



# Community CRITIQUE



The Official Publication of the Cleveland Teachers Union

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JUNE 2011

Welcome to the third issue of your *Community Critique*, an official publication of the Cleveland Teachers Union. Our goal is to provide relevant information along with interesting activities for your educational pleasure. Unfortunately, this issue includes some unpleasant topics.

Please be sure to read everything about Senate Bill 5; we all must vote to repeal it on November 8. Speaking of voting, your right to vote is being threatened. We have included an important article about voting barriers recently passed by our state legislature. Governor Kasich and some of his Republican colleagues want to eliminate rights for which many have fought long and hard.

This is going to be a busy summer. So, please know that the CTU values the advocacy work performed by its members, we cherish your commitment to improving our schools, and we look forward to working together for the success of our children and public workers.



PHOTO BY JANET CENTURY

**Did you know that dozens of recreation centers, schools, libraries and social service centers will offer free lunches, snacks or other meals this summer to low-income children? To find the nearest center or learn more, go to [www.oashf.org](http://www.oashf.org) or call 1-800-648-1176.**

**Looking for ways your children can combine learning and fun this summer? They can participate in engaging activities and contests in the Cleveland Public Library's Summer Reading Club: "One World, Many Stories." Look inside for your neighborhood branch. Also, please urge your children to search for all overdue materials. During September, which is Library Card Month, overdue materials can be returned for unbelievable discounts.**

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DAVID J. QUOLKE

# Connect the Dots: A Fight for Ohio's Future



Remember the connect-the-dots activities of childhood? A group of seemingly separate, unrelated dots, when connected with a line, form a clear picture. Ohioans need to connect the legislative dots and take a good look at the picture some Republican lawmakers are drawing in Columbus.

Senate Bill 5 narrowly passed the Republican-dominated Senate this spring. It is a flagrant attack on public workers and their Unions, includ-

ing teachers, firefighters and police officers, their working conditions and collective bargaining. **It would cut Union workers' voices and rights.**

A petition drive is underway to repeal SB 5 by placing it on the November 2011 ballot. (Read more about SB 5 on page 4.)

House Bill 153 is the House version of the state budget bill. HB153 includes some of the controversial provisions from SB 5; the Senate version of the budget bill does not. A Conference Committee is working to reach consensus on the two versions. **HB 153 would cut \$3 billion from public schools, while rewarding CEOs and campaign donors at the expense of Ohio students and taxpayers.** It would double public funding for failing charter schools (designed to benefit profiteer David Brennan, a huge campaign donor to Governor John Kasich and House leaders), and quadruple public funding to pay for private school tuition vouchers. HB 153 devalues public education in Ohio, and it includes attacks on some minimum wage protections for certain workers.

HB 159 would require all voters to have a photo ID in order to vote: a

military ID, a state-issued ID, a passport, or a driver's license.

Along with HB 159, two other Republican-led bills, **Senate Bill 148 and House Bill 194, would infringe on one of our most important rights as citizens, the right to vote.** These bills would unnecessarily restrict voting rights in Ohio and take us backwards.

These bills would make it harder to vote by **cutting time for absentee and early voting.** It would give the **Secretary of State unprecedented, unchecked authority to purge certain voters from the rolls.** It is projected to make fewer votes count, especially those of low-income voters who may not be familiar with optical scan ballots. (An estimated 12,000 voters could have their ballots thrown out, even though their intent



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# House Bill 159 – 21st Century Poll Tax

By **Pierrette “Petee” Talley**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio AFL-CIO

Back in the day, throughout the south, denying black men the right to vote through legal maneuvering and violence was used to disavow their newly-found freedom and ultimately

deny their civil rights.

Black men were locked out of the voting system through the enactment of literacy tests, elaborate registration systems, and poll taxes. Poll taxes added a cost by charging money to vote.

Today, “poll taxes” are again emerging in election systems. In March, the Ohio House of Representatives rushed through one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country under the guise of combating voter fraud. **HB 159 requires all voters to present a non-expired Ohio driver’s license, Ohio state ID,**

**Military ID or US Passport before being allowed to cast a ballot.**

Legislators are using the specter of fraudulent voting to **disenfranchise racial minorities, the working poor, students, the elderly and people with disabilities.**

Asking the states’ poorest citizens, many of whom don’t have the proposed required ID, to produce a document that has **nothing to do with our constitutional right** to vote is wrong and will have a chilling effect on minority voting in this state.

