



Pequannock Township Education Association



CHALKBOARD

September 2010

~President's Message~

Fellow PTEA Members,

It was great to see all of you on the 7th. I always feel such a sense of unity when we are all together. Many of you who stopped to chat after the meeting on the first day echoed that sentiment.

This year will be a difficult one for many of us. If your family is like mine, they were not happy to see the reduced salary reflected in our first paycheck. We are working hard to re-budget to compensate for those lost wages.

And this is but a taste of what is to come if our governor gets support for all of the legislation he hopes to pass regarding our salaries, pensions, and benefits. Our unity is more important now, than ever, as we work to fight this legislation. In the weeks and months to come, your Association will be looking for you to step up to take action to protect the things you and your colleagues before you have earned.

I'm proud to be a part of our Pequannock Township Education Association, and all it represents. We should all be proud to be PTEA and NJEA; united in our professions, united in our dedication to the students in our buildings, united in our commitment to protect ourselves and our colleagues from any threat to our livelihood.

Lee Ann

~Vice President's Message~

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

The deadline for all PTEA apparel orders is September 24, 2010! Order forms are due to Ann Marie Finnen at SJG.

Greetings from your PTEA Vice President. I hope everyone is off to a smooth start to the school year and that your summers were enjoyable and restorative. There has recently been a lot of good news about our schools and the achievement of our students. In addition, I know that all of you make a difference by the work you do every day in ways that are not always quantifiable. I am proud to be your colleague.

In August, I was fortunate to attend NJEA's Summer Leadership training. As you can imagine, the current political climate regarding public education was a main topic of discussion. I am thankful for all that NJEA has provided me during these strange and often difficult times – everything from information about the myriad of legislative issues that affect our members to opportunities to voice my opinion through lobbying days and rallies.

There are many ways to become involved in your PTEA, and to avail yourself of the numerous opportunities and benefits provided through your membership in our county and state organizations. Please contact me, Lee Ann or your AR if you would like additional information about any activities, events or positions.

As I said to the new teachers at their orientation, your PTEA is always here to serve you in any way possible. However, our strength is dependent upon each and every member contributing what they can to our association. This year, please share your ideas and your talents with the rest of our membership. I wish you an outstanding year as you continue to positively affect the lives of the children of Pequannock Township.

~Negotiations~

Helene Zablocki (PTHS)

The PTEA negotiations team scheduled summer meetings with the Board at our June meeting. Because we did not receive requested materials on time for the July meeting, we cancelled that one. On August 5, 2010 we met again and continued discussions. We have reached agreement on some language issues for Article 4, Article 6, Article 10, Article 20 and Article 30. Though this slow and steady progress is positive, we are still discussing Article 7, Article 8, and Article 18. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2010.

~PRIDE~

Karen Schiffel (SJG) and Jamie Dean (NB)

What better way to spend those last remaining days of summer sunshine than at the annual Ho-Down. As apples were being munched and candies counted, the PRIDE booth volunteers were busy greeting members of the community. More than 200 goodie bags were distributed. This is wonderful because not only was there an apple and some NJEA literature inside each bag, but also a flyer listing some of our PRIDE activities for the year. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to share who we are and what we do... Patty Sedran (HV), Patty Livesy (HV), Karen Rusiniak (NB), Danielle Zisa (NB), Toni Gillert (NB), Amanda Schlesinger (SJG), Susan Flood (PV), Mary Shumeyko (PV), Pat Dean (PTHS), Laura Higley (PV/PTHS), Keith Brady (PTHS), Sue Berardinelli (PTHS).

Chalkboard can also be found
on line at www.pteaweb.org.
Check it out!

~Publicity~

Amanda Schlesinger (SJG)

We have started using personal email addresses as a way to communicate with our members. The first email was sent to the membership the first week of September. If you did not receive the email and would like to in the future, please email Amanda Schlesinger from your home email at alhsptea@optonline.net.

In an effort to “Go Green”, a link to the newest Chalkboard on the PTEA’s website will now be sent to your home email addresses. If you have chosen not to provide the PTEA with your email address, a hard copy will be available to you through your ARs. Please also continue to visit the website, www.pteaweb.org, for Chalkboard and other information concerning the PTEA.

~Reminders~

Courses – All members must fill out paperwork requesting approval for every graduate course they take, regardless of whether or not they are also requesting reimbursement. In order to move across on the salary guide, prior approval for every course needs to be obtained.

Explanation of Benefits – As you know, as of July 1st our health insurance carrier changed. If you have any questions regarding “equal or better coverage” under Cigna, please first contact Grinspec. You may also want to let Laura Higley, our Insurance Chairperson, know about the issue. It is important that you review and save all Explanation of Benefit statements.

~Upcoming PTEA/MCCEA/NJEA Events~

PTEA New Member Welcome – September 30th at 3:30 in the SJG Library Media Center

PTEA General Membership Meeting – October 20th at 3:30 in the PTHS Cafeteria

MCCEA Member Benefits Fair – October 6th at 4:30 at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes

MCCEA Negotiation Workshop:

“Current Trends in Negotiations –An Update of Negotiations in Morris County”

October 13th at 4:30 at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes

RSVP to the County Office @ 973-366-0202 by October 10th

MCCEA Cyber Bullying Workshop – October 21st at 4:30 at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes

RSVP to the County Office @ 973-366-0202 or MCCEA@optonline.net by October 18th

MCCEA ESP Celebration – November 17, 2010 at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes...

More information to follow at a later date...

NJEA Fall Focus- October 19th at 4:30 at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes

Member Benefits Fair is open to all members. There will be vendors, door prizes and food as well as the opportunity to meet MCCEA Executive Board Members. **RSVP to Diane Wolfe at NB or Ann Marie Finnen at SJG by October 4 and we will call the county office.** This is a great opportunity for PTEA members to get a sense of all that our county organization offers.

The PTEA collected over \$900 to give to the Coppola family to offset the cost of the Donor Drive! What a wonderful way for the PTEA to show our support.