



The Canton Professional Educators' Association

# RECAP

Retired Educators Caring About their Profession

Vol. 4 No. 1

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## Mission Statement

*The Canton Professional Educators' Association initiates and supports positive changes in the public school system, promotes the educational profession, and actively serves as an advocate for its members.*

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### YOU DID MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The following letter was written by Amy Ovecka, the CPEA 2006 Nathaniel Roberts Scholarship winner from McKinley High School. Although you may or may not have had Amy as a student, you did have students like Amy during your career. Never let anyone minimize the positive influence you had on your pupils.

*"Canton Professional Educators' Association, I want to have the opportunity to say an extended thank you for the honor of receiving your annual Nathaniel Roberts Scholarship. Not only will it be a great help to fund another tier of college costs, but the meaning behind it is invaluable.*

*Attending the banquet on Tuesday (May 30, 2006) was very much a pleasure. I have always shouted the praises of my outstanding teachers in Canton City, and given the chance, I would never have chosen to attend any other school district. I share the same love for the diverse Canton City that Kay Kuhns so perfectly summed up. At the same time, I have always been highly disappointed at the lack of appreciation for the teachers among students, the community, the local media, and sometimes, the administration. To see a group like the CPEA honor them so highly was very, very refreshing.*

*I have loved learning since my very first days of elementary school at Harter, and that love*

*has never changed. I owe this entirely to the teachers I had from first through twelfth grade who possessed an evident passion for teaching and their students. These teachers see what goes on in the school system on a firsthand daily basis. They deal with the kids from every end of every spectrum, and give endlessly of themselves to change the lives of those kids. These are the people that give the true greatness to Canton City and simultaneously, the people that most often get stepped on.*

*Jeffersonian mantra was that the government must always bear in mind that without its citizens, it would not exist-its power is reliant on that body which they govern. The point was that the government should never take for granted those whom they represent. This is what I found so moving from what I saw of the CPEA-they are truly cognizant of those whom they "govern"-the teachers. They appreciate them and do not take their wisdom, their selflessness, or their skills for granted, and that is remarkable, and the way it should be.*

*For these reasons I am truly honored to be a recipient of this scholarship. Thank you for valuing these fine teachers as you do, and please continue to do so in the future. Thank you for the stock you put in Canton City-it does not go unnoticed.*

*Sincerely,  
Amy Ovecka"*



## CPEA RETIREMENT CLASS OF 2006



On Wednesday, August 23, 2006, (the first "official" day of the 2006-2007 school year) the CPEA hosted its seventh annual retirement celebration in the conference room at the

CPEA office. A dinner followed by presentation of plaques to retirees and their comments along with great fellowship welcomed the members of the "Retirement Class of 2006". The following former CPEA members honored that evening are: Denise Aman, Sue Bashoor, Nina Baxley, Gail Bleckman, Larry Drennen, Carole Eaton, \*Ray Fisher, \*Carolyn Gilhousen, Christine Hafer, Debbie Haren, Christine Long (Harrison), Chris Hoffman, Sandy Johnson, Connie Lewis, Cindy Miller, Kathryn Monnot, Howard Nelson, Coral Pennetti, Lori Perry, Gwen Polk, \*Tim Rowles, Donna Silliman, Jeanne Simpson, Gloria Spring,, and \*Mike Wesson. An asterisk (\*) indicates those persons with 35 or more years of total service. Tim Rowles is at the top of this class with 37 total years of service followed closely by Carolyn Gilhousen, Ray Fisher, and Mike Wesson with 35 each.

CONGRATULATIONS to each of you and we hope you are thoroughly enjoying your retirement. BUT, don't forget us!!!! We consider experts such as you our most valuable resource.



### CPEA OFFICE IS A BUSY PLACE

The CPEA Building is one busy place. A wise decision was made by the members 6 years ago when they decided to save for and purchase a facility. From August 2005 to August 2006, the meeting room has been used 147 times. On some days there was a meeting in the morning and a different gathering in the afternoon. It has been used by members from every one of our school buildings, Central Office, the OAPSE Unions, ECOEA, and last but definitely not least, us. It has even been used for a Northeast Ohio press conference called by the Ohio

Education Association and the Ohio Federation of Teachers. The topic was Charter school results as compared to public schools. This school year has started off even busier than last year!



### \$ 500.00 GAS CARD RAFFLE

The CPEA is sponsoring a "Gas Card" raffle as one of our scholarship fundraisers this year. Tickets for the \$500.00 gas card will go on sale from October 9 through November 6, 2006. Tickets cost \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. If you are interested in purchasing one or more tickets, please call the CPEA Office any time after October 9th. The winner will be drawn at the November 13, 2006 CPEA Building Representative meeting.



### CPEA MEMBER RESOURCE CENTER

The Association opened a "Member Resource Center" on Monday, January 31, 2005. Since then it has been a very busy place. Once again this year, members who had to change grade levels and teachers new to the profession helped themselves to materials spread throughout five rooms. All the materials have been donated from members who have retired or have changed grade levels themselves and have good usable teaching items that they do not want to see "just sitting in a box". Materials range from phonics to music and grade levels span pre-school through high school.