Contact Petee Talley at: [petal55@att.net](mailto:petal55@att.net)



## Voting Questions?

Call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Hotline

at 216-443-3298 or visit their website at

[www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us)

## STUDENT VOICES

from the

### W.E.B. DuBois Leadership Academy

The W.E.B. Du Bois Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Cleveland NAACP, was recently featured in the *Crisis Magazine*, a publication of the National NAACP.

My name is Jimmy Nash. I am currently the vice president of the W.E.B DuBois Leadership Academy, even though I’m only twelve and a half years old. I have been a part of this program for five years! I have benefitted from this organization like I have no other. I have met dozens of important people.



Now, don’t think that we stay in one room every Saturday year round. We go on many great field trips. Some of our regular trips are Law Day and Medical Day. On Law Day we go to the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland, to do mock trials and talk to real lawyers, judges, magistrates, and other court participants.

Medical Day is another big field trip. We go to University Hospital near downtown Cleveland. We talk about Sport Medicine, germs, and bacteria. Also, the doctors and nurses talk to us about medical school and the paths they took to get to where they are today.

Recently a select 12 boys (including myself) went to Washington D.C for the One Nation Rally. I learned about how teacher and steel union members feel when they get treated unfairly. Also, how immigrants believe they came to the U.S.A to get a better life and to help our country become better. They also talked about how homosexuals believe they should have more of their people in office.

Our great director, Mr. Stanley Miller, does many of the great things I have mentioned. He dedicates much of his time and money on the program. He takes us to community service activities such as the Cleveland Food Bank and also National Give Back Day, which is when we clean senior citizens’ yards. He keeps us connected to the community and makes sure we’re doing well in school.

This program can inspire a new generation. This is not just another program to keep kids out of trouble on Saturday mornings. To me this is one of the best leadership programs in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

## Library News

Looking for ideas for summer fun? Check out the Cleveland Public Library website at [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org), or call your local branch library to check out their summer programs.

### Branch Library Locations

Addison	6901 Superior Ave. ■ 623-6906
Broadway	5417 Broadway Ave. ■ 623-6913
Brooklyn	3706 Pearl Rd. ■ 623-6920
Carnegie West	1900 Fulton Rd. ■ 623-6927
Collinwood	856 East 152nd St. ■ 623-6934
East 131st Street	3830 East 131st St. ■ 623-6941
Eastman	11602 Lorain Ave. ■ 623-6955
Fleet	7224 Broadway Ave. ■ 623-6962
Fulton	3545 Fulton Rd. ■ 623-6969
Garden Valley	7201 Kinsman Rd. ■ 623-6976
Glenville	11900 St. Clair Ave. ■ 623-6983
Harvard-Lee	16918 Harvard Ave. ■ 623-6990
Hough	1566 Crawford Rd. ■ 623-6997
Jefferson	850 Jefferson Ave. ■ 623-7004
Langston Hughes	10200 Superior Ave. ■ 623-6975

Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled	17121 Lake Shore Blvd. ■ 623-2911
Lorain	8216 Lorain Ave. ■ 623-7011
Main Library	325 Superior Ave. ■ 623-2800
Martin Luther King, Jr.	1962 Stokes Blvd. ■ 623-7018
Memorial-Nottingham	17109 Lake Shore Blvd. ■ 623-7039
Mobile Services	5806 Woodland Ave. ■ 623-7114
Mt. Pleasant	14000 Kinsman Rd. ■ 623-7032
Rice	11535 Shaker Blvd. ■ 623-7046
Rockport	4421 West 140th St. ■ 623-7053
South	3096 Scranton Rd. ■ 623-7060
South Brooklyn	4303 Pearl Rd. ■ 623-7067
Sterling	2200 East 30th St. ■ 623-7074
Union	3463 East 93rd St. ■ 623-7088
Walz	7910 Detroit Ave. ■ 623-7095
West Park	3805 West 157th St. ■ 623-7102
Woodland	5806 Woodland Ave. ■ 623-7109

## Society Needs to Support Teachers

by **Jan Resseger**  
*United Church of Christ  
Justice & Witness Ministries*

In the United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries, we strongly opposed Ohio Senate Bill 5, and we pledge to continue to support the right of public servants to organize. One of the resolutions of our General Synod declares: “We . . . advocate for just, democratic, participatory and inclusive economic policies in both public and private sectors, including . . . the responsibility of workers to organize for collective bargaining . . .”

