



Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

# NEWSLINER

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Volume 10  
Issue 3

October 31 2013

Kelly Singleton, Editor

## A Message From the President



Dear Colleagues,

High-quality public education is an economic necessity, an anchor of democracy, a moral imperative and a fundamental civil right. Without the foundation a strong education provides, our other rights can never be fully realized. We believe in and stand ready to fight for public education because it is the means by which we help all children dream their dreams and achieve them.

This vision works to:

- ✓ Fight for great neighborhood public schools that are safe, welcoming places for teaching and learning;

- ✓ Ensures that teachers and school staff are well prepared, are supported, have manageable class sizes, and time to collaborate so they can meet the individual needs of every child;

- ✓ Make sure our children have an engaging curriculum that focuses on teaching, not testing, and includes art, music, social studies and the sciences; and

- ✓ Ensure children their families and the community have access to Community Learning Centers to meet their social, emotional and health needs.

We know that this is a vision of what parents want for their

children so by joining them and the community, we can create a movement here to continue to support strong public schools in Cincinnati.

With this, I must ask everyone who lives in the Cincinnati Public Schools or has families or friends who live in the district to remember to vote for our endorsed school board candidates. This is an important election that will impact our future. This next Board of Education will be selecting our next Superintendent and will be setting their priorities for our next negotiations.

In Unity,

Julie

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## Vote NO on Issue 4

The same people who pushed Senate Bill 5 and so-called Right to Work are at it again, this time in Cincinnati. That's why I need your help to get the word out to voters about Issue 4, the unfair, unsustainable, irresponsible Cincinnati Charter Amendment that the Tea Party has put on the ballot this fall.

**Issue 4 is bad public policy** because the poorly crafted measure includes provisions for new or additional taxes and fees. That's why our entire City Council, Mayor Malory, and Mayoral candidates

Qualls and Cranley all oppose this idea.

**Issue 4 is bad for you** because of the irresponsible actions of the Tea Party and outside corporate interests, Issue 4 would actually cost the City hundreds of millions more.

**Issue 4 is bad for Cincinnati** because out-of-state interests who oppose all retirement security don't have a place in our community and just want to benefit Wall Street brokers at the expense of the hard working people of Cincinnati.

**Issue 4 is bad for city workers** because it is an unfair attack on those who labor to make our city a great place to live, learn, and work. City workers do not receive Social Security. They are depending on the city pension plan for their retirement security.

**Simply put: Issue 4 is unfair, unsustainable, irresponsible, and it will cost Cincinnati.**

Please talk to everyone you know and urge them to **Vote No on Issue 4.**

### UNION MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ The next regular CFT/  
★ CFOP membership  
★ meeting will be held  
★ on **November 13** @  
★ **5:30 p.m.** at the Thom  
★ Moore Building  
★ (Laborer's Hall)  
★ located at:  
★ 3457 Montgomery Rd.  
★  
★ BR briefing is held at  
★ 5:00 before the  
★ membership meeting.  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## CFT/CFOP Fair Share Fee Set @ 87.06%

CFT/CFOP non-members will pay 87.06% Fair Share Fee for the 2013-14 school year. Full-time teacher non-members will pay \$749.73 of CFT dues of \$861.16. Fair Share fee for part-time (less than 6/10) teachers shall be \$434.68. Daily rate substitutes will pay \$1.74 per day worked.

Fair Share Fee for CFOP non-members shall be: \$529.20 of CFOP Dues of \$607.86. Part-time Fair Share CFOP non-members will be \$324.41.

Dues and Fair Share fees will be adjusted with any negotiated salary increases. CFT and CFOP non-members have received Fair Share Fee Notice and Procedures for Appeal.

### The Benefits of Belonging.....

- **VOTING RIGHTS** – Being a full dues paying member provides you with the right to vote on any issue that CFT or CFOP puts forth to the membership. This is a contract negotiation year! Once new Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA's) are negotiated by the CFT and CFOP Bargaining Teams, ONLY full dues paying members will be

able to vote to ratify the new contracts.

- **AFT/OFT/PSRP Conventions** – Only full dues paying members are sanctioned to run for positions, or be appointed as delegates to any of these conventions.
- **AFT Member Benefits** – Being a member extends into the American Federation of Teachers. Some of the additional benefits that AFT offers are Legal & Financial Services, Travel & Entertainment discounts, Shopping discounts, Scholarships and Loan Forgiveness programs and much more.