If you have materials in good condition that you no longer are using and they are just sitting in your basement or garage, please consider donating them to the Resource Center. All we ask when you donate is that the materials have a grade level or age range on them.

Please note that if you have a desire to help organize the donated materials, we have the need for your help. The time required would not be more than 2 or 3 hours a month. We would call you as donations come in. **WE REALLY COULD USE SOME HELP!**



## LIFE AFTER TEACHING or WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Often we are asked "Have you seen Suzy Smith or do you know where Jimmy Jones is now and what he is doing"? Sometimes we do but more often we are clueless. We would like to know where you are and what you are doing in your "new life" no matter how long you have been retired. We are asking that you call the CPEA office, 330-455-2158 OR send an e-mail to [cpea\\_office@cpea.us](mailto:cpea_office@cpea.us) to let us know all about you. We will include this information in a newsletter this year. Also if you are seeking to find a specific former colleague please let us know that too and we will put out an "all call" for that person.

Thought has been given to having the retirees have a "standing date" to meet the first Wednesday of every month to attend the "BUCK A THROW PICTURE SHOW" at the Palace Theater and then go out to lunch together afterward. This would not involve any pre planning or reservations. If you were in town on that day you would just show up and see who else is there. We would like to start this in January after the Holidays. When you call the CPEA Office with the above information please also indicate your interest in this activity. Hopefully this would be the beginning of many other social activities.



## CCS ALWAYS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The learning by students and the efforts of teachers can be much enhanced by the assistance of competent and enthusiastic volunteers. As always the CPEA



considers our retirees, once very dedicated educators, to be a valuable resource in this area. Please assess the time you might have to offer and consider making a continued contribution in this manner. If you are interested, you first need to choose a specific school you would like to assist. Then simply stop by the office of that school and request a "Volunteer Application". It will be forwarded to the appropriate person at Wells. The only

requirement for volunteering at this time is a complete background check which must be done via your Social Security number. While SS numbers are optional for many things these days, it is MANDATORY before you may volunteer. This is a protection for not only those you assist but for you also.



## CRITICAL ELECTION on NOVEMBER 7

The results of the General Election to be held this November 7 will go far to determine the future of Ohio. It is difficult to find words appropriate to state how critical all offices are but none more important than that of GOVERNOR. Please read the enclosed information sheet on the two candidates for that office carefully. The economic future of Ohio and for sure the future of PUBLIC EDUCATION as we know it now, among other things, rest on the outcome of this election. The Ohio Education Association has carefully screened candidates for office and have made the following recommendations for your consideration. These recommendations are based on the candidates' responses to their positions on EDUCATION. The CPEA encourages you to consider voting for the following OEA recommended candidates to revive the Ohio economy and to preserve and promote public education. For Statewide office they are:

### GOVERNOR

TED STRICKLAND

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

MARC DANN

### SECRETARY OF STATE

JENNIFER BRUNNER

### OHIO TREASURER

RICHARD CORDRAY

### OHIO SUPREME COURT

JUDGE WILLIAM O'NEILL

BEN ESPY

### FOR U. S. SENATE

SHERROD BROWN





The Locally recommended candidates are:

House District 50---John Johnson (D)  
House District 51---Scott Oelslager (R) \*  
House District 52---William Healy II (D) \*  
House District 61---Mark Okey (D)  
Senate District 29---Kirk Schuring (R) \*  
Senate District 33---John Boccieri (D)  
Congressional District 16---The OEA has recommended to the NEA that Congressman Ralph Regula (R) \* be endorsed---NEA action pending at this time  
an \* indicates an incumbent



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2006

You will continue to hear how the November 7, 2006 election is absolutely critical to the future of Ohio citing economic growth and the retention of public education as we all know it now as two of the most important issues.

We are asking you to consider making election day, November 7, your personal "Make a Difference Day" by doing at least two things that day. First and MOST IMPORTANT---VOTE. Second, the Stark County Board of Elections is in need of persons to work at the polls on the November 7 election day.

There are four poll workers per precinct---two Democrats and two Republicans. There may be more than one precinct located at a specific polling site but there are always four workers per precinct. Poll workers are provided with paid training prior to election day and are paid a flat rate of \$85 per day on election day or \$100 if they are the presiding judge.

Please call the Stark County Board of Elections at 330-451-8683 and tell them you are interested in working that day. They will then ask your political party affiliation to be able to direct your call to the person who will provide you with all the details including where they need you and what specific job they need you to do. They will make every effort to put you as geographically close to where you live as possible and they will assist you so that you may vote absentee prior to that day. Numerous training sessions are provided but you are

only paid for one session. However you may attend as many as you like if you feel you need more practice.

This will be a long day but is also an extremely rewarding one. Teachers are quick to learn, are people oriented, and have proven they have the stamina for many long days---we are just asking for one. Please consider making this huge contribution to add to the list of all that you have done over your many years of professional involvement. Thanks for your consideration of this project.

If you have any questions you can call or e-mail Carol Kinsey at 330-879-2417 or cskinsey@aol.com. She has worked the polls several times since retiring and can also give you some firsthand information.



Canton Professional Educators' Association



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### RECAP

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**Canton Professional Educators' Association**

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## Happy October

