



President's Message

I'd like to start off my message with a reminder to all our members that our Collective Bargaining Agreement - our contract - is a document which is mutually agreed upon by both the Board and the Association.

Several past and recent attempts by the administration to blame "the contract" for one or another situation edge toward anti-union behavior. And as the document binds not only the Board, but the Association, blaming the contract calls the Board's judgment into question, as well.

In the most recent incident, a member was chastised for attending only one Back to School night. (The member had already cleared the situation with no less than three supervisors.) Your Association and the Board had a healthy and mutually respectful discussion about this at the bargaining table. The agreement we reached was, likewise, mutually respectful. The behavior of the administrator in this instance was not. When the administrator used the issue to threaten the member's program, it became clear that this was an example of the unhealthy working environment I referred to in our last Chalkboard.

It may be true that we are responsible for our own happiness and satisfaction. That does not mean that we should allow harassment. It does not mean that we should be made to feel guilty or nervous to protect the mutually-agreed upon contract which provides us protection and defines our working conditions.

It is certainly true that the students whom we serve will respond to the climate in our

classrooms. But our classrooms do not exist in a bubble. Our students have no choice but to be impacted by how their educators are treated. And while encouraging emails and birthday notes from the administration are lovely, they do not mitigate intimidation, favoritism or fear. They don't fix the poor treatment to which some of our members have been subjected.

Perhaps it is up to us to determine our happiness or satisfaction. This year, let's determine that we will not allow our happiness - our satisfaction with our profession - to be threatened or abused by ill treatment.

Let's work together as colleagues to stand up for each other and to lift each other up.

Let's be proud of our Association and of the work we do together and of the contract which unites us.

Lee Ann

Vice President's Message

Welcome back, colleagues! This past summer, I proudly accepted the appointment of Morris County PRIDE Chair. In this position I will write our county's PRIDE Grant proposal and organize numerous events designed to forge positive relationships with our communities. You may not be aware that Lee Ann is our elected County Secretary. I know I speak for both of us when I say we are honored to serve in this way on the MCCEA Executive Board and we are excited about the opportunities to further develop PTEA's connections and presence in the county and throughout the state.

Ann Marie



New Member Welcome

All new PTEA members are cordially invited to a welcome reception on September 28 in the high school Library/Media Center. Light refreshments will be served, and you will have an opportunity to relax with your colleagues and meet the Representative Council of your PTEA. Please RSVP to Sue Berardinelli (PTHS).

Hope to see you there!

Member Benefits Fair

We will hold our Fifth Annual Member Benefits Fair on **October 17 from 3:30-5:30**. Dinner will once again be provided by The Little Food Inn and plenty of vendors will be on hand to demonstrate just some of the many benefits you receive as a member of NJEA and NEA. This event will coincide with a brief General Membership meeting where important, timely information will be provided. Please make plans now to attend; as we approach the date an exact count will be necessary and we will ask you to RSVP to your building's lead AR. Stay tuned for flyers and invitations.

Important Information

For staff members whose assignment requires them to travel during the day, please remember to complete paperwork for mileage reimbursement. You can see a memo from the Business administrator with directions, mileage amounts, and a timeline [here](#). The actual travel reimbursement form can be found [here](#).

Pequannock Hoedown

The PTEA booth at this annual town event was once again a big hit! Thank you to our PRIDE Chair, Angela Kohle (PTHS) for organizing the day and acquiring the funds from NJEA to provide apples to our students and their families. We distributed information about the work of our Association and engaged in some meaningful conversations with community members as well as BOE candidates and elected officials. Meaghan A. from SJG won our estimation game (along with the 350 pieces of candy! We also accepted donations for our Philanthropic fund. It was a great day!

Thank you to the following members who gave up some of their Saturday to represent our Association: Susan Berardinelli (PTHS), Lindsay Corbett (HV) - pictured, Marcia Dimetrosky (PTHS), Kevin Flanagan (District), Andrea Forrest (PTHS), Jessica Gencarelli (NB), Natalie Migoya (NB), Dianne Pasquino (SJG), Elaine Resso (PTHS), Patty Sedran (HV), Tamar Vacca (SJG) - pictured, and Erin Westdyk (SJG).





Philanthropic Account

Ann Marie Finnen

Once again, we are signed up with Yankee Candle for their Fall/Winter Sale! Many of you have already ordered online or sent me catalog orders – thank you! Our Philanthropic Fund receives a generous 40% of all purchases. The website has additional seasonal items and a clearance section. Go to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and make sure to enter our Group Number – 990064263. Shipping is free when you order from the catalog, or spend \$100 online. All profit from this sale will go directly to our scholarship fund. Catalog orders are due by September 28. Online ordering will be open through December. Please contact me with any questions.

Several members have asked me about automatic payroll deductions. This is an easy, almost painless way to contribute any amount per paycheck (as little as \$1!). If you'd like more information or need to know how much you are currently contributing please reach out to me and I can tell you.

We welcome contributions of any amount at any time. I truly appreciate your generosity!

**Welcome and thank you
to our new AR's:**

Peggy Bionde (PTHS)

Jean Bottino (District)

Dan Rodriguez (PTHS)

Are You On Facebook?

Don't forget to join our private Facebook group! Search "Pequannock Township Education Association," request to join the group, and wait for an approval. We also host a public PRIDE Facebook page. Ask to join and help share the good news about our public schools, by inviting parents, friends and your family members to do the same. Click on the link below to get started!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152572778089142/>

Upcoming Dates

Sept 28 – New Member Welcome
PTHS Library/Media Center

Oct 12 – PTEA Rep Council, PV

Oct 17 – General Membership/
Member Benefits Fair, PTHS

Oct 18 – NJEA Fall Focus, Zeris Inn
Contact Lee Ann to attend

Oct 20-21 – MCCEA Overnight
"Spotlight on Diversity"
Find more info [here](#).

Oct 21 – County Optical Fair
Wyndham Hamilton Park, Florham Park
Register at www.Optical-Academy.com
Click on "Onsite Public Events Calendar"

Nov 9-10 – NJEA Convention
Atlantic City

TBD – PTEA Happy Hour
(appetizers provided by your Association)