### Not sure if you are a Full Member or Fair Share member?

There are a couple of ways to find out if you are a Full Member or Fair Share member.

1. Contact the CFT/CFOP office at 513-961-2272 or email [cft@cft-aft.org](mailto:cft@cft-aft.org) and we can look it up for you, or;

2. Check with the Building Representative /Floor Representative at your worksite, or;
3. Check your paystub. In the deductions section you will either see a deduction for CFT or CFOP. If full member dues are being deducted, the description will be CFT FT A (or B depending on the pay plan) or CFOP FT 26. The FT means Full Time (or Full Dues Member). If Fair Share dues are being deducted from your paycheck, the description will read CFT FT FS A or CFOP FS FT 26. **The FS stands for Fair Share.** These descriptions will vary depending on what pay plan you are on or whether you are Part Time or Full Time, but the bottom line is FS stands for Fair Share and full member dues are not being deducted from your paycheck.

If you are interested in becoming a full member, please contact your Building Representative/Floor Representative at your worksite or contact Ralph Jackson at the CFT/CFOP office at 513-475-6047 or email [rjackson@cft-aft.org](mailto:rjackson@cft-aft.org).

## CFT Negotiations



Your CFT Negotiation Team is preparing for our upcoming negotiations to create a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The team would like to hear your concerns surrounding our current CBA. Please plan to attend or send a representative to one of the following meetings, so you can voice your concerns to the committee. Please RSVP with the time and date you would like to attend to [agreen@cft-aft.org](mailto:agreen@cft-aft.org). The meeting will be held at the CFT office every 15 minutes from 4-6 pm.

### Meeting Dates

November 8, 2013  
November 14, 2013  
November 19, 2013

## CFT/CFOP—Cincinnati AFL-CIO Endorsements

On November 5, Exercise your right to vote! CFT/CFOP Political Action Committee follows the recommendations of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO



**Vote "NO" on Issue 4**  
City Charter Amendment



### 2013 Recommendations

#### Cincinnati Public School Board

**Melanie Bates**—12 yrs. On Cinti Board of Ed and 7 years on the State Board of Education. NKU, MPA and Xavier Univ., BS. Employed by LifeCenter Organ Donor Network.

**Marcia A. Futel**—"As a CPS Board member, I will fight for high quality education to be delivered to ALL CPS schools that prepares our students to be successful adults."

**Daniel Minera**—"I will work to strengthen Community Learning Centers, leadership at all levels and promote the value of diversity that exists in our schools and in our communities."

**Betsy Shank**—Betsy is committed to promoting student success, working for a solid financial foundation for public education and supporting Community Learning Centers by increasing partnerships.

#### City Council

Michelle Dillingham  
David Mann  
Yvette Simpson  
Pam Thomas

Greg Landsman  
Chris Seelbach  
P.G. Sittenfeld  
Wendell Young

## Labor at Large by Robert Sturdevant, Chief Labor Delegate



As we consider the upcoming election for the Cincinnati School board, I hope the our members realize the importance of casting their ballots. There can be no doubt that public education is under attack, and this attack is well funded and determined.

This election offers the opportunity to help shape board policy for the next four years. The board members who are installed will represent a majority that will be asked to ratify our new collective bargaining agreement. The bargaining process for our last contract was contentious and lasted well over a year. Make no mistake that there are forces at work who would love to see our union dissolved and

our contract radically altered. It is incumbent on our membership to support candidates who will support public education and who will help in our struggle to improve Cincinnati City Schools. I am asking our members to vote for and actively support **Melanie Bates, Marcia Futel, David Minera and Betsy Shank**. These candidates are committed to supporting the CFT in our efforts to provide a sound public education for the good people of Cincinnati, one that will equip our children with the ability to compete in the twenty-first century. The public looks to our teachers to provide leadership in the classroom and in the political arena as well.

The CFT continues to work hard on community engagement and these four candidates will help us build stronger

community ties in the years to come. Voting is only one part of the way we can support this strong slate of candidates. Please show your support through yard signs, phone banking and door to door outreach efforts. Encourage your friends and family to vote early and to cast all four of your votes these endorsed candidates.

