

President's Message

As we move into the new year, there are a few things to which I'd like to draw your attention:

Our district has adopted the Danielson model of classroom evaluation and has purchased the Teachscape online program to provide evaluation feedback and professional development.

Although we have adopted the new system this year, the language of the evaluation legislation says that classroom evaluation will follow the new model beginning in September of 2013.

Some of our members have either volunteered or have been asked to pilot the new system for this year. If you have neither volunteered nor been asked to participate in the pilot, your classroom evaluation should follow the procedure as it is outlined in our current contract.

It is vitally important that you take an active role in your classroom evaluations and walk-throughs. If there is any error or inconsistency in these documents, you must address them in writing, immediately.

Your Association has a number of members who work for you in various capacities and who advocate for your rights. To see the names of specific members who participate in Association work, please refer to our website at www.pequannocktownshipea.org.

The elected officers are President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Officers serve for two years and elections are staggered. This year, we will vote for Treasurer and Secretary at our March General Membership Meeting.

The members who serve as building representatives are elected every April. Members also serve as Committee Chairpersons,

and are appointed by the president. The committees are:

- County Representatives
- Grievance
- Insurance
- Professional Development
- Legislative
- Membership
- Negotiations
- PRIDE
- Publicity
- Social

In response to the new legislation on evaluations and tenure, your Association has also convened an Evaluation Committee.

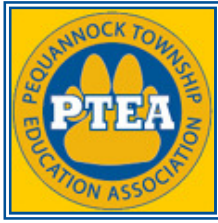
Throughout the year, there are opportunities for all members to get involved in Association activities. Many, such as organizing a PRIDE activity, or participating in the Mall Project do not involve advocacy.

We encourage you to become an active participant in your Association. Please contact your building representative or any officer for information on how you can become involved. If you are interested in taking on a leadership or advocacy roll, PTEA and NJEA will provide the necessary training.

We also invite you to visit our webpage and to read Chalkboard, regularly, and to subscribe to the Association Facebook page (it is only open to PTEA members) and to our Association email blast.

We hope that you will consider becoming more active in your Association. We are a union: a union of individuals. We become better, richer, and stronger when you join with us.

Lee Ann



Vice President's Message

This year, I am proud to once again be serving on the NJEA Editorial Committee. This committee meets regularly to review our publications – the Review and the Reporter. If you are interested in submitting articles or information to either of these publications, or if you have any input on recent issues, please let me know.

As your Grievance Chair, I ask that you help me to protect our contract by communicating with your AR's or me directly any questions or concerns that may arise concerning your contractual rights. As educators, our primary focus is always our students. However, the working conditions of the people who are entrusted with educating and caring for our children have a direct influence on the quality of education we are able to provide. There are many variables which we cannot control. We must work together, despite all the pressures we feel, to do what we can to create a positive culture in our buildings and in our classrooms.

Lastly, I echo Lee Ann's words about participating in your Association's activities and governance. There are several upcoming events, whose success is dependent on the level of member involvement. Please make plans now to volunteer for a short time at North Boulevard's Read to Feed on Wednesday, February 27. The NJEA and your PTEA are supporting this fantastic community event. Contact Kimberly Meyerson (NB) to offer to help and look for more information from you AR. Also, I hope to see all of you along with family and friends at Sunset Pub and Grill on March 6th. (See the announcement elsewhere in Chalkboard.) Come, eat, drink, enjoy the company and know that you are helping to support our Philanthropic Fund.

During the next few months, I hope you all stay healthy, strong, proud and active in our

profession. I am always impressed with and grateful for all that you do.

Ann Marie

The Mall Project is Coming!

All teachers should have received information about the annual Mall Project at Rockaway Mall. PTEA will be participating once again this year and we need lots of samples of student work as well as members to help set up on April 7 and take down on April 14. Please contact Janet Drashinsky (SJG) with any questions or to offer to help.

