



President's Message

Welcome back to school, everyone!

I hope the beginning of school was wonderful for all of you. As we establish our school routines and get to know our students, it's important that we also recognize that despite our different positions, we are united as colleagues. Whether you are a secretary, bus driver, custodial or maintenance worker, computer technician, aide or teacher, your Pequannock Township Education Association works to protect your rights, ensure your workplace safety and to negotiate your contract. Many of you have individually benefitted from our advocacy.

The benefits of your membership in both the County and State Associations are just as important. On the County level, your benefits include free PD workshops, advocacy trainings, membership events and screenings for education-friendly political candidates, (in which you are invited to participate).

On the state level, your NJEA membership entitles you to free legal advice, free PD – most notably the NJEA Convention, and discounts for too many services to list here. NJEA also operates a system of Uniserv offices. Our office is Region 17 in Parsippany.

Your PTEA will host a General Membership Meeting at 3:30 on October 20 in the PTHS cafeteria. This event will once again include a Member Benefits Fair, and a buffet dinner catered by the Little Food Cafe. We hope you will join us for this important meeting and for the chance to see what your NJEA can do for you.

I wish you all an excellent school year; it is an honor to work with and to serve such exceptional colleagues.

Lee Ann

Vice President's Message

This summer I was honored to attend NJEA's "Union School," a week of intensive training sessions with all divisions of NJEA. I gained invaluable knowledge and insight that I know will assist me as I serve all of you in our local association. I am immensely proud of our state organization. Our leadership and staff in Trenton work tirelessly on our behalf and are intelligent, committed and extremely effective at their work. I am also proud of our leaders here in our PTEA. The opportunity to network with local leaders from across the state always reminds me that we are quite fortunate in Pequannock to have strong and dedicated association reps and committee members. I am grateful to all of them, and to all members who work to uphold our contract and to create an environment where we can provide the best possible education to the children of our wonderful community. I wish you all a great year!

Ann Marie

Fall Apparel Sale

All members should have received an order form in your mailbox. This is not a fundraiser– items are priced at cost. Orders are due to Ann Marie Finnen at SJG by October 2 (deadline extended). Delivery will take place by the last week in October.

If you have your own item you would like embroidered, Initial Encounter will be happy to add our PTEA logo! Contact Ann Marie for more information.



Negotiations

As we approach 2016, when we will bargain a successor contract with the BOE, your PTEA Negotiations Team has been hard at work. This week, you will receive a survey from your AR. We would appreciate 100% participation, as we will use the results to craft our proposal as well as to inform our deliberations during the negotiations process later this school year. Our team represents every unit in our membership, from all buildings and we are committed to hearing every voice and fighting for what all of you so clearly deserve. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out to any team member with questions, concerns or to provide input. The team members are: Ann Marie Finnen – Chair (SJG), Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS), Susan Flood – ESP's (PV), Gregg Slaff (PV), Donna Dericks (HV), and Diane Wolfe – Grievance Chair (HV).

Philanthropic Account

Thank you to all members for your amazing generosity last year. We surpassed our fundraising goal! In May, we awarded \$5700 in scholarships to PTHS seniors. The majority of recipients were children of members, but our Scholarship Committee, though a blind process, chose 4 other students with no connection to our association based on the quality of their application. If you are interested in serving on our Scholarship Committee, please let Ann Marie know.

We are once again signed up with Yankee Candle for their Fall/Winter Sale and all members should have received brochures in their mailboxes. Our Philanthropic Fund will receive a generous 40% of all purchases made either through the catalog or online at www.yankeefundraising.com. If you order online, make sure to enter our Group Number – 990064263. Shipping is free when you order from the catalog, or spend \$100 online.

The current sale includes great items for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, plus many other products. All profits from this sale will go directly to our scholarship fund. Catalog orders are due to Ann Marie Finnen by October 8. Online ordering will be open through December.



PTEA Secretary, Sue Berardinelli shows off the flowers she ordered from our Yankee Candle sale last Spring!

Forms are also available to sign up for automatic payroll deductions to benefit our scholarship fund. It is a simple way to contribute a dollar or two from each paycheck. Please contact Ann Marie at SJG and she can answer any questions you may have about this relatively painless way to support your PTEA's philanthropic endeavors. We welcome contributions at any time and truly appreciate your generosity.

