

JANUARY 15 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jody Dasher

I hope that the New year is beginning well for you and that you had a restful Winter Holiday. We are preparing for Negotiations to begin. When you receive survey information, please respond to as quickly as you can. We want to represent your interests to the best of our abilities.

This year, the entire contract is open for discussion. We have set our meeting dates with the District Negotiating Team, hoping to be wrapped up with everything by the end of April or the first week of May. This could be an interesting year with the projected revenue declines being discussed at the Legislature while Amendment 23 is still in effect guaranteeing inflation plus one percent.

CCEA SPRING ELECTIONS

The nomination forms for three Area Director positions will be distributed at the February 12 AR Council. Nominations will officially open at the February 12 AR Council and close at the March 13 AR Council and General Membership Meeting. Voting will begin March 17.

I encourage you to extend your commitment to CCEA and to become a candidate for office on the twelve member executive board. Contact Rex Walls at Independence Elementary, Vice-President and Chair of the Election Committee if you are interested in running.



STAR MENTOR OPENINGS

Do you know about the S.T.A.R. Mentoring Program? Have you ever thought about trying to be a Mentor? The time is now.

The S.T.A.R. Mentor Program is celebrating its thirteenth year. The District and Association negotiated to set aside the sabbatical leave program to create a program that would provide peer assistance for beginning teachers. The belief was that this would be a staff development opportunity for master teachers to work with beginning teachers while improving their own skills. The program is co-chaired by the President of CCEA and the Director of Human Resources. The STAR Program is primarily for first year teachers but may also be utilized to assist experienced teachers.

The award winning program is about to have two openings because Mentors work in three year cycles. If you are interested in applying, informational fliers will go out to buildings on January 13. The actual job postings will be out January 22. An informational meeting for interested applicants will be held on January 26, at Sky Vista Middle School.

This is an incredible opportunity for master teachers who would be interested in assisting new teachers in becoming outstanding teachers.

Are You Ready?

CALENDAR

January 29	Superintendent's Forum at SARC
February 6	CCEA/NEA Delegate Assembly Elections close
February 12	AR Meeting at Laredo Middle School

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The Representative Organization Working to Improve Conditions for Successful Educators in Cherry Creek

Bits & Pieces of Information

RETIREMENT PLANS?

The Office of Human Resources will be holding information meetings for all employees who are considering retirement:

Saturday Jan 24 from 9:00 until 10:30 at the Campus Middle School Café;

Thursday, January 29 from 4:30 until 6:00 at the Smoky Hill High School Lecture Center.

PERA and CCSD Human Resources staff will answer all your retirement questions.

There is a **Retirement Packet** available online through **First Class**.

DELEGATE ELECTIONS: CEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY & NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

We are currently holding elections for delegates to the CEA Delegate Assembly and the NEA Representative Assembly. Balloting is taking place in every building beginning January 15 with ballots needing to be submitted to our office on February 6.

Please see your AR to vote on delegates.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE?

Every five years, it is time to renew that teaching license again. It seems like the rules are being more rigidly enforced each year. We have heard concerns from members, the Cherry Creek Human Resources Department, and the CEA Legal Department. Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Make sure that you are tracking your license's expiration date. At the bottom of your pay stub each month, the district shows the expiration date of your license. Pay attention and make sure you are getting the required number of credits in a timely fashion.
2. Download your renewal packet from the CDE web *site* (http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_licenseaps.htm) at least 6 months before your license expires.
3. Order your official transcripts early enough so that they can arrive in plenty of time for renewing your license. Make sure that all the dates and credit hours are legible and occurred within the time of your current license.
4. You must pay fees online. CDE is no longer accepting personal checks.
5. Carefully complete the packet. Follow the completion checklist on page 1 carefully. If your office manager is not a Notary, bring the parts of the Renewal packet that must be notarized to ESC Office of Human Resources. They can help you there.
6. Fingerprinting is taking at least four months now. Get this done early.
7. Be honest about any court records even though you may believe it has been expunged. CEA has told us they are having to defend at least one teacher a week regarding prior legal issues—even ones that have not shown up in prior renewals. Members with questions on this point should call our office.
8. Double check that everything is signed and completed correctly, and then, make a copy of everything to retain for your own records.
9. If possible, hand deliver it to CDE so that you can get a dated receipt. If you cannot hand deliver it, try to use FedEx. If you only want to mail it using US Postal Service, make sure to mail it at least 5 months and 29 days ahead of the expiration. Do not use overnight US Mail.
10. When you receive an envelope from CDE, open it immediately and check it. Rejections are being sent in envelopes that look the same as approvals. Do not assume it was renewed.