

# The WEAthervane

May / June 2011

## Important Dates

### \* Teacher Work Day

June 8

### \* Teachers

Return

August 15

### \* Students

Return

August 17



### **WEA Officers:**

#### **President**

Chris Williams

#### **Vice President**

Rhonda Gilpin

#### **Treasurer**

Amanda Koenig

#### **Secretary**

Lynn Yoho

#### **Fac Rep At**

#### **Large**

Sam Liebfreund

Jordi Vilanova

Candy Peak

Tom Peet

Todd Ebbrecht

Bev Koenig

## The President's Corner

What a year this has been! Much like a run away mine car scene on an Indiana Jones movie; lots of ups and downs (mostly down) and looking ahead we see that the track has been removed from under us! Will our educational car be able to jump the gap and stay on the tracks? Only if we all act together. Between now and the election day in November we all have to take it upon ourselves to tell our neighbors and friends what SB 5 and the budget bill are all about and the impact they will have on public education. If we don't, our car of public education will crash and fall into the abyss of privatization. The destiny of public education is in your hands! CP

### From Central OEA / NEA President Scott DiMauro:

As we break for summer, I want to share three critical opportunities, and some news, you might be interested in.

First, as you have no doubt heard, the We Are Ohio campaign to repeal SB5 is in full swing, and has gathered more than 214,000 signatures in just a month. In fact so many SB5 petition books are now coming in, it's proving difficult to keep up.

**Help is needed to make copies, verify signatures, and perform data entry on those incoming petitions.** We need accurate signature counts so that we know where to focus our efforts and which voters are our likely supporters once we're on the ballot and the fall campaign starts.

The campaign can use help anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., seven days a week until June 30th. The process occurs at SEIU 1199 at 1395 Dublin Rd in Columbus ([map](#)).

**Please email Brendan Kelley at [bkelley@weareohio.com](mailto:bkelley@weareohio.com), or call him at (614) 285-6852 to let him know when you can help, and tell him you're from Central OEA. A number of members have already begun helping and it's a great atmosphere.**

Second, as the budget process draws ever closer to a final conclusion OEA is hoping for a big lobbying effort from members on June 7th. [For more information and to register, you can visit the Central website \(link\)](#). Lunch is provided by Central. Hope to see you there!

Finally, keep emailing and calling your State Senator and Representative. It is making a huge difference. The Senate just released their amended version of the budget and it contains some cautiously optimistic news.

The merit pay provisions for teachers that mimicked SB5 have been removed, along with the David Brennan, White Hat management sponsored charters school expansion language. Also currently eliminated from the budget is the 2% pension cost shift.

You can see a full run down of the changes proposed by the Senate, [here](#).

The insight and pressure legislators are receiving from educators and support professionals has been key in these positive developments. Keeping the pressure up over the next few weeks will ensure we won't have to fight a second SB5 like battle.

Thanks for all you do and enjoy your summer.

Scott DiMauro  
President, Central OEA/NEA

p.s.

To stay up to date with all the latest SB5, budget and public education news, be sure to visit [www.jointhefuture.org](http://www.jointhefuture.org), or "Like" our [Join the Future Facebook page](#).

## ***BECAUSE WE CARE***

### **Births**

*Cathy Twyman (Huber Ridge) -grandson*

### **CIPD Teacher Grant Recipients**

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Pam Malcolm        | Jim Ledford    |
| Allison Maselli    | Claudia Winner |
| Angie Lee          | Linda Amici    |
| Kim Weeks          | Abby Shepherd  |
| Deb Stoner         | Kim Glaser     |
| Daphne Irby        | Lindy Butler   |
| Elizabeth Cummings |                |

**If you are interested in possibly receiving a CIPD teacher grant from WEA next year, please see your fac rep in the fall for a grant application.**

## **Retiring Teachers**

Carole Bartlett  
Barbara Brown  
Angie Sheriff  
Bernie Simpkins  
Kathy Farish  
Jan Albright  
Vicki Hester  
Deborah Maxwell  
Mary Staebler  
Bev Koenig  
Mark Stevens  
Chris Carson  
Jan Johnson  
Dee Justice  
Robin Zimmerman  
Carolyn Moseman  
Alexe Fogle  
Sue Pryor  
John Hood

**All of you will be missed!**

## **Insurance Update—New Eligible Expense**

In February 2011, the IRS ruled that the cost of breast pumps, and related equipment, will now be considered as tax-deductible medical expenses. This new ruling means that pre-tax funds from flexible spending accounts (FSA), health reimbursement arrangements (HRA), and health savings accounts (HSA) can be used for the purchase of these supplies.



## **Did You Know?**

You have a benefit through an EAP (Employee Assistance Program). You are entitled to 3 free visits with the EAP counselor at Gerlach, Lear & Associates (GLA). Your visits are completely confidential. If you need help please call GLA at 1-888-775-2236.

**Take care of yourself. Be sure and get your free, yearly routine physical that is provided through your district health insurance. For more info, contact MMO.**

