Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

NEWSLINER

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Angel Green, Editor

A Message from CFT President

Dear Colleagues,

In the battleground state of Ohio, AFT President Randi Weingarten was on hand this month to support a day of action in Cincinnati by CFT and other local labor groups. That action generated support for Hillary Clinton, Democratic Senate contender Ted Strickland, and Issue 44—one of the most widely watched education levy initiatives in 2016. If approved, this levy would generate about $48 million annually for high-quality public education, including additional technology and for expanded preschool in Cincinnati.

AFT Secretary-Treasurer Lorretta Johnson (pictured on the left) also visited the city earlier in the month and made the case for why the levy is needed. The "Strong Start, Strong Future" effort to win passage of the levy has picked up wide community support and local endorsements.

I would like to personally thank everyone who came out to support our efforts this year, especially around the levy. Many teachers participated to make these actions a very successful part of the campaign, and I hope our efforts pan out with the success of Issue 44.

In Unity,
Julie

A Message from AFT President, Randi Weingarten

We can gather our strength for one last push to turn out our vote for a supremely prepared and qualified candidate who listens to voices on all sides and will work tirelessly to make life better for all Americans. Or, we can ease up and allow a grudge-driven reality show TV star to become the nation's next commander in chief, free to roll out the Oval Office welcome mat for white supremacists, misogynists, xenophobes, anti-Semites and other hate-filled actors who are trying to warp our national dialogue. Those were the stark choices laid out for more than 180,000 AFT members in November. Randi Weingarten's passion was matched by guest Diane Ravitch, a historian of education.

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UNION MEETING

The next regular CFT/CFOP membership meeting will be held on **November 9** @ **5:30 p.m.** at The Tom A. Moore Building (Laborer's Hall) located at:

3457 Montgomery Rd.

BR briefing is held at 5:00 p.m. before the membership meeting.

Hillary: FOR Public Education

CFT has endorsed Hillary Clinton for the presidential nomination. The COPE committee, composed of CFT members, takes a hard look at the candidates to determine their commitment to education and better working conditions for educators leading to better learning conditions for students. We hope you will consider CFT's recommendations carefully.

Hillary Clinton

Teacher Quality

- Believes in expanding professional development for teachers
- Will defend collective bargaining for teachers
- Does not favor federal requirement for teacher evaluations tied to test scores

Early Childhood Education

- Proposes funding for quality early-childhood education for every four-year-old over the next 10 years

School Safety and Climate

- Wants to help districts expand proven programs aimed at bettering student behavior
- Opposed to teachers carrying firearms
- Supports on-site police officers

School Spending

- Supports sufficient education funding to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act
- Supports double funding for the Education Innovation and Research grants
- Supports new monies for computer science, early childhood, and college access

Testing

- Supports using testing to inform instruction and school improvements
- Supports fewer and better tests

Donald Trump

Teacher Quality

- Highly critical of teachers' union
- Believes that competition (vouchers and school choice) will improve education

Early Childhood Education

- Has yet to reveal specifics, but proposes allowing parents to deduct the average cost of child care from federal tax payments with income limits

School Safety & Climate

- Opposed to federal gun-free zones
- Believes teachers should carry firearms in the classroom

School Spending

- Envisions a better educational system that also spends less

Testing

- Has not offered anything publicly on testing in schools

Vote for Issue 44/Cincinnati Public Schools

Federal – Labor Endorsed
U.S. Senate—Ted Strickland
U.S. Congress 1st District -Michele Young

State – Labor Endorsed
Ohio Supreme Court
John O'Donnell & Cynthia Rice

Ohio Court of Appeals 1st District
Marilyn Zayas-Davis

Ohio Senate – 14th District
Charles Carlier

Ohio House – 27th District
Joe Otis

Ohio House – 28th District
Jessica Miranda

Ohio House – 30th District
Mark Childers

Ohio House – 31st District
Brigid Kelly

Ohio House – 32nd District
Catherine Ingram

Ohio House – 33rd District
Alicia Reece

Ohio House – 65th District
Jerod Weber

Ohio House – 66th District
Ken McNeely

Local – Hamilton County
Commissioners
Todd Portune & Denise Driehaus

Prosecutor
Alan Triggs

Clerk of Courts
Aftab Pureval

Sheriff
Jim Neil

Recorder
Wayne Coates

Treasurer
Seth T. Walsh

Coroner
Lakshmi Kode Sammarco (D)