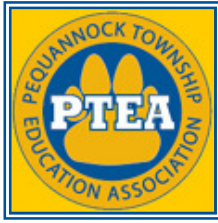
Negotiations

The Negotiations Team has met several times with the Board of Education since November 2012. We are discussing proposals and will keep members updated after each session with an update on the PTEA website. Be sure to check this out regularly.

Helene Zablocki, Negotiations Chair

Join us on Facebook!

Don't forget to look for us on our private Facebook page! You must have a Facebook account to become a member. Search 'Pequannock Township Education Association', send a friend request, and wait for an approval. You can easily read hot topics, announcements, and join/start a conversation with colleagues. This is a great way to stay in contact from building to building!



Membership

The PTEA would like to send out a warm welcome to Jean Bottino. She was hired as a full time ESL teacher replacing Traci Cepero.

News from PTHS... Laura Higley and Dale Schoenig co-chaired a "Souper Bowl" for faculty and staff that collected \$100.00 for the PTEA Scholarship fund. Delicious soup, salad, bread, and camaraderie were enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who prepared food and contributed.



Dale Schoenig, Membership

Important Salary Guide Information

You may recall that the Association agreed to some changes in our contractual language concerning advancement on the salary guide for graduate course credits. These changes took effect on July 1, 2010.

First, there is no longer a BA+30 column, except for members who were on that column on or before July 1, 2010.

Also, "movement beyond the Master's Degree salary guide column requires that the additional credits/degrees be obtained after receipt of the prior degree(s) and only for courses that received prior written approval of the Superintendent. Employees enrolled in an approved Master's Degree program as of July 1, 2010 are grandfathered from the above requirements."

In addition to these changes to our collective bargaining agreement, the TEACHNJ legislation which Governor Christie signed into law last August contains restrictions on the graduate courses for which a district may reimburse an employee or provide advancement across the salary guide. The courses must be directly related to your current position.

If you have questions about any of this information, please contact your PTEA Vice President Ann Marie Finnen at 973-368-7507 or amfinnen@optonline.net.

Save the Date... Wednesday, March 6th!

Come out to Sunset Pub and Grill on Beaverbrook Road in Lincoln Park, mention PTEA and 10% of your bill will be donated to our Philanthropic Fund! You'll also receive a coupon for a free drink on a future visit. We are grateful to Bob Egan, the owner of Sunset for supporting our fund and our community in this way. Many of us have enjoyed Happy Hours and/or dinners there for years. Let's make plans now to relax with colleagues, family and/or friends on March 6. Reservations are suggested but not required 973-694-8700.



Legislative

Report from the MCCEA Legislative Action Taskforce meeting Jan. 10, 2013:

The push was for getting members to contact their legislators about critical educational issues. Some of the issues we need to call or write about are:

- The “fiscal cliff” and the looming education cuts.
- The bill about subcontracting, mainly about esp’s, **Employee Notice Prior to Subcontracting** (S1191) and **Just Cause Arbitration** (S2135). These are both bills we should support.
- Professional Development: DOE’s proposed changes would leave Professional Development completely up to the administrator with no teacher input. We are urged to contact the State Board of Education to express our concern over having no voice in our Professional Development.
- Teacher evaluations and how they are being conducted.

The bills in question, as well as important announcements, lists of names and addresses, talking points are displayed on your NJEA board in your faculty room. It is updated monthly. Check here to see who represents us in the State Board of Education.

Lillian Keating, Legislative

MCCEA

- February 25th - workshop “What My Dues Dollars Do for Me?” at Tiffany’s in Morris Plains from 4:30 -6:30. Call 973-366-0202 or email office@mccea.com to RSVP.
- February CBC workshop has been cancelled... to be rescheduled soon.
- February 28th - workshop “The ABC’S of Retirement” at The Zeris Inn from 4:30-6:30. RSVP and a \$10.00 registration fee are required. Registration by mail only to the MCCEA office. Please see your AR for a form.
- Winter Leadership Conference: March 1-2 at The Sheraton in Parsippany, registration required.
- Save the Date: June 5th Retirement Dinner for Morris County, Meadow Wood Manor

Diane Wolfe, County Representative