

Letter from Educators

If you're a teacher, if there's a teacher in your family, or if you're one of the millions of people whose lives have been forever changed by a special teacher, you know how difficult, how rewarding, and -- ultimately -- how important this job is.

We've taught in Ohio for years. And when we see politicians trying to get between educators and their work,

we can't sit idly by.

Fortunately, when special interests pushed legislation here in Ohio that attacked the rights of teachers and other public employees, **Sherrod Brown was right there to help us fight back against SB 5.**

Whether it's making sure we have the funding we need to do our jobs, helping to repair and rebuild the schools we

work in, or fighting to open the doors to higher education to the kids we teach, Sherrod's always on the side of the men and women who educate Ohio's children.

Courtney Johnson, Ironton; Tamar Gray, Cleveland
Chairs, Educators for Sherrod

Ratings from "On The Issues"



The Republican candidate: Josh Mandel, Ohio's state treasurer.

Because that is not a legislative post, On the Issues has relatively few positions for him.

- He opposes a woman's right to choose,
- Opposes gay rights,
- Supports charter schools,
- Supports the use of shale

oil.

- On the Issues rates him as fairly conservative on both economic and social issues.

Who cares more about OHIO?



Karl Rove, once known as bush's brain, is now hit-man and chief advisor for American Crossroads, an extreme right wing super-pac.

As an outsider and the advisor for the expenditure of tens of millions of outside dollars, does Karl Rove care more about Ohio than you, me or Sherrod Brown? His interests are not local. His only interest is gaining and maintaining control of national power.

Years ago, Ronald Reagan convinced us to vote against our own self interest. These last few years

have been the direct result of such thinking. As many of us are realizing the painful results of starving the federal budget, as Conservatives have run up a nose bleedingly high national debt and passed laws that resulted in the elimination of protections of and from our banking and economic systems, we out here in the country are scratching our heads and fearing perhaps we've been sold swamp land. And as Conservatives see our eyes opening, they feel their power evaporating.

Enter Karl Rove; King of Liars and Master of Dirty Politics. The joke used to be "How can you tell

when Karl Rove is lying?" "His lips are moving." Now, you don't even need to see that.

His belief that the end justifies the means, that any dirty trick is ok as long as it furthers his ends and you don't get caught, is common knowledge. You can go on line and look up the dirty tricks attributed to him. But, they are only suspected, as he is very good at his job: whispering in the dark, sending unsigned letters, getting others to do his bidding. Let me put it this way. If I were running for office, and I had Karl Rove's support, I would not vote for me.



Senator Sherrod Brown, Democrat, Ohio.

The Democratic candidate: Sherrod Brown, incumbent.

- He is a strong supporter of a woman's right to choose and got a 100 rating from NARAL.
- He voted for the economic stimulus and opposed the Patriot Act (saying it is unpatriotic).

- He is a supporter of civil rights and got a 100 rating from HRC (re gay rights) and a 94 rating from the NAACP.

- He is also a supporter of prison reform and of DNA testing in capital cases.
- He is a strong supporter of public education.
- He also supports alternative energy programs and is a defender of the environment, getting a 95 rating from the League of Conservation Voters.
- On the Issues rates him a liberal on both social and economic issues.

Communications Workers of America



Local 4501 Communicator

Find us at Youtube: 4501 CWA

October 2012

"Like" us on Facebook

& join us at
www.cwa4501.org

27 Euclid Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201 Phone: (614) 294-5265 Fax: (614) 294-6562

OSU MAIN CAMPUS, WOOSTER, LIMA, MANSFIELD, NEWARK, MARION, PUT-IN BAY, FACULTY CLUB, SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, PICKAWAY COUNTY JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERAN'S COMMISSION

Local 4501 Officers

President, Richard A. Murray Email ramurray@cwa4501.org
Executive Vice President, Kevin Kee, Email: 779Kee@gmail.com
Treasurer, Cynthia Stewart, Email: cstewart@cwa4501.org
Secretary, E. Mae Adams, Email: madams@cwa4501.org
Vice Pres., (SOS) Paula Dill

Board Members: Anthony Brown, Wayne Crawford, Christal Harris, Nicholas Harrison, Mericle Long, Dennis Woodson



Local 4501 Communicator

Michael Secrest msecrest@cwa4501.org Editor/Contributor. Writes all articles not specifically attributed to others.

