered the models of school reform. Reconstitution was among the least favorable. It takes years to heal from the fallout, and reconstituted schools are more likely to close. Who's caught in the middle? Our students.

We issue this prediction—and we hope it doesn't come true: If our district administrators cannot improve leadership in our buildings, they will have far more to deal with than a stack of grievances. They will have building principals assigned to nearly empty school buildings, with a revolving door of teachers, students flocking to charter schools and more buildings ripe for closure.

Protect your vote

As educators, we get our students ready to participate in a democracy. When our students tell us, "My vote won't make a difference," we immediately reassure them that each vote counts. If we are unable to change Ohio's gerrymandered electoral districts, your vote won't make a difference.

In 2011, the Ohio Apportionment Board changed the boundary lines for the Ohio House and Senate Districts, along with U.S. Congressional Districts. The results are bizarre-looking districts drawn to benefit the party in power in Ohio. Because 80 percent of the districts are stacked to favor one party, Republican voters in a Democratic district and Democratic voters in a Republican district would never be able to elect their party's endorsed candidate.

Fortunately, we have the opportunity to put an end to this backdoor political preening, thanks to Voters First. Led by the non-partisan League of Women voters, the coalition counts more than 25 Ohio non-partisan organizations on its roster, including OEA.

Right now, petitions are being circulated to place the Ohio Citizens' Independent Redistricting Committee Amendment on the ballot in the November 2012 General Election. We need more than 385,000 signatures to ensure this constitutional amendment appears on the ballot.

This amendment would create the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Committee, a twelve-member group that would decide the boundaries of electoral districts. The committee would be comprised of four Republicans, four Democrats and four voters with no party affiliation.

FRs attending the May 3 CEA Legislative Assembly were trained to collect signatures. Be sure to see your FR so you can sign the petition and protect your vote. You may call Judy Nelson at CEA at 253-4731 to obtain your own petition to circulate.

Remember, this is a non-partisan issue. The gerrymandered electoral districts affect Republicans and Democrats equally. This amendment is about making sure that your vote counts.

Go see the nurse, and say, "Thank you!"

If you think school nursing is all about flu shots, Band-Aids and record keeping, you haven't been inside a school lately. More than 100 registered nurses of CCS juggle a complex array of medical and social issues, seeing thousands of students, often servicing multiple schools in our district. Many times, the school nurse is the only health care professional some students ever see.

Stop into the nurse's office and ask your nurse about a typical day. You will hear about many things: immunizations, health-care screenings, hearing and vision testing, home accidents, diseases such as diabetes and asthma, blood-borne pathogen protocols, student obesity and students with complex health issues.

We love our school nurses; they are the best in the state. In fact, Carol Lynn O'Neil (Trevitt ES) was recognized as the Ohio School Nurse of the Year by the Ohio Association of School Nurses. O'Neil spent 20 years as an infectious disease clinical nurse specialist and has served the students of CCS for the past 9 years. In addition to her duties at Trevitt ES, O'Neil spends three days a week as the district's diabetes resource nurse.

We will do whatever we can to support our nurses and make sure that CCS continues to provide this vital service for our students. The registered nurses of CCS have a monumentally important job. So, to our nurses and their 76,000 peers across the country, "thank you."

Capital District meets

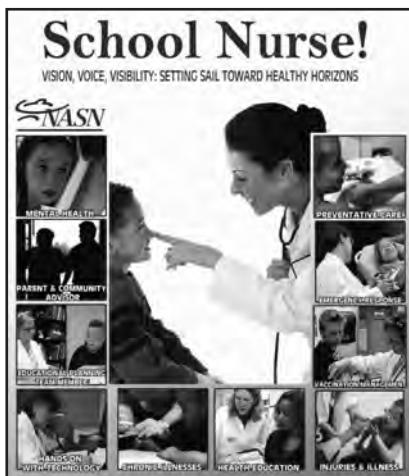
Nearly 90 delegates and guests attended the Capital District Representative Assembly (RA) on Apr. 25. Founded in 2002, the Capital District is one of the Ohio Education Association's ten geographical districts. The Capital District is unique in that our primary purpose is to provide professional development for Columbus teachers.

