

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
September 22, 2022

CORA of the CORAs

We received many questions concerning the anti-union mailers and the people canvassing your homes. The most consistent question was, “How did they get this information?” The answer is the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) which allows outside organizations to request public documents like payroll. In this specific case, on July 12, a think tank in Michigan made a records request of the district for all employees who had union dues withdrawn on the first of June. This list was likely forwarded to one of their major funders, the Freedom Foundation, which has been sending mailers and employing local canvassers to try to kill CSEA and the contract. To these anonymous people – both groups are not required by law to disclose their funders unlike a public entity like D11 – their goal is clear. They are not interested in fairness, justice, or any contractual relationship with employees. Our hope is (FYI - it is with CEA legal at the moment), now that we are aware of how the information was obtained, to be able to provide a clear, legal, and fun way to respond for those who wish to push back. In the meantime, we submitted a “CORA of all the CORA’s” for the past several months and will [post](#) a lightly redacted copy on the member side of the website. If you want to see what people look for, it is quite a read. For possible actions around the anti-CSEA mailers, stay tuned.



Thumbs Up – To Paul Blakesley who was recently featured in a New York Times article: *When Teens Find Misinformation, These Teachers Are Ready*: Media literacy efforts are intensifying, targeting students as they approach voting age. But some educators struggle “to push through that apathy.” The article is available [here](#). Additionally, Paul was interviewed by KRDO [about media literacy and combating misinformation in the classroom](#). Nice work, Paul!



Thumbs Up -The Mayor's Young Leader Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements of young professionals aged 40 and under. Nathaniel Lohmann, CSEA member at Palmer High School, makes the list! Let's support Nathaniel as he moves forward in this process! Click [here](#) for the complete list. Congratulations, Nathaniel!



Thumbs Up – Great weather greeted CSEA cyclists Saturday! We had all experience levels from new riders to veterans and were happy to see new faces on the trail! The expert cyclists enjoyed their ride to Garden of the Gods and made a big loop back to CSEA. The beginners rode towards Garden of the Gods, turning around near Centennial for about an eight-mile ride.



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Reminder: Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment Ends September 30!

The **Sick Leave Bank** is a voluntary paid leave benefit and is designed to provide assistance to an employee that has exhausted all sick leave time and needs more paid leave to carry them through a critical illness/injury for the employee or their immediate family. Sick Leave Bank enrollment must be completed in PeopleSoft Self Service by September 30, 2022. Please review the Sick Leave Bank Instructions: FAQ's available [here](#) for any questions.

CEA Execs Will Meet Members in Colorado Springs

October 17th CEA state executives will visit Colorado Springs to hear directly from members: 4:00-5:30 at the Hall of labor partner IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) 2150 Naegle Rd. (80904). Light food and drink provided. Save the date! Bring your questions!

Professional Engagement

Our professional work outside of our classrooms and offices shapes students' learning environments and our work environments. How might you like to engage such matters? Let us know where we can help you address your interests in this survey: [INTERESTS](#) This work pertains to RANDA quality standard 4. Thank you to those who have responded already! We will be in touch!

Flight Experience- Last Chance to Sign Up!

There are a few spots left for the CSEA member flight experience and all you can eat lunch on the morning of September 24. If you are interested, complete this [link](#) to make a reservation.

Additionally, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 72 has a raffle for a **plane**. Tickets for the raffle are \$100 each and the prize is an AIRPLANE. For more information, check out their website at: <https://www.eaa72.org>.

Your Evaluation – Your Perspective

Educators can now guide the Colorado Department of Education on updating the 2023-2024 Educator Evaluation System. Provide your professional opinion on evaluation! You can complete the survey through October 2: [SB22-070 Educator Effectiveness Stakeholder Survey](#). Apparently very few teacher voices have been heard so far, which means other voices are making decisions for us!

Ghost Stories of Old Manitou Walking Tours

These eerie yet fun ghost tours will walk you through long lost stories of real residents in Manitou Springs' history. This year, the ghostly spirits come back to visit for four weekends in October. For more information, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Know Your Rights

As a number of buildings watch student behaviors blossom, this is a friendly reminder that every building should have a clear, proactive Discipline Plan in place. *Since discipline is how we handle/approach/treat behavior to assure a productive learning environment for ALL children*, a coherent approach to creating the culture and climate for this learning is necessary. In the Master Agreement, Article 13.D. obliges the staff (contractually teachers and administration, but incorporating ESP is wise as well) to develop a plan and implement it. Obviously, if it isn't working, address adjustments to the plan is a great topic for a staff meeting.

Articles of Note

[Union Power Is the Best Solution to the Teacher Shortage](#) - As the Great Resignation expands to teachers, Labor Day offers a reminder of how unions can build—and reclaim—the democratic commons.

[What students told us they love about 5 stellar teachers](#) - Chalkbeat asked readers to nominate real-life versions of “Mrs. Howard” from Abbott Elementary.

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It is not intended for public distribution.