



President's Message

Happy June!

If you are like me, it has been both an exhausting, but in many ways, also a rewarding year.

It has been exhausting because we have faced many challenges.

It's been rewarding because we met those challenges head-on, and in many instances, we emerged stronger and more empowered than before.

The demands of the evaluation system to be implemented will be a challenge, next year, but thanks to our continued commitment to making sure we are educated about the legislation, we are better able to take control of our individual evaluations. I urge all members to continue to educate themselves on the legislation and on their rights in the process.

Because so much of the regulations are vague, NJEA has asked the Department of Education to delay the implementation of the system for another year, until the State can agree on the language of the exact implementation of some of the regulations. Stay tuned to the updates on NJEA.org, and to our website: pequannocktownshipea.org, to get current information over the summer.

Also, thanks to your continued efforts, the ESP bills NJEA presented to the Assembly have been passed with bi-partisan support, and are now awaiting the governor's signature. The passage of these bills will be a huge step toward protection for some of our most vulnerable members.

Through the work of our colleagues and our students and our community, we were able to restore one of the programs slated to be cut from the district. While we were unable to save the other program, we made a strong statement about the educational programs in the district. Our members stood up to make a statement about the many changes the administration has made in our district - and some of those changes were, if not reversed, at least revisited. We also made a strong statement about our commitment to be treated respectfully, as professionals.

We continue to face challenges for next year. We must be vigilant to protect our rights and the rights of our colleagues: to continue to advocate for each other. I know we are up to the challenge, as I have seen our strength.

Finally, I hope that some of you take advantage of NJEA's summer training events:

In July and August, NJEA will hold training for ScIPs, on SGOs and Common Core State Standards at the Trenton headquarters - many of us will be attending - let's carpool!

You can find information, here:

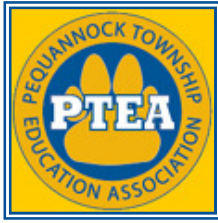
<http://www.njea.org/news/2013-05-20/summer-pd-support-sessions>

NJEA will also hold it's annual Tech-Con in July - information here:

<http://www.njea.org/news/2013-05-19/register-now-for-techcon-2013>

As always, members of your representative council will be attending NJEA Summer Leadership Conference, in August. There are still open spots, if any of you are interested in some of the workshops:

<http://www.njea.org/news/2013-04-29/leadership-conference-provides-training>



I wish you all a well-deserved rest this summer. I hope you all enjoy family and friends and warm, relaxing evenings.

See you in September!

Lee Ann

Vice President's Message

As the school year comes to a close, I am once again amazed by the dedication and accomplishments of our members. You have all done a herculean task of creating the best possible learning environment for our students, during difficult and frustrating times. The successes and achievements of our school system are direct results of the blood, sweat and tears all of you contribute each day. As a parent, I am grateful. As your Vice President I am incredibly proud.

I hope the summer months bring you opportunities for personal and professional growth, in addition to well-deserved time with your families, doing the things that make you happiest. See you in September!

Ann Marie

The PTEA would like to thank our FRIENDS OF EDUCATION!

Jean Buffa
Janet Machak
Tiffany Osmanski
Mary Vineis

These outstanding women volunteer their time for our schools. We appreciate their time, their heart, and their dedication!

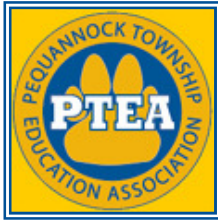
Negotiations

Helene Zablocki (PTHS)

Bargaining talks started in November and are almost finished. We are close to a final agreement and are working on getting salary guides ready for a ratification meeting in September. Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement during this long process. Both sides would have liked to finish this before the school year ends but that just wasn't possible. We're confident that we're in the home stretch and will be ready to present the details to the membership when we return to school in September 2013.



Pequannock Retirees Cathy Donato, Pat Dean, Donna Dykstra, and Lee Ann at the Morris County Council of Education Associations Retirement Dinner.



Teachers of the Year

In March of this year, your Association leadership became aware that the administration had decided not to participate in the Teacher of the Year program. The PTEA leadership felt strongly that our teachers should be honored in this way and met with the Superintendent about her concerns. Ultimately, your PTEA leadership took over the coordination of this prestigious recognition. Nomination letters were gathered and a committee of last year's recognized teachers met to select this year's honorees. On June 10, PTEA hosted a reception for the recipients and their families prior to the Board of Education meeting. Then, at the meeting, the deserving teachers were formally presented to the BOE and the community. They were also given plaques from the PTEA to commemorate their award.



Congratulations to the 2012-2013 Pequannock Township Teachers of the Year!

Lisa Warner- Hillview

Kimberly Meyerson- North Boulevard

Marjorie Ann Ochner- Stephen J. Gerace

Andrea Torrisi- Pequannock Valley Middle School

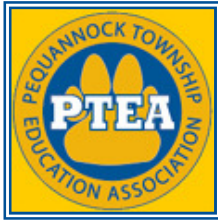
Laura Higley- Pequannock Township High School

And...

Kimberly Meyerson- District Teacher of the Year

You make us all proud!!





Philanthropic Account

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

Thanks to our generous members, the PTEA presented over \$5000 in scholarships to graduating PTHS seniors last month. This would not have been possible without the many payroll deductions that members donate to our fund.

If you are not signed up for this relatively painless way of contributing to the Philanthropic Account, won't you please consider doing so? I have simple forms with which you designate a dollar amount (as little as \$1!) that will be taken out of each of your paychecks. These small amounts truly add up, as evidenced by the level of scholarship funding we were able to achieve this year. Please contact me at amfinnen@optonline.net at any point if you'd like more information.

If you prefer to make a one-time donation, perhaps this is a good time to do so. It will help us to begin the next school year confident in our ability to maintain our current level of philanthropic work.

As always, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Join us on Facebook!

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!



Lee Ann, Washington Education Fellow, Teacher Ambassador, Cindy Apalinski, Yvette McBain and New Jersey Teacher of the Year, Lauren Marrocco, in Pequannock Township HS for the national Respect Project community dialogue.

Grievance

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

This year, numerous issues have been resolved at each building through our contractual grievance process. I would like to thank the AR's who are our front line of defense against contract and policy violations. They have been diligent in protecting your rights and working with the administration when necessary to insure that our negotiated contract is upheld. When necessary, we have filed grievance paperwork. As of now, the only outstanding grievance is the one filed in February of 2012 regarding members who were not granted a step on the new salary guide in accordance with our agreement with the BOE. We are awaiting an arbitration date, but hope to bring this issue to a resolution as we successfully negotiate a successor agreement. Stay tuned . . .