



President's Message

This summer, many of our colleagues participated in a campaign to encourage Senate President Steve Sweeney to post the Pension Amendment Bill SCR-2 to be voted on the November ballot. The Bill would have required the state to make quarterly payments to the pension system. NJEA members called, emailed, messaged and tweeted Senator Sweeney to remind him of the promise he made at our Political Action Conference last February.

In early August, he broke his promise and refused to honor his agreement. In response, the NJEA has determined that they will no longer use your PAC donations to support politicians that refuse to support us by funding our pensions, as the law has determined. While it's not a happy ending for the pension bill, we can't dwell on that. Our job moving forward is to make sure we NEVER AGAIN elect politicians who refuse to support us in our pension fight.

In the meantime, until his broken promise, Senator Sweeney had been courting our favor to support him for Governor. Call the Senator at 856.251.9801 or 856.339.0808 or email him at sensweeney@njleg.org so you can tell him how you feel about that, and to share your response to his refusal to support US.-

Our policy makers need to know how we feel about the decisions they make that impact our lives. We must feel empowered to have a say on those decisions and on the decisions that impact our job. For many of us, factors like subjective evaluations, misguided budgeting decisions, unnecessary standardized tests, and SGOs have undermined our ability to perform our duties

as professionals.

It's time for all of us to take back our profession. It's time to make sure the people who make the laws about what we do, and who observe the work that we do actually understand that WE are the experts in what we do. As we begin this year, I wish for us all to feel a sense of pride and empowerment in our chosen profession. I wish for us to come to our buildings full of excitement at who we are and what we do.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Lee Ann

Vice President's Message

Welcome back, colleagues. Your PTEA Negotiations Team worked hard this summer, hopeful that we would reach a fair agreement with the BOE. At the conclusion of our last meeting on August 15, we remained far apart. As you can imagine, the sticking points include salary, health insurance and the school day. I will provide a more detailed update at our first PTEA meeting on September 6. The Superintendent has scheduled our gathering at the end of the day at 3:15, which is a change from the past. However, Tuesday's schedule does conform to our contractual language for PD days – 7 hours and 15 minutes. In addition to the negotiations update, other important information will be provided. Lee Ann and I look forward to meeting with all of you at that time.

Ann Marie



New Member Welcome

All new PTEA members are cordially invited to a welcome reception on September 22 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!

Philanthropic Account

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

We are signed up with Yankee Candle for their Fall/Winter Sale! 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. Catalogs will be delivered to your school mailboxes during the second week of school. All profit from this sale will go directly to our scholarship fund. Catalog orders are due by October 11. Online ordering will be open through December. Contact Ann Marie with any questions.

Thank you to the many PTEA members who are signed up for automatic payroll deductions. Did you know you can contribute as little as \$1 a month in this way? Please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have about this easy, relatively painless way to support your PTEA's philanthropic

endeavors. We welcome contributions at any time and truly appreciate your generosity.

Insurance/Pension

Denise Donch (PV)

The Summer Leadership Conference provided information on leaves of absence, creating MBOS accounts to monitor your pension, and how to calculate your deductions for health benefits. Denise Donch will conduct a voluntary training session to help staff members create their MBOS account and review how to calculate health insurance contributions. The training will take place on November 2 at PV. You will need your Pension Member ID number, which you can request from Yvette Fuentes in the Board Office. More information will be sent in the near future. If you have any questions or concerns regarding insurance, pensions, or leaves of absence please contact Denise.



Thanks to Michele Crefeld (PV), PTEA President Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS) and Susan Quagliana (PV) for attending Summer Leadership training to learn how to better represent our members. Other attendees not pictured were Jen Quinn (SJG), Ann Marie Finnen (SJG), Kimberly Meyerson (NB) and Denise Donch (PV).



Township Hoedown

Pequannock's annual Hoedown is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. Each year your PTEA sponsors a table at this community event. PRIDE Chair Angela Kohle (PTHS) is looking for several members from each building to man the table for one hour, greet children and their parents, and give out goodies, including apples **from** the teachers! Please contact Angela if you can spare an hour, and we hope to see many PTEA members enjoying the festivities throughout the day.

We will be distributing flyers listing many of our schools' and teachers' recent accomplishments. If you have good news to share – about yourself, your students, a team or club, or anything else from your school – please forward that information to Ann Marie Finnen, so that it can be included in the flyer. Let's make sure everyone knows about all the great things that are happening in our public schools.

Join us on Facebook!

Don't forget to join our private Facebook group! You must have a Facebook account to become a member. Search "Pequannock Township Education Association," request to join the group, and wait for an approval. You can read about hot topics, announcements, or join in a conversation with colleagues. This is a great way to stay in contact from building to building! 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/>

Membership Update

Jennifer Quinn, Chair (SJG)

Following is the NJEA Dues breakdown for 2016/2017 school year (billed over 10 months):

	National:	State:	County:	Local:	Total:
FT Professional:	\$187.00	\$866.00	\$60.00	\$199.00	\$1,312.00
PT Professional:	\$105.00	\$433.00	\$30.00	\$99.00	\$667.00
FT ESP:	\$113.50	\$424.00	\$30.00	\$80.00	\$647.50
PT ESP:	\$68.50	\$212.00	\$15.00	\$40.00	\$225.50
Low Earner: (under \$18,500)	\$68.50	\$84.80	\$15.00	\$40.00	\$208.30

If you have moved from PT to FT please be aware that your dues will change accordingly, as well as moving from FT to PT.



SAVE THE DATE!

We will hold our Fourth Annual Member Benefits Fair on **October 26 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 who have obtained credit to move across our guide: We believe that the language of a recent PERC decision regarding guide movement may be interpreted in favor of our members. We are pursuing this avenue, and request that any this may affect please contact Lee Ann or Grievance Chair, Diane Wolfe (HV).

For members who plan to retire at any time during the year: Please be sure to speak with Ann Marie or Lee Ann before you put in your letter.

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

Kimberly Meyerson (NB) – AR
Lisa Warner (SJG) – AR
Angela Kohle (PTHS) – PRIDE Chair
Michele Crefeld (PV) – AR
Christina Marx (PV) – AR



At this summer's National Education Association's Representative Assembly in Washington D.C., Lee Ann was honored to be asked to host two Kenyan educators. On the left is Ekirapa Okwara, an executive officer of the Kenyan National Union of Teachers (KNUT). On the right is Sossion Wilson, Secretary General of KNUT. Also pictured is NEA President Lily Eskelson Garcia.

Upcoming Dates

Sept 9 – PTEA Breakfast, all buildings

Sept 12 – PTEA Rep Council, PTHS

Sept 17 – