

Correctional Education Association Ohio

CEAO

February 2016



From the President's Desk.....

By David Weibel

Greetings! The calendar has turned to February, and although it is winter, your CEAO committee has not been hibernating. We have been busy reviewing the last conference and making plans for an even better CEAO Conference and Training Event for 2016!

Our Teacher of the Year, Janet Carter, has a busy schedule for 2016. She will soon be scheduled to be honored at the Statehouse and in early May will travel to Minnesota to compete for the Region 3 Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Janet and good luck at regionals!!!!

We are heading south to the Queen City for our 2016 Conference, and our theme for this year is *Correctional Education: Building Bridges to Success*. We are in the process of lining up some informative as well as entertaining speakers and presenters. If you have heard an uplifting, inspirational speaker to recommend for our conference, please pass this on to a committee member.

I have noticed that we have an influx of new correctional educators coming into the field and encourage you to communicate, collaborate, and mentor these teachers. One bridge to their success in corrections may be the professional development and networking opportunities provided by a CEA membership. Right now, through the end of February, CEA is offering a two year membership for \$100. This is a \$30 savings over paying for two one year memberships.

On a final note, as we become more technology focused, stay tuned to the CEAO website for important updates, as well as downloadable scholarship forms and registration information. For a few chuckles, visit the photo gallery and relive some of the fun and comradery from Independence!

Teacher of the Year Selection Process

Each year, the Correctional Education Association of Ohio (CEAO) Teacher of the Year (TOY) is announced at the annual conference and training event. The process for selecting the TOY actually begins in February, when nomination forms are posted on the Correctional Education Association of Ohio website and sent to correctional educators throughout the state.



Teacher of the Year Selection Process (continued)

Academic, career technical and special education teachers may be nominated by supervisors or colleagues, or they may self-nominate. To be eligible, the nominees must have a minimum of two years experience as a correctional educator, teach at least 51% of the time in the correctional classroom, be a Correctional Education Association (CEA) member one year prior to nomination, and have a current paid membership to CEA. Nomination forms must be submitted to the TOY Committee Chairperson on or before the deadline listed on the application.

Once nomination forms are received, the Chairperson verifies eligibility, including CEA membership requirements, and “scrubs” the forms. When the forms are scrubbed, all information regarding teacher name, location of work, and other identifying information is marked out on the forms. This is done to make only the individual teacher accomplishments apparent to the screeners.

The screening is performed by the CEAO Conference Planning Committee at the May planning meeting. This committee typically consists of 15-20 people. Using predetermined criteria developed by the TOY Committee, each member of the screening committee scores each nomination form. The TOY Committee tabulates the scores, and the top five become finalists. If two or more nominations are from the same institution/school, the nominee with the highest score will represent that institution for the CEAO Teacher of the Year Award.

Once the finalists are selected, they are notified and begin preparing for their interviews, which are held in July. Finalists are asked to develop additional information in a portfolio, video, notebook, etc. to present to the interview panel, which consists of seven CEA members from various correctional settings (DRC, DYS, CBCF's, private prisons, colleges/universities, etc.). The interview panel scores each finalist, again using predetermined criteria. Once the interviews are concluded, the scores are tabulated. The TOY and runner-up are identified, and the results are kept secret until the TOY luncheon at the annual event.

The deadline for this year's TOY applications is March 18th.
Who will you nominate?



Janet at the moment she was announced as Ohio's 2015 Teacher of the Year.

What is Correctional Education Association?

-Deborah Withem

The Correctional Education Association (CEA), founded in 1945, is the professional association for educators working in correctional settings. Now, when most people hear “correctional educator,” they think “prison teacher.” Yes, teachers and vocational instructors are correctional educators, but the term also encompasses administrators,



What is Correctional Education Association? (continued)

librarians, researchers, community volunteers, counselors, and any other professionals who contribute to the academic, vocational, library science, life skills, and post-secondary skills of students in prisons, jails, juvenile justice facilities or community based correctional settings at local, state and federal levels.

CEA's mission is three-fold: 1) to support correctional educators with opportunities for leadership, networking, publication, professional development, and personal growth; 2) to prepare correctional students for successful reentry into society by equipping them with academic, career/technical, and personal/social skills; and 3) to increase community awareness and legislative support for correctional education through public relations and legislative advocacy.

How does CEA meet its mission? CEA supports correctional educators in a variety of ways. CEA conferences, offered at state, regional and national levels, are great platforms for networking with other correctional educators, viewing education materials and technology available from a variety of vendors, sharing best practices and staying abreast of hot topics in the field of corrections. CEA also offers professional development opportunities through online courses and special interest group discussions. The CEA National website has a wealth of useful information, and the quarterly newsletter and journal provide up-to-date information on events and trends in the field. Knowledge, material and techniques gained through these avenues can then be utilized in correctional settings to provide students the skills needed for successful reentry. On a more personal note, CEA members are also eligible for low-cost insurance benefits through the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE). TIE offers a variety of plans including life, auto, health and professional liability insurance through reputable companies such as New York Life and Geico.

As correctional educators, we know how important our work is in the lives of our students and in the grand scheme of things, but do "outsiders" know? This is the third aspect of the CEA mission: to increase community awareness and legislative support for correctional education through public relations and legislative advocacy. CEA compiles and disseminates research data, shining a light on the role of correctional education in reducing recidivism rates. This is extremely important in a time when budget cuts are all too frequent. The sharing of information is accomplished in many ways: direct contact with legislators at both state and federal levels, partnerships with other professional organizations, and public relations/media releases.

When I was first introduced to CEA eleven years ago, I was told to join because it provided "an opportunity to get out of the institution a few days each year." However, the more involved I become in the association, the more I learn just how much it has to offer. I even learned something new in the course of writing this article. If you know correctional educators who are not yet members, please encourage them to join. They are missing out on so much! More information on CEA, memberships and benefits can be found at www.ceanational.org.

CEAO Scholarships

Each year, the Correctional Education Association of Ohio awards scholarships to correctional educators at the annual conference and training event. What are they for, and how does one go about applying?

Patricia Wright Stover Scholarship

One of the goals of Patricia Wright Stover is to recognize the achievement of the CEAO Teacher of the Year by awarding him/her this scholarship. The CEAO Teacher of the Year has already proven his/her teaching skills in being an outstanding teacher. As Woody Hayes used the concept to “pay it forward”, so does Patricia. She received many valuable life lessons while teaching in corrections, and this scholarship pays it forward by encouraging good teachers to become even better.

Beverly Jo Taylor Scholarships



Beverly Jo Taylor was a teacher at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and an active CEAO member. Her life was taken on the job in 1990. To honor her memory, CEAO awards three scholarships in her name. The Beverly Jo Taylor Correctional Education Teacher Award is available for teachers whose teaching assignment is at least 51% of the work schedule. The Beverly Jo Taylor Correctional Education Administrator Award is available for those who work as a Principal, Assistant Principal, School Administrator, Educational Administrator from Operation Support Center, or Advanced Job Training Coordinator. The Beverly Jo Taylor Correctional Education Support/Auxiliary Award is available for staff who work or serve in a role that supports correctional education. All three awards require CEAO membership for at least one year. The scholarship money is to be used to purchase resources, materials and/or professional development which will benefit the correctional education program. The application form for the Beverly Jo Taylor Scholarships can be found on the CEAO website: cea-ohio.org.

David Mielke Scholarship



The David Mielke Scholarship is named in honor of a correctional educator who was dedicated to lifelong learning. This scholarship is available to CEA members in a current position having direct contact with students for five years as of the application submission deadline. Also note, scholarship requires CEA membership of at least one year prior to application submission deadline. The scholarship money is to be used for professional development in education: attendance at a CEA Conference (Ohio, Regional or International), an educational workshop, convention, or seminar related to teaching field. More information regarding the scholarship and the application form may be found on the CEAO website: cea-ohio.org.