It shouldn’t be a surprise that I consider teachers unions among our best allies as advocates for equal opportunity in education. After all, what is good for school teachers is almost always good for children.

Collective bargaining by teachers protects children, parents and the community by securing working conditions like reasonable case loads for counselors and class size limits to ensure children get the attention they need from adults.

Part of today’s political climate results from almost a decade under

No Child Left Behind (NCLB), our federal test-blame-and-punish law. By demanding ever higher test scores on standardized tests without addressing unequal school resources across states, NCLB has insisted that teachers work harder and then blamed teachers in under-resourced schools in the poorest communities when they are unable to quickly raise test scores.

Beginning in 2009, federal programs like Race to the Top have taken the attacks a step further, threatening due process protection and incentivizing states to base teachers’ evaluation and salaries on students’ test scores, despite that no data system has yet been developed to measure accurately the range of variables that make up good teaching. State policy now follows the lead of these federal policies.

Earlier this spring, commenting on today’s attacks on public sector collective bargaining, a good friend asked me a troubling question: “What kind of society turns on its school teachers?” Teachers cannot be successful unless citizens assume responsibility for providing the resources to create stable, trusting, and adequately resourced school communities.



### CTU CARES

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BY DAVID J. QUOLKE



## Connect the Dots: A Fight for Ohio's Future

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was 100% clear.)

Additional personal information would be required from voters casting provisional ballots, including **full Social Security numbers**, causing potential identity theft. **Provisional ballots would be more complicated, meaning more would be thrown out.** Sometimes mistakes happen, and voters are directed to the wrong precinct or location; these bills would throw out a vote when it was not the fault of the voter, but of the poll-worker.

These bills would **eliminate local control of elections**, including taking away the right of local boards of elections to determine how best to use resources to run smooth elections. All boards of elections would have to

comply with one-size-fits-all rules: **no early voting hours that work for their county; no mailing absentee ballot request forms to all registered voters; no paying for return postage for absentee ballots; no setting up satellite locations for early voting that are more convenient and accessible.**

Whose voices do these bills overwhelmingly silence? The working class, minorities, the poor, elderly, disabled. According to David Callahan, a Demos Senior Fellow, a 2007 study on voter ID requirements by three political scientists found that voting laws requiring multiple forms of ID are likely to disenfranchise more Latino, Asian and African-American voters. And those less likely to have access to multiple forms of ID are more likely to be Democratic voters.

In Lori Minnite's recent book, *The Myth of Voter Fraud*, research in multiple states confirmed that voter fraud is **not** a significant problem in Ohio. Despite what their supporters claim, these bills' real intent is not to cut out voter fraud, but to cut out particular groups of voters. These issues are not just Union issues or minority issues; they will affect Ohio communities, workers, families, and children.

Connect the dots: the real problem in Ohio is the strategy to weaken and silence the voices and the influence of certain voters and citizens. And this is happening just before the 2012 Presidential election, in which Ohio is again expected to determine the winner. Is the picture clear yet?

# 25

### things for kids to do this summer

- Read a book
- Visit a library often
- Fly a kite
- Go to the park
- Visit a recreation center
- Play charades
- Go biking or hiking
- Plant a garden
- Open a lemonade or snow cone stand
- Volunteer (waystohelp.org)
- Visit a museum
- Go bowling
- Go fishing with handmade poles
- Organize and donate (toys, clothes, etc.)
- Clean your room
- Design t-shirts
- Made sock puppets
- Make your own instruments (kinderart.com)
- Make a dream catcher (you tube)
- Go camping in your backyard
- Createyourownwebpage@kidslove2-learn.ca
- Pencilandpapergames.com
- Make a family scrapbook
- Read another book
- Have an indoor or outdoor scavenger/treasure hunt

The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair



into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life.