Demand a Pension Audit!

A petition has been started to demand a "full, complete and transparent audit of our pension investments and fees NOW," as requested by the boards of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Firefighters Retirement System (PFRS). Read more about it [here](#) and please consider signing. We have a right to know all of the financial details of our pensions.



Township Hoedown

Once again your PTEA hosted a booth at the Pequannock Hoedown. Our PRIDE Chair, Susan Flood organized the day for us. In addition to greeting community members, we distributed tote bags and apples “from the teachers,” flyers with positive news about our public schools, and conducted raffles for students and adults. This year, we also partnered with The Pottery Bisque It Ltd. PTEA member Maritza Lohn (HV) invited visitors to purchase and paint a panther paw ornament. Thank you to Maritza for her company’s generous donation to our Philanthropic fund and to the following members who volunteered part of their Saturday to man our booth: Sue Berardinelli (PTHS), Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS), Marcia Dimetrosky (PTHS), Ann Marie Finnen (SJG), Susan Flood (PV), Jenna Leao (HV), Dianne Pasquino (SJG), Patty Sedran (HV), Katie Shaker (SJG), Leslie Ulrich (NB), and Cindy Wolkowitz (PV). It was also nice that so many family members were on hand to help out and enjoy the beautiful day.



Our neighbor at the Hoedown was NJEA endorsed candidate for LD 40, Christine Ordway. Find our more about her campaign for state assembly [here](#) or visit her Facebook page [here](#).

Leave Requests

If you are planning on requesting a maternity leave or other medical leave for yourself or to care for a newborn or other family member, we strongly suggest you contact your Association for guidance. Vice President Ann Marie Finnen and Insurance Chair Denise Donch will review all requests before you submit them to the Board. We will make sure that you are fully informed of all entitled leave time and compensation. Our NJEA Uniserv rep, Vickie Walsh, will also review letters when necessary.

Welcome and thank you to our new AR's and Committee Chairs:

Denise Segedin (HV) – AR
Sharon Martinez (SJG) – AR
Jennifer Quinn (SJG) – Membership Chair
Gregg Slaff (PV) – Negotiations
Denise Donch (PV) – Insurance Chair
Patty O'Hara (PTHS) – AR and Legislative
Susan Shuttlesworth (PTHS) – AR

Coming Soon – PTEA Karma Yoga!

Get ready for Yoga classes with certified instructor Jen Fairweather (SJG). She will host a series of after school sessions (location TBD) in exchange for a small donation to our Philanthropic Fund. This will be a great way to relax and destress among friends and colleagues, while supporting a worthwhile cause. Details will be emailed and posted on our closed Facebook page. Contact Jen with any questions.



Evaluations

Denise Donch (PV) and Lee Ann, along with two district supervisors recently attended part one of a two part workshop on how administration and association members can work together to best implement the evaluation system. They received training which they hope to turnkey with the DEAC, and ultimately the entire membership. The next half of the workshop will be held in January. Once again this year, Denise will serve as our PTEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee Chair.

Your PTEA teacher representatives on the SCIP's are:

Josh Belardo – HV
Melissa Vivian – NB
Sharon Martinez – SJG
Allan Kaye – PV
Dan Rodriguez – PTHS

We thank them for their service and commitment to our membership. Please reach out to them with any question pertaining to your evaluations or the process in general.



Upcoming Dates

- Oct 2** - Apparel order deadline
- Oct 7** – Training for Negotiations Team, conducted by NJEA staff
- Oct 8** – Yankee Candle Catalog Order Deadline (Online ordering will be available until December.)
- Oct 14** – PTEA Rep Council
- Oct 14** – MCCEA Collective Bargaining Workshop: Trends in Negotiating Zeris Inn @ 4:30
- Oct 15** – MCCEA Tenure Celebration Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph @ 4:30
- Oct 20** – General Membership/ Member Benefits Fair @ PTHS
- Oct 27** – MCCEA IPD Workshop: Teacher Evaluations & Professional Learning Zeris Inn @ 4:30

To register for MCCEA events simply go to <http://mccea.com/> and visit the Eventbrite RSVP page. Phone reservations are no longer accepted. Please register at least one week prior to the event. All workshops are free. 😊 However, if you register and don't attend, our local will be billed in your absence ☹