President Richard Murray contributes a quarterly message and oversight-
Sheila Collins keeps our Facebook current and serve with **Lolita Thomas, Lee Paul** and Michael Secrest on the Communications Committee.
Cynthia Stewart cstewart@cwa4501.org writes voter empowerment articles, and more



President Murray

They don't want us to vote, but We Are Awake

On September 26th, Local 4501 CWA, through it's Voter Empowerment Committee, helped sponsor a Meet

the Candidates Night. There were many great speakers (See page 2). But for me, the standout of the night was a senior from Reynoldsburg High School. Her name was Desha Caldwell, and though she is not yet old enough to vote, she boiled elections down to this. "Through the school and at home I realize that voting is about way more than picking a person or picking a political party. It's about setting up your future and your education and it's about your sense of security and your every day comfort in life."

Ohio's Conservative politicians are doing everything they can to take our votes.

They restrict the hours for urban early voters while extending the hours for Conservative neighborhoods. They tried to change the I.D. rules to keep us from voting. HB 159 would have restricted your voting access to possessing a driver's license, a state I.D., a military photo I.D. or a U.S. passport. This would have disenfranchised 900,000 of us in Ohio, but you did not let them, because You Are Awake.

An organization called "True the Vote" is sending out poll watchers. With such a name they have to be fair. Right? Wrong! They are sponsored by the same SOBs who spent all that money to get our Conservative state government elected. The government that gave us SB 5 and who are now spending records of millions of dollars besmirching Liberals all across the country in an attempt to control our U.S. Senate (See page 4). They were originally

part of a Texas Tea Party group.

They intend to be at the polls to challenge us and intimidate us out of our votes. To make us feel so bad about exercising our rights and our freedoms that, even if we vote this time, we won't want to do it again. They have specifically said that they want us to think of them as policemen in our rear view mirrors. They aren't going to make me feel bad about casting my vote. They can take their intimidation and shove it. Mind you, I'm not going to fight with them. But I'm not about to let them stare me down. If I had never voted in my life, I would vote now, because they don't want me to vote. I've spent all my life earning the right to vote and no one, no one, NO ONE is going to take that away from me. I am awake. It does not matter whether each of us is a Democrat or a Republican. What matters is that We Are Awake and **WE WILL VOTE.**

CONSERVATIVES: Assaulting Worker's Rights, Women's Rights and Voter's Rights.



Terri Jamison, Democratic candidate for Domestic and Juvenile Court.



Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Democratic incumbent Clerk of Common Pleas Court



Kevin Boyce, Democratic incumbent representative in the 25th House District



Seth Golding, Republican challenger in Ohio House District 25



Jim Reese, Democratic challenger for U.S. House from the 12th District



Joyce Beatty, Democratic challenger for the 3rd Congressional District



Michael Stinziano, Democratic incumbent, 18th Ohio House District



Tracey Heard, Democratic incumbent for Ohio House District 16



Richard Ehrbar, Libertarian candidate, 3rd District, U.S. Congress

On **Wednesday, September 26, Local 4501 CWA Voter Empowerment Committee, led by 4501 treasurer, Cynthia Stewart**, presented it's annual evening to Meet the Candidates. This was a nonpartisan event. See the youtube film, <http://youtu.be/ptlwXFLKOeo>.

The meeting took place at **Metro High School**. I feel it is important to thank the school and praise the students of Metro, who worked in many capacities the night of the event, along with students from other schools who entered our "This Is How Democracy Works" Poster Competition and Rap Off contests.