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
SPEECH TO THE STATE CONVENTION  
OF THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO,  
OCT. 7, 1965



First Place Winner –  
Local Union 979 Women of Steel Essay Contest

## Standing Up For The Union

by Mary Moeller

"The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" could not be more true for my father and me. He has been an enormous influence in my life, and I am proud of the person I have become due to him. He passed down to me the values he learned throughout his life as a steelworker and a Union member: hard work, perseverance, standing up for what is right, and following your passion. His work in the steel mill and his role as a Union member have inspired me in many ways to become a better person.

David Moeller started working at the mill over 30 years ago, following his love of mechanics, construction, and working with his hands. Throughout his time there he has done many different jobs, all of which he has done well and to the best of his ability. His hard work has been a model for me to follow. I have worked hard throughout my school career to earn a 4.0 GPA and I plan to graduate with honors next spring.

My father taught me by example never to be afraid of a challenge and never accept defeat. He has helped mold me into the hard working, determined student I am today.

He also taught me to stand up for what is right. In 2001, LTV Steel laid off a large number of people, my father included, because they were losing money. The workers would not stand for this; they all had bills to pay and families to feed. The Union realized this and organized a trip to Washington, DC, for all the laid-off workers and their families so they could rally together and lobby at the Senate. My family and I went on this trip, and it was an incredible experience. I was only in third grade, but seeing my father and so many others fighting for the same cause had an immense impact on my ten-year-old self. When we finally got to the Senate after what seemed like marching all around the city, my dad told me we were waiting for a Senator to come out and see us. When Senator Voinovich finally arrived, I actually got to talk to him. The conversation went like this:

"Hi! Are you a Senator?" I asked

"Yes I am," he replied.

"Can you save my Daddy's job?" I requested.

I do not remember what he said after that, but someone who watched the entire conversation on the news said that the Senator had a tear in his eye. Apparently he had lost a daughter who would have been about my age. It was an incredible

encounter that I never would have experienced if the steelworkers and the Union had not wanted to fight for their jobs.

Being a Union member means a lot to my father. I remember asking him once why he wanted to be in a Union if he needed to pay to be a member. His answer was that the Union fought for his rights and helped him get where he is today. Not only did the Union help save his job multiple times, they also negotiate contracts with his employers to make sure he is getting the best pay and benefits he can. However, the Union does more than offer work-related aid. It also offers classes and seminars that are free to members. Through the Union, my father learned how to garden, work a computer, brew his own coffee, and even pay for my college tuition, all for free. This Union has gone above and beyond for my father, not only propelling him through work but through life as well.

While I do not have a passion for mechanics as my father does, I still learned a lot from his life as a steelworker and a Union member and applied it to my own life. I hope one day to be able to embody all of the values he learned and to portray these values in my own job and in college. After all, the apple does not fall far from the tree.



# THE TRUTH

## About Senate Bill 5



**MYTH:** SB 5 is needed to help balance the budget and stimulate job growth.

**TRUTH:** SB 5 destroys jobs and lowers wages. You cannot create jobs by destroying jobs. If SB 5 passes, owners of shops, gas stations and other small businesses across this state will be forced to lay off workers or close their doors.



**M**iddle class and working class families have taken pay cuts and seen their wages decrease.

We need to level the playing field. SB 5 is an attack on the pursuit of life, the pursuit of liberty, and the pursuit of happiness!

— STATE SENATOR NINA TURNER

**I** say to the person who doesn't have a job, if you continue to allow them [Governor Kasich and some Ohio Republican legislators] to go down this road [Senate Bill 5], you may never have a job. To those who work and who are not in unions, it is unions who have created the working environment that most of you work in — your pay scale, your rights as individual workers. But for unions, most of the protections we have on our jobs we would not have. Also, it is unions that really created the middle class in this country.



— CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

**MYTH:** Public employees are overpaid, and their salaries need to be brought in line with the private sector.

**TRUTH:** A recent Rutgers University study found Ohio public employees earn 6 percent less on a yearly basis than their peers in the private sector. They earn 3.5% less on an hourly basis. The average OAPSE (Ohio Association of Public School Employee) makes \$24,000 a year and retires with an average pension of \$900 a month. Public employees do not pay into or receive Social Security.

