



Pequannock Township Education Association



CHALKBOARD

June 2012

~President's Message~

Colleagues,

I've spent a great deal of time digesting the news, both good and bad, from Tuesday's elections.

The victories by two of our fellow educators: Marie Corfield in South Jersey and John Lehman in Wisconsin are encouraging. But the defeat of the Scott Walker recall (by a small margin!) means we still have work to do.

The big money forces who wish to "corporatize" and privatize public education are powerful. The best possible weapon against these forces is the very thing they are attempting to destroy: education.

We must all educate ourselves to understand the threat that an overreliance on standardized testing can be to the teacher evaluation process. We must all educate ourselves to recognize the legislation that limits our constitutional rights of collective bargaining. We must all educate ourselves in the methods by which we may contact our legislators to voice our concerns.

Your PTEA will be vigilant, as always, to identify and address legislation that threatens public education and public educators and the staff with whom we work. We ask that you continue to contact your legislators, as well.

Your PTEA Negotiations Team will be meeting this summer to begin the process of negotiating our next contract. We should begin the formal process in January 2013. We are keeping a close eye on the negotiating trends in the County and the State.

Congratulations to all our retirees. We thank all of you for the time and the dedication you have put into Pequannock Township. The families of Pequannock are fortunate to have such excellent professionals working with their children.

Thank you, also to the Association Representatives who work with our members every day. We applaud your commitment to the PTEA.

Finally, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you and to convey a debt of gratitude to our retiring Morris County Council of Education Associations President, Susan Vigialante.

Susan has been a mentor to me and to many of us in Pequannock, and her dedication to the County and to the ideals of public education cannot be overstated. She is a person of unparalleled honor and integrity.

Susan, the Pequannock Township Education Association wishes you a happy retirement. I know you will continue to fight for all you believe in.

I wish all our members a long, restful, and happy summer.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

~Lee Ann

PTEA Philanthropic Fund Drive

You have probably heard by now that our Philanthropic Fund Drive is underway. If you would like to contribute, you may forward a check made payable to PTEA Philanthropic Fund to Ann Marie Finnen (SJG) or Helene Zablocki (PTHS).

If you prefer, Automatic Payroll Deduction may make sense for you, because as little as \$1 per paycheck (or more if you choose) can be deducted from your paycheck and deposited directly to this fund. It is an almost painless way of participating in this important initiative. Your AR has the forms and your deductions will begin in September.

Remember that 100% of what you donate will be utilized for scholarships and the full amount of your donation is tax deductible. We have also sent letters to all District Administrators as well as members of the Board of Education, offering them the opportunity to support this cause.

Thank you to the following members who have already made contributions:

Jenna Berkowitz (HV)
Mary Raczko (HV)
Marie Raimondo (HV)
Bill Vivino (HV)
Lisa Warner (HV)
Kristin Zerden (HV)
Mary Anne Abazia (NB)
Cathy Furia (NB)
Terrie Horgan (NB)

Sue Berardinelli (PTHS)
Peggy Bionde (PTHS)
Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS)
Pat Dean (PTHS)
Julia Goodson (PTHS)
Laura Higley (PTHS)
Megan Petrucelli (PTHS)
Helene Zablocki (PTHS)
Jeri Asaro (PV)
Lillian Keating (PV)
Dale Schoenig (PV)
Patty Walker (PV)

Sally Belmont (SJG)
Kristin Carr (SJG)
Sarah Diver (SJG)
Cathy Donato (SJG)
Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)
Donna Madison (SJG)
Fran Mehnert (SJG)
Dianne Pasquino (SJG)
Michele Rubino (SJG)
Karen Schiffel (SJG)
Amanda Schlesinger (SJG)
Deirdre Schmitt (SJG)
Diane Wolfe (SJG)

Congratulations Mary Anne!

One of the highlights of the school year for the PTEA was the awarding of our county organization's ESP Friend of Education award to our very own Mary Anne Abazia. She is pictured here with Diane Wolfe, Bill Trusheim, Bill Sayre, Laura Higley, Lee Ann Brensinger, Ann Marie Finnen, and Jerry Cammarata. The celebration at the Meadow Wood Manor included a visit from United States Senator Robert Menendez and a proclamation in Mary Anne's honor from the NJ State Assembly.



PTEA Picnic at Greenview Park

Our first annual Family Picnic was a fun-filled afternoon of sunshine, great music, good food and most importantly - friends and family! Thanks to all who came and enjoyed.



~Grievance~

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

It has been a busy year for the Grievance Committee and for all of our AR's who are the first line of defense in protecting the rights of our members.

Your Association has filed eight grievances this year. Two of the most recent ones relate to improper movement on the salary guide for employees hired after September 1, 2011. Our negotiated agreement calls for all employees to have moved up one step on the salary guide in February 2012. We are disappointed in the decision by Dr. Trusheim and the Board of Education to deny new employees the step movement that was negotiated. Your Grievance Chair and your AR's will keep you informed about the progress of this grievance as we await an arbitration date, as well as our complaint of an Unfair Labor Practice.

Your PTEA has also begun the grievance process on behalf of all Spring Coaches. They were supposed to advance a step on the Coaches' salary guide effective with the March 30 payroll. Although the final printed contract indicates different, this movement was discussed between Association leadership and the Superintendent, Board Administrator and Board attorney at the conclusion of negotiations. It was clear to all involved that coaches would move up one step on the coaches' salary guide starting with the first payment after February 1, 2012.

~Publicity~

Amanda Schlesinger (SJG)

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!

WISHING ALL MEMBERS A VERY RELAXING SUMMER!