

Announcements

Larger Day Of Action

The voters of Colorado Springs have spoken loudly in support of education with the passage of the MLO last November (the largest tax hike in the city's history). But state legislators remain responsible for funding the bulk of Education in Colorado. April 27th is intended to be a day for us to bring a louder message to the Capitol and legislators getting ready to make decisions about our schools, our paychecks, and our retirement. Please take another brief survey to gauge participation in this larger Day of Action at the Capitol in Denver. Again, we are on a fairly tight turnaround to get this information to CEA so please try to answer by Thursday, April 19 at noon. You should have received a link to the survey in a separate email from Kevin Vick yesterday.

More Award Winners Announced

Angela Banfield, Odyssey ECCO, and Todd Hegert, Palmer, were recently awarded the Rotary Diamond Award by the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs. As we mentioned here when Rotary announced other award recipients earlier, this award recognizes one student-nominated teacher from each District 11 high school to be recognized and honored for exceptional service in education. The teachers selected have shown that their impact reaches far beyond the classroom. In addition, **Chris Duval, Palmer,** was awarded The Special Impact Award by the Club. This award recognizes teachers who have been nominated by their principal for their impact working with students who might find the nomination process challenging, but whose work with those students deserves special recognition.

CSEA Cyclists

It may be chilly, it may be brief, but Sunday morning we'll meet at Howbert Elementary School to celebrate Earth Day with a ride through the Garden of the Gods. It will be automobile-free from 5:30-10:00, so we'll depart from Howbert at 9:00 am and enjoy a safe, scenic, and serene tour of the park! Check the CSEA Cycling Subgroup page on Facebook for all ride announcements (and cancellations when necessary).

AR Election Time Is Here!

Association Representatives (ARs) are local association leaders elected by CSEA members in their buildings to represent them. They represent their constituency by:

- Ø Serving on the governing body of CSEA
- Ø Assisting members with certain employment issues
- Ø Increasing awareness of Association benefits, services and resources
- Ø Attending monthly AR meetings (up to 3 credits are available for serving as an AR) and reporting back to members
- Ø Assisting CSEA with membership promotion and retention activities

CSEA provides the training necessary for ARs to assist members with a wide variety of employment issues. Some examples of the types of issues ARs might be called upon to assist with are concerns surrounding working conditions, workload, leave questions, parent complaints, and Master Agreement questions.

Members received an email with additional information earlier this week. If you are interested in serving as an AR, please [let us know](#) by April 25.

Please consider whether serving in this role would interest you. All members are invited to run for the office of Association Representative for their school. For every 25 members, a school gets one AR (so 26 members = 2 ARs; 51 = 3 ARs; etc.)

Education Support Personnel Can Belong

CSEA has a sister organization called ESPA, and all of the education support personnel in District 11 are eligible to belong. As members of ESPA, they receive the same CEA and NEA benefits as teachers, including access to NEA Member Benefits, California Casualty Insurance, etc. We also work with ESPA members on job-related issues, although they are not covered by the teachers' Master Agreement. Dues are reduced to reflect the salaries our support personnel receive. Please contact us at csea@coloradoea.org if you'd like more information or would like for us to send you an enrollment form so that you can help a colleague join.

First Year Teachers Can Get A Rebate

CSEA members in their first year of teaching in public education are eligible for a rebate from our state affiliate, CEA! First year members should have already received an email from lzeitz@coloradoea.org with a link to the verification form. Full time members who paid dues all year can expect to receive a rebate of \$171.00. Part time members who paid dues all year can expect to receive a rebate of \$85.50. If you joined later in the year, the refund will be adjusted according to the dues you paid. If this is your first year teaching in a public school and you did not get the email, please contact [Laura](#).

Events

Happy Hour With The Extension

Thursday, April 19

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tap Traders

[3104 N. Nevada, Unit 100](#)

We have the back room reserved, so please feel free to invite your co-workers, family friends. There are no students on Friday, April 20. All beer will be \$1.00 off. We hope to see you there!

Contract Fact

Article XVI. D Insurance While On Leave

Teachers on leave of absence shall have the privilege of continuing such group health, life, dental, and vision insurance coverage as are available in the District at their own expense and shall pay the full premium at the group rate, except as otherwise provided for exchange teaching, sabbatical, or family and medical leave (FMLA) under Article IX.

Articles

[With School Finance Act, Colorado Lawmakers Try To Pass The Hot Potato Of Teacher Pay To Local Districts](#)

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