**MYTH:** Public employees need to make a sacrifice to reduce the state's projected \$8 billion budget shortfall.

**TRUTH:** Ohio is 44th of 50 states in per capita spending on government workers. State employees have taken a pay freeze five times in 9 years. In the last contract, state employees voluntarily took furloughs and made other financial sacrifices that saved \$250 million and an additional \$100 million in health care costs.

**MYTH:** Public employees have too much power and the public agrees.

**TRUTH:** A recent Gallup poll found the 61% of the public oppose taking away some collective bargaining rights of most public employee unions. A recent Quinnipiac Poll found that only 34 percent of the people in Ohio support this proposal.

**MYTH:** Rolling back collective bargaining rights is needed to help managers do their jobs.

**TRUTH:** Ohio passed a law in 1983 to establish collective bargaining for state workers. The 1983 law has reduced labor strife, and increased professional training and productivity.

**S**enate Bill 5 is an attack on the middle class in Ohio. It's not a new deal, it's a raw deal . . . We must repeal SB 5, and stand up for good jobs and strong communities.



— STATE REP. NICKIE ANTONIO

**SB5** is about nothing more than raw political power. It is a Republican attempt to depress the voices that speak for the poor, working and middle class in society. It is about taking away the checks and balances that naturally occur when you have workers represented by a union. SB5 is a sham of public policy.



— MIKE FOLEY, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 14TH HD

### Why Repeal?

Why should the people of Ohio repeal Senate Bill 5? They should do it because it is regressive. It takes our state backward in the all-important area of collective bargaining for fair wages, safe working conditions and a secure retirement. They should repeal it because Senate Bill 5 will make the people of Ohio less safe as it forces a reduction in emergency response workers ranging from police to fire fighters to EMS crews. They should repeal Senate Bill 5 because it destabilizes people in the middle class and slams shut the door on people living in poverty that are looking for economic opportunity that will also allow them to pursue the American dream. Finally, they should repeal it because the loss of economic security will inevitably drive more and more people and families out of Ohio in search of better opportunities elsewhere. People who voted for John Kasich believing that whatever cuts he might make would certainly not impact them now see the light and share the pain. Senate Bill 5 is bad for Ohio and so is John Kasich!



— The Rev. Marvin A. McMickle, Ph.D.  
Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH

### WORD SEARCH

S D D E X L V N L X V P L Q J  
 E R Y E L C Y C R O T O M B X  
 E N E J C L E O K H Z A J H K  
 Y T M E S Y A S Q U E Q X T R  
 O D I C T U C E J Q J A X R I  
 L J A V K N R A P B T C V S A  
 P A L J S D U P R E I Q Q E F  
 M Z D T B W H L T C R F C G N  
 E N O I T I L A O C O U X A U  
 J J E E M M I W U V D M M W A  
 Z G X Q M T G B A E N U E H L  
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 V E E H V C O L L E C T I V E  
 C N B J K Q V N F P B B B M M

COALITION MOTORCYCLE REPEAL  
 COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATE UNFAIR  
 DEMOCRACY REDUCE VOLUNTEERS  
 EMPLOYEES WAGES

- SB5 will drastically \_\_\_\_\_ collective bargaining in the workplace.
- SB5 is an \_\_\_\_\_ attack on employee rights and worker safety.
- If SB5 passes, teachers will no longer be able to \_\_\_\_\_ class size.
- Vote to \_\_\_\_\_ SB5 on November 8th.
- Ohio public \_\_\_\_\_ earn 6 percent less on a yearly basis than their peers in the private sector. (Rutgers University study)
- SB5 will destroy jobs and lower \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ohio passed a law in 1983 to establish \_\_\_\_\_ bargaining for state workers.
- Collective bargaining is \_\_\_\_\_ in action.
- We Are Ohio is a citizen-driven, community-based, bipartisan \_\_\_\_\_ that has come together to repeal SB5.
- We Are Ohio has more than 10,000 \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground in communities across the state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ riders participated in 'Ride to Kill the Bill' to oppose SB5.

### THE CRITIQUE

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