Local – Common Pleas Judgeships
Michael T. Mann
(replacing Nadine Allen)
Peter J. Stackpole
Alvertis Bishop
Jodi Lubbers

Univ. of Chicago Graduate Employees Stick with AFT

Graduate employees at the University of Chicago have overwhelmingly reaffirmed their choice to organize with AFT, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the American Association of University Professors. Members of the graduate students united at the University of Chicago voted 302-179 for continued AFT-IFT-AAUP affiliation in a ballot that concluded October 4. GSU has been jointly affiliated with the three unions since 2011. Says GSU member Tanima Sharma, a third year anthropology student. "We're thrilled that our membership took so seriously the questions of the recent referendum. Based on its clear mandate, we are ready to begin organizing a union recognition campaign that will be able to address the issues facing grad students on this campus and at private universities around the country." The University of Chicago vote comes hot on the heels of a new wave of private sector graduate workers seeking to organize with the AFT at Cornell University and other institutions across the country. The AFT represents the oldest graduate employee local (formed in 1969) and more than 25,000 graduate employees at 23 institutions across nine states.

Student Loan Forgiveness

If you are employed at a district school, you may be eligible to apply for student loan forgiveness programs. The Teacher Forgiveness program is designed exclusively for teachers while allowing them to continue their careers as educators. Participation in the program will reduce your principal, and after ten years, any balance that remains is completely forgiven.

We will help you through the application process, determine your eligibility, and prepare all necessary documents. Even if you aren't a teacher, you may still qualify for some form of forgiveness.

All it takes is a phone call to find out: 844-557-9335

Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati

Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati is a partnership of local nonprofit organizations who are committed to building social and economic equity and a healthy environment in Greater Cincinnati.

Community Shares and our member organizations depend on employers like Cincinnati Public Schools, who offer our giving campaigns to their employees. Because you share our commitment to social and economic justice, animal welfare, and a healthy environment...***Cincinnati is a better place for all of us!***

In one way or another, all of our non-profits impact the lives of countless families in our city. Here are just a few examples:

- **First Step Home** is maternal addictions program in Walnut Hills, offering safe and supportive housing to women and their children.
- **Ohio and Justice Policy Center** is a legal Clinic in Avondale, helping returning citizens understand their rights as they seek employment and housing.
- **Cincinnati Observatory** offers STEM education to the many children who live in these neighborhoods.
- **UCAN-United Coalition for Animals** offers free and affordable spay and neuter services to low-income families.

Community Shares offer TOTAL CHOICE in workplace giving. When you give through Community Shares, you get to designate specifically who receives your support, ensuring your donation goes to the causes you are most passionate about.

Thank you for supporting social and economic justice and a healthy environment in our city!

For more information about Community Shares, visit cintishares.org or call 475-0475, ext. 11.

