

President's Message

Colleagues,

During my five years as president of our local, I have had the privilege of meeting and working with some wonderful people. I have met extraordinary educators at the conventions and meetings I've attended and at the workshops in which I've participated. My position has also afforded me the opportunity to get to know our membership better.

I am convinced that we are an amazing group of professionals. And as we all know, the attacks on education and educators in New Jersey and throughout the country have not proven anything negative about our numbers. On the contrary: Those who understand education and what it is that we do, know that New Jersey is in the forefront of education in the country.

In November, our country will face our most important national decision. Look carefully at all the issues in this election. I ask you to take the opportunity to become informed. The attacks on our profession are not over. Take time to read through the literature to find out about the candidates and about how their policies will directly affect you and your students. And vote accordingly.

Your NJEA, of course, has a great deal of information on both the Presidential race and on the important local races, which affect the legislation that impact us every day. You can find information on where the presidential candidates stand, here:
http://www.njea.org/njea-media/pdf/2012Election_CandidateComparison.pdf?1350101804786
- and where the senate candidates stand, here:

<http://www.njea.org/njea-media/pdf/2012MenendezComparison.pdf?1350101804786>

After Election Day, I hope you will all consider attending the Convention. The NJEA Convention is the world's largest professional development conference. This year there will be an entire area devoted to evaluations. Charlotte Danielson will be the Keynote speaker on Friday. I hope to see many of you down there.

Lastly, I want to remind you that your PTEA Evaluation Team is staying current with information regarding the new legislation. There are many "kinks" to work out, as the State, itself, is still working its way through the process. Ann Marie and I met with Mr. Hayek and Dr. Winning, and one thing that we all agree upon is that the new legislation is not a vehicle to "catch" teachers doing something wrong. Rather, it should be looked at as an opportunity for all of us to grow and to progress as educators. The Team will keep you apprised of any news, as we hear of it.

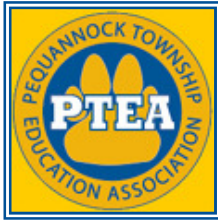
Thank you for all you do for your students.

Lee Ann (PTHS)

Bus to NJEA Convention

Once again MCCEA (our county organization) is sponsoring a bus to the convention. It will leave from Morris Plains at 6:30 a.m. and return that evening at 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes breakfast and snacks.

See your AR for more information. Also, on Convention Thursday MCCEA will host a hospitality suite at the Sheraton Ballroom across from the Convention Center from 3:30-5:30. All members are welcome.



Philanthropic Fund

PTEA Treasurer Jeri Asaro (PV) reports that we are well on our way toward our goal for this year, having raised over \$1500 so far! Thank you to all members for your generosity. It is not too late to choose to contribute through automatic payroll deduction. Please contact Helene Zablocki (PTHS) or Ann Marie Finnen (SJG) if you would like to find out more about this option. Thank you also to all who participated in our PTEA Day in September. Over \$225 was collected throughout the district. Our next PTEA Day will be November 13th – stay tuned for more information.

VOTE!

If voting is hard to fit into your busy schedule, consider an absentee ballot. It's easy! Go to <http://www.morriselections.org/cit-absentee.asp>, print out the form and mail it in. Your ballot will come in the mail and all you have to do is fill it out and return it in the given envelope.

Negotiations

The Negotiations Team has completed reviewing the entire contract and prepared our proposals for upcoming bargaining talks. We are scheduled to meet with the Board's team on Monday, November 19th, 2012. At that time we will meet each other, set the parameters for the negotiations process and schedule future dates to meet. We will not be exchanging proposals until the first scheduled meeting after November 19th.

Your PTEA Negotiations Team consists of Chief Negotiator Helene Zablocki, President Lee Ann Brensinger, Grievance Chair and Vice

President Ann Marie Finnen, Treasurer Jeri Asaro, and AR's Josh Danziger and Mary Anne Abazia.

Helene Zablocki will hold information sessions in each building on the following dates:

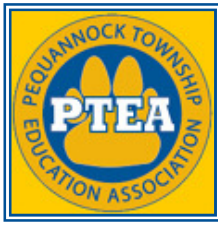
Wednesday, October 17 – NB
Thursday, October 18 – SJG
Monday, November 5 – PTHS
Monday, November 12 – PV
Wednesday, November 28 – HV

You are welcome to attend any building's session. Topics to be discussed will include the negotiations process, what is or is not mandatorily negotiable, and the current state of negotiations. Please plan on attending one of these meetings to keep informed about this important aspect of our Association.

APPLES! APPLES! GET YOUR APPLES, HERE!

Where, you ask? Why, at the annual township Ho-Down, of course. It was another amazing day for the PTEA PRIDE Booth. More than 5 cases of crisp, crunchy apples quickly disappeared into the hands of happy Ho-Down attendees.

Over 200 people stopped to share a friendly "hello" with proud PTEA members. Those who stopped by also received the "prized" tote bag. Numerous students were eager to estimate the number of candies in the hourly water jug game - - in hopes of joyfully hoisting the jug above their heads as if it were the prized Stanley Cup!



Ann Marie Finnen was hard at work as she dedicated herself to informing members of the community about student test scores and teacher evaluations, and I was able to distribute more than 50 of our "This Family Proudly Supports Pequannock Township Public Schools" signs.

Thank you all for helping to make it a great day in the sun. The weather was a bit blustery, and although none of us at the booth blew away, there is one other thank you I wish to include. I was truly blown away by the generosity and entrepreneurship of three of our fifth grade students - Samantha, Meggie and Jennie - who volunteered their time selling a variety of homemade "duct tape items" They donated 100% of the proceeds to our philanthropic fund!

Karen Schiffel (SJG)

Dates to Remember

October 16th - NJEA Fall Focus @ Zeris Inn

November 1st - Rep Council meeting @ HV

November 8th and 9th - NJEA Convention

November 13th - PTEA Day in all buildings; wear your Association apparel or blue and gold and make a donation to the Philanthropic Fund

November 14th - MCCEA ESP Celebration @ Skylands in Randolph (all ESP's are invited)

November 29th - PTEA General Membership/Member Benefits Fair @ Grand Chalet

Thank you...

to the following PTEA members who volunteered their time at our Ho-Down booth: Jenna Berkowitz, Sue Berardinelli, Lee Ann Brensinger, Sarah Diver, Ann Marie Finnen, Susan Flood, Terri Horgan, Natalie Kelly, Megan McBride, Adam Piccoli, Jacleen Rizzi, Patty Sedran, Denise Segedin, Karen Schiffel, Amanda Schlesinger, Leslie Ulrich



Pictured from left to right: Ann Marie Finnen, Jennie Segedin, Amanda Schlesinger, Meggie Segedin, Karen Schiffel and Samantha Frio.

PTEA Apparel

The PTEA apparel orders will be delivered during the week of October 15 in each building. We hope everyone is pleased with their order. Remember, there is no profit added to the items, but this year for the first time, a \$1 contribution to the Philanthropic Fund was included in all prices, and as a result an additional \$35 was added to our fund this month. We can hold another apparel sale at any point if there is interest from members. Please contact Ann Marie if you have suggestions or questions.