I am reminded of the quote by Abraham Lincoln; "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

Please lend your support to this slate of candidates and also remember to vote NO on Issue 4.

## Girls Power Up

A 3 hour workshop entitled "Girls Power Up" premiered last April at Western Hills University High School. On Oct. 25th 2013, "Girls Power Up" again in conjunction with Real Women of Cincinnati and Cincinnati's chapter of National Council of 100 Black Women are scheduled to conduct the sequel. The mission of this progressive workshop is to empower adolescent females ages 13 to 18 towards positive self-esteem, self-awareness and self-care.

More than 100 young women are targeted to participate in various hands on ac-

tivity sessions that include healthy eating, skin care/cosmetics, dance/fitness, female health/wellness, body concepts, raffles and door prizes.

Creator of "Girls Power Up", Juilane Patterson, said "It was very powerful to see all the girls and presenters actively engaged and having fun. There's such a need for our kids to receive some inspiring words and positive reinforcement because they are bombarded daily with so many nega-



tive messages. I'd like to see our young women celebrated like this every day, affirmed, enriched and encouraged." Ms. Patterson plans to make this empowerment workshop an annual event at West High that will be free of charge to all participants. Down the road she hopes to see more organizations come on board and lend their support and dynamics to the cause.

## CPS 01/01/2014 Benefits Open Enrollment Meetings

*Open Enrollment will be held November 4—22, 2013*

November 13, 2013	Woodward High School (Room A209—Small Auditorium)	3:30—6:00
November 14, 2013	Midway School (Cafeteria)	3:30—6:00
November 19, 2013	CPS Education Center (Cafeteria)	3:30—6:00
November 20, 2013	Mt. Airy School (Cafeteria)	3:30—6:00

Medical, Dental, Life Insurance vendors, along with the Employee Benefits Department, Wellness Works/TriHealth, AFLAC and Liberty Mutual will be on hand to answer your questions.

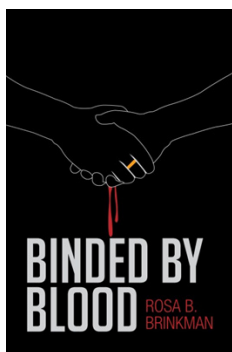
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers  
Cincinnati Federation of Office Professionals  
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
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Local 1520, AFT-OFT / AFL-CIO

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## Classifieds & More!

Rosa Brinkman's (a teacher at Silver-ton School) second novel, *Binded By Blood* (Tate Publishing) is set to re-leased September 26, 2013. Rosa's first book *In My Father's Footsteps As Told By His Son* was honored by former Ohio First Lady, Frances Strick-land in 2010 at the Ohioana Book Award Festival in Columbus Ohio. Rosa's Book is available at Barnes and Nobel and Amazon.



## You're Invited!

Online Programs Information Session

**WHERE:** The College of Mt. St. Joseph Seton Lobby  
(Food & drinks will be provided and optional tours will be given)

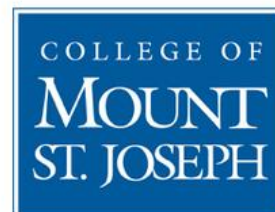
**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 12, 2013

**TIME:** 6:00 pm

Please RSVP by November 11, 2013 to Jack Ballman at  
[jack\\_ballman@mail.msje.edu](mailto:jack_ballman@mail.msje.edu)

Visit [www.msje.edu/online](http://www.msje.edu/online) for more information on our online course programs.

We look forward to seeing you on November 12, 2013. If you are unable to attend, please contact Jack Ballman to schedule a meeting at your conven-  
ience to discuss the online programs at the Mount.



Take a walk down the Champs-Elysees, or do you prefer the La Rambla? See for yourself while you visit Paris and Barcelona, while stopping in Nimes along the way leaving Cincinnati **July 16, 2014** for 9 days. The all-inclusive cost includes airfare from CVG for \$4463 and includes a \$100 deduction if you put down your \$495 deposit before November 1, 2013. This deposit also insures the price. Additional sightseeing ad-ons are available in addition to the itinerary. There will be college credit available through Ashland College at a reasonable rate. If you are interested, send an email to [huntercathy@hotmail.com](mailto:huntercathy@hotmail.com) for materials and registration.