At the RA, Tai Hayden (Moler ES) was re-elected as The Capital District President, and Diana Welsh (Dominion MS) was elected as Capital District Vice President. Capital delegates also voted to endorse Jeff Pegg for Secretary-Treasurer of OEA in the upcoming election at the Spring Representative Assembly. In the uncontested OEA races, the Capital District endorsed Andre Taylor for NEA Director #5, Jerry Oberhaus for NEA Director #6 and CEA member Robin Jeffries for Board of Directors At-Large.

Capital delegates voted to support two new business items at the OEA Representative Assembly: A recommendation by OEA's Charter School Task Force to organize teachers in charter schools and a one-time \$22 dues assessment to help fund the Voters First petition drive.

CEA spring runoff election results

In the recent runoff election for Elementary Governor At-Large, Izetta Thomas (Easthaven ES) was elected with 1,001 votes winning over Deb Starr (Duxberry Park ES) with 958 votes. CEA congratulates and appreciates these two Association leaders for their willingness to take active roles in our union.



Columbus Area Writing Project Summer Institute

The Columbus Area Writing Project (CAWP) Summer Institute is designed for teachers from all disciplines and all levels of instruction. The Summer Institute is based on the philosophy of "teachers teaching teachers" and on the importance of teachers themselves writing as a part of improving the teaching of writing. Participating teachers will study writing theory and research, write their own compositions, participate in writing workshops and develop leadership and professional development skills in the teaching of writing.

The Summer Institute begins with a 3-day/2-night retreat at Kenyon College (June 13-15). Participants will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on OSU's main campus during the weeks of June 18-22 and June 25-29.

CAWP Summer Institute participants may also purchase graduate credit hours from OSU. The Kenyon College retreat and all institute materials will be provided at no cost to participants. To request an application, call Melissa Wilson at (614) 247-4292 or email her at mwilson@ehe.osu.edu.

Lights, camera, pennies

Nearly 40 Columbus elementary schools are participating in the Penny Harvest, a service-learning program that has raised more than \$50,000. The program empowers our students, putting them in charge of identifying, researching and addressing community issues, creating positive outcomes for their community. Twenty of our students are featured in a new public-service announcement produced by See Kids Dream and can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/pennypsa>.



To celebrate our students' achievements and the Columbus Bicentennial, a world record-setting 75 mile-long penny chain will be created on Sunday, June 3, at Genoa Park. To show solidarity with our students, CEA has formed a team to help lay down one mile of the chain. Your help is needed for this record-setting event. To volunteer for a shift on CEA's team, call Phil Hayes at CEA (253-4731) or email him at phayes@ceaohio.org.

Special notes

- Celebrate **Jan Bell's retirement** at **Zuey's Roundback Bar** (4955 Arbor Village Dr.), **Friday, June 1**, from **12-5 p.m.** Bring a lawn chair and a side dish. BBQ sandwiches will be provided. Call **Diana Welsh** at 203-3997 with questions.
- Senior FRs must submit requests by fax (253-0465) for **alternative interview panels** to the CEA President **prior to interviewing**. The panel for **CAHS** has been approved.
- Reminder:** On **May 4**, you should have received a **full paycheck**. On **May 18**, you will receive a **half paycheck**, followed by **another half paycheck** on **May 25**. On **June 8**, you will receive a **full paycheck**. Full pay will continue every two weeks until the end of the pay year.
- Join us for the **CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet**, **Friday, May 18**, at the **Hilton Columbus at Easton**. Social hour is 6-7 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$30 per ticket, with tables of 10 costing \$300. **There is no charge for Senior Faculty Representatives, retirees and other honorees.** To make reservations, call CEA at 253-4731.
- On **Thursday, May 17**, the **Teachers for Better Schools Board of Trustees** will meet at CEA at 4:30 p.m. to consider recommendations for endorsements for the November 2012 Election. Following the TBS meeting, board of trustee members will be elected for 2012-2014. All interested members of TBS are invited to attend. You must be a member of TBS to participate.