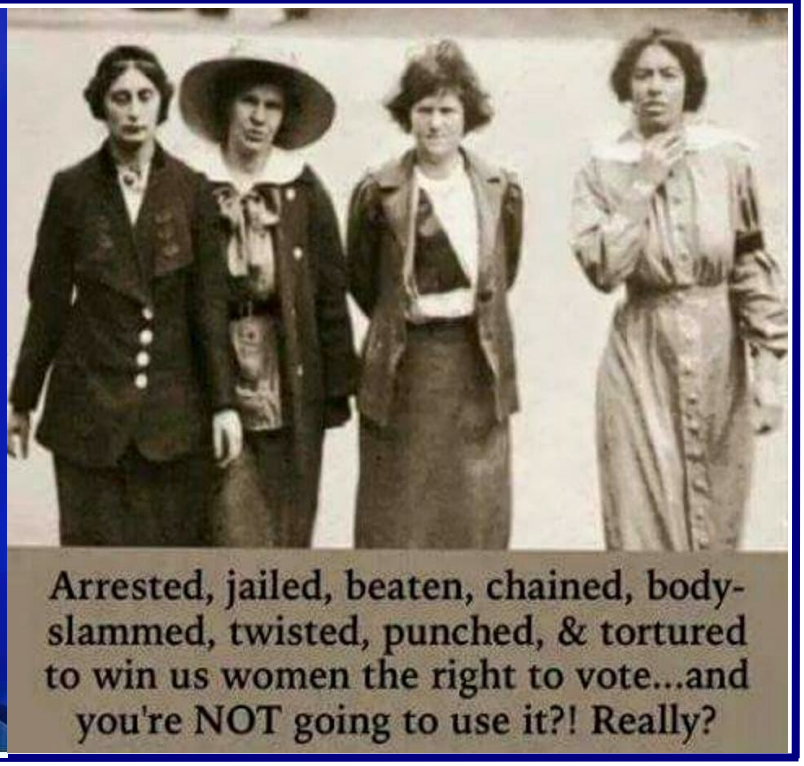
Share My Lesson Supports Safe Classrooms

As educators nationwide prepare for National Bullying Prevention, Share My Lesson has launched lnew digital resources designed to support teachers in creating safe classroom environments for LGBTQ students. The expanded bullying prevention collection includes resources, information and guidance for teachers and parents, as well as content from prominent partners such as the Anti-Defamation League, the Bully Project, and Teaching Tolerance. "The AFT and Share My Lesson are committed to providing the supports and resources educators need to make our schools safe and welcoming places for all students," says AFT President Randi Weingarten. "All students, particularly LGBTQ students, need to rely on schools to be safe places, free of any form of discrimination or bullying. That's very important given the toxic nature of our political discourse, and the Trump effect that has been real in too many places." The Share My Lesson collection includes lesson plans for every grade, educator testimonials, and special features on supporting transgender students and communities of color.

ESSA—An Opportunity

"If you could improve the way Ohio does public education, what would you change?" That is the fundamental question kick-starting conversations around Ohio, as the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), Cincinnati Federation of Teachers (CFT), and other locals continue a series of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) workplace discussions, execute a major August ad campaign, and gear up for a fall school "walk-in" aimed at spotlighting issues tied to implementation of the new federal law. OFT was one of ten American Federation of Teachers (AFT) state affiliates to comment on the U.S. Education Department's draft regulations, and the OFT, CFT, and other locals are running ads asking residents and educators to contact their lawmakers and press for a strong Ohio interpretation of the law. This opportunity for dialogue was made possible because the union worked effectively earlier this year to stop the push to "fast-track" Ohio's plan—a move that would have choked off necessary discussion before it started.

The message being shared is that ESSA offers Ohio the opportunity to redefine education by making significant improvements that benefits students. A key focus of these improvements must be a drastic change in the largely punitive and intimidating testing culture. A true education is much more than a mere reflection of a test score. A true education ensures children have access to a well-rounded curriculum and the support they need to be safe, healthy, and ready to learn. CFT calls on state decision makers to use ESSA to redefine education. Although testing is still required, how testing is used must be open for discussion. The high stakes that were used to blame and shame must be eliminated, and test results should be used to monitor student progress and inform instructional decisions. CFT, along with OFT, is actively engaging parents, community members, and other professional organizations to join them in raising their voices.

The goal is to foster a new classroom climate where students experience the joy of learning, and teachers have the time, resources, and professional freedom to provide a truly well-rounded education. Educators, parents, students, and community members must push state decision makers to make much needed bold improvements in Ohio's education system to ensure a quality education for all of Ohio's students.

Voting is Important