CEA recognizes supporters and retirees

Nearly 600 guests attended the 36th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet on Friday, May 18, at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. The event celebrates our retirees and others whose efforts have gone above and beyond the call of duty in Association work and support of public education.

Paula Garfield was honored with the Outstanding Member Award. Garfield, a special education teacher at Beechcroft HS, worked tirelessly for the repeal of Senate Bill 5. She collected more signatures for SB 5’s repeal than any other individual in the state of Ohio.

CEA Vice President Sally Oldham received the Builder of the Association Award. As a faculty representative, long-time member of the Board of Governors, PAR consulting teacher, CEA staff consultant and Vice President of CEA, Sally has fought tenaciously for the members of the Columbus Education Association throughout her entire career.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Jan Bell, Debby Huffman-Mirib and Michele Mays. Jan serves on the CEA Board of Governors representing District 1, is a teacher representative on the PAR Panel, a delegate to OEA and NEA and has served on numerous CEA committees. Debby has been a Faculty Representative, a delegate to OEA and NEA and Chair of the Bargaining Team since 2007. Michele has been a delegate to OEA and NEA, served as Secretary of CEA for many years, and, as Chair of the Elections Committee, is responsible for running Association elections.

The Friend of Education Award went to WCBE for its support of public education. For more than 30 years, CEA has honored and supported our parents: Sally Oldham, Debra Odum, Debra Odum, Soumita Pal, Richard Ping, Marci Cole, John Hank, and Michele Mays. Jan serves on the PAR Panel, a delegate to OEA and NEA, and has served on numerous CEA committees. Debby has been a Faculty Representative, a delegate to OEA and NEA and Chair of the Bargaining Team since 2007. Michele has been a delegate to OEA and NEA, served as Secretary of CEA for many years, and, as Chair of the Elections Committee, is responsible for running Association elections.

The Innovator in Education Award was presented to Dr. Valerie Kinloch of The Ohio State University’s College of Education and Human Ecology. Dr. Kinloch has been a vital partner with CEA through her efforts with the transformational service-learning project, “Bringing Learning to Life.”

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More than 60 CEA members and hundreds of CCS students have participated in the program over the last two years.

On behalf of the retirees of 2012, Dean Fowls (Northgate) presented a very surprised CEA President Rhonda Johnson with a class gift of $3,500. The funds will be used to award two scholarships at next year’s banquet. Fowls challenged future retirees to continue the tradition.

To see pictures from this event, go to CEA’s Flickr page at: http://bit.ly/cea2012awards.
Sally Oldham’s swan song

I have lived and breathed Columbus City Schools for 39 years. I have seen ditto machines that left you marked with blue ink, mimeograph machines and copiers that collage and staple. I have lived through the 1975 strike, desegregation, “schools without schools” and a trucker strike that made traveling the freeway next to impossible. I have played record players, tape players, reel-to-reel movies, tapes and CDs in the classroom. I wrote on chalkboards and whiteboards but was not lucky enough to have a SMART Board.

Things have certainly changed for teachers through the years. I remember having to teach art, music and physical education to my class because levy after levy failed, and there were no specialists. I will admit that I taught crafts instead of art. I played games in physical education. I did better in music because it is a passion of mine. Empowered by CEA, I joined forces with my colleagues, and we built a coalition to bring back specialists in those areas.

I have enjoyed every minute in the classroom with my kids. They were mine and still are today. I always warned them when they moved on to middle school that I knew teachers everywhere. I would come over to see them if I found out they were not doing their best. I loved reading to them, sharing an author and tempting them to pick up a new genre of reading. What fun! We learned together.

As a Peer Assistance and Review Consultant, I realized what a big world CCS really was. I had an intern at Cedarwood and traveled way down Parsons and stopped because I had thought I was out of Columbus. I made it after I called the school to get reassurance that I was going the right direction.

As a consultant at CEA, I was mentored by Rick “The Hammer” Logan. Later I was urged to run for CEA Vice President by some persistent friends.

You have supported me as Vice President for six years. I am humbled by your support and the great honor you gave me. I represented “you,” the greatest teaching force ever. “You” are my friends, my colleagues and my teaching buddies. I know you are in good hands. CEA is strong because of each one of you. Thank you, and I will miss you all.

Time is running out

We need to make sure that Ohio’s future elections are fair and competitive. To do this, we must gather more than 385,000 signatures to place the Ohio Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment on the ballot in November. By now, the FR or his or her designee in your building has returned his or her petition to CEA. If you did not sign the petition at your work location, you may sign one at the CEA office Monday–Friday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Still no position? Attend the job fair

Staff-reduced teachers seeking CCS positions may attend the job fair at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 30, and Thursday, May 31, at Northgate. Teachers selected through this process are assigned to these positions for two years. You will receive a notice from HR indicating the day you are to attend the job fair. You will be assigned to the day according to your seniority order. Approximately half the staff-reduced teachers will attend on May 30, and the other half will attend on May 31. All certificate/license areas will be posted on both days. Be-humbled by your support and the great honor you gave me. I

CEA is supporting the World Record Penny Chain at COSI on Sunday, June 3, with our own team. We need your help. Join us during the last day of the Arts Festival and work for one hour to distribute or lay out pennies or distribute hand sanitizer and water.

Help 40 CCS schools set a world record by volunteering on June 3. Call Phil Hayes at 253-4731 and sign up.

Don’t miss out on vital info

The hard-copy version of The CEA Voice will go on hiatus during the summer break. CEA will continue to communicate urgent and important information to members throughout the summer. However, if we don’t have your email address, or if you have opted out of receiving emails from CEA, you will miss vital information.

To get onto CEA’s email list, send your name and personal email address to bhern@ceaohio.org.

These retirees are on the go

There’s a lot going on this summer for our retired Association members. CEA-R has planned trips, volunteer activities and much more. CEA-R provides retired teachers with experiences and knowledge that will keep them aware of what is happening in the community, around Ohio, in the legislature and with CEA and CCS.

CEA-R maintains a list of the numerous discounts for retirees at restaurants, stores and airlines. Visit www.cea-retired.com and its Facebook page to find out about planned events. Read about the prescription discounts and other benefits our CEA-R members can receive.

Special notes

- Celebrate Debby Huffman-Mirib’s retirement at Brio at Easton, Thursday, June 7, from 3:30–6:30 p.m. Send a $20 check to Lesley Landis made payable to her at Columbus Global Academy by Thursday, May 31.
- Celebrate Carla Robinson’s retirement at Confluence Park Restaurant, Friday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. Mail a check for $35 (for food and a gift) to Charlene Gomer (6967 Bayton Pl., New Albany, OH 43054). Call her at 579-0049 with questions.
- Celebrate Maggie Barnes’ retirement on Friday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton at Easton. The cost is $38 (includes a gift and food). Send checks toJo Annette Byas-Marston at 3690 Woodcutter Ln., Columbus, OH 43224. Call 323-9699 with questions.
- Congratulations to Robin Lucas (Winterset ES) on winning Barnes & Noble Lennox Town Center’s “My Favorite Teacher” Contest. She received this honor in recognition for her inspiration and commitment to her students and the community.
- Reminder: On May 25, you should have received a half paycheck. On June 8, you will receive a full paycheck. Full pay will continue every two weeks until the end of the pay year.
- With the end of the school year coming, remember to remove all batteries from remotes and wireless microphones for the summer. If batteries are left in, there is the possibility of leakage, which can render the device unrepairable. Make sure that your DVD/VCR is turned off, or better yet, unplugged from the outlet. The room audio system should also be turned off or unplugged. This will have the added benefit of lowering the electric bill and protecting equipment from power surges and sags.