Our audience was large, our participants were informative and entertaining. It was a great success. We partnered this year with NAACP Columbus branch, CWA 4310, the League of Women Voters of Metro Columbus, Campus Partners, Ohio Nurse's Association, the Coalition of Black Trade Workers, Shaun Frame and CWA 4502, Smyrna Missionary Baptist Church, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, and the Columbus Impact Corporation-Coalition for Responsive Government. We want to thank all of them for their help coordinating this event and for their hands-on hard work in bringing it to fruition.

SELF PORTRAIT a story about Christian Davis by his mother, Sheila Collins

This story is about a courageous young artist named **Christian Davis**. Christian is the son of **Sheila Collins, 4501 CWA Administrative Secretary**, and **Joe Collins, a custodian in District One, FOD**. He is also the **Grandson of retired Lead Chief Steward Michael Ervin in Student Life**.



Self Portrait, drawing by Christian Davis

Christian L. Davis looks just like your typical 16 year old to most folks. You can't tell that he suffers from an ailment called Juvenile Fibromyalgia. Christian was diagnosed with this ailment two and half years ago. It is a chronic pain and joint disorder that effects the muscles and soft tissue as well as causing constant headaches, fatigue, and sleep problems. At times it can be quite debilitating.

For Christian, having this ailment at such a young age robbed him of his greatest passion: drawing. At one point Christian had lost the use of his hands and fingers to a point where he couldn't even hold a pencil.

Christian's condition continued to worsen so much that he be-

came wheelchair bound for four months and couldn't do anything for himself. The pain manifested in his joints so rapidly I had to seek out, through his Rheumatoid Arthritis Specialist, The Nationwide Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Clinic in Cleveland.. So, we decided to make the trip to the Cleveland Clinic for a month. Everyday a team of fifteen medical professionals aggressively worked with Christian, and he made great strides to the point where he was standing on his own once again.

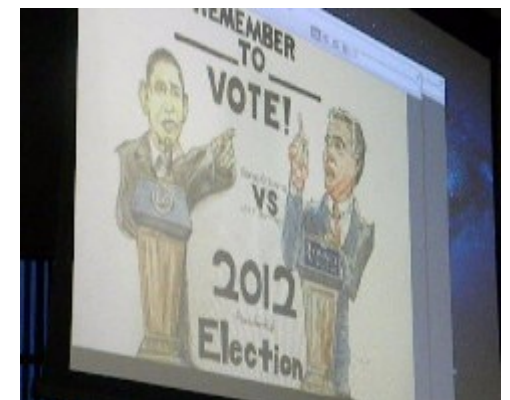
The whole time he was going through the program Christian struggled with ongoing headaches. But through it all, Christian was developing coping mechanisms.

So, as agonizing as it was for Christian, he completed the program. Thanks to Christian's courage and persistence and the help of his Occupational Therapist, Christian has regained the strength in his hands and fingers. He started with mechanical devices to assist him in the use of his hands and fingers. He needed a scribe for testing and school-work. But through his hard work, Christian regained the ability to write, and even more important to him, create art. Christian was kept from drawing, his great passion, for so long that, now that he is able to hold a pencil again, it is a joy and victory for him and

me, Christian's mother and biggest fan!

He is very excited to return to drawing! And now Christian is a student in a program Art Explorer Post through The Columbus College Of Art and Design (CCAD), an outreach program for young artists from ages 15-18. These students graduate from High School with the opportunity to receive a Scholarship to attend CCAD.

Through all of his suffering of headaches and fibromyalgia Christian knows what it is to



2nd place winning entry in our This Is How Democracy Works poster contest for our Meet the Candidates Night, held Wednesday, September 26. It was painted by Christian.

hunger and thirst for something so much that in spite of a person's constant pain level, any goal is obtainable; that our pain is a part of us and not all of us; and that we are what we make of ourselves by placing ourselves in God's hands and finding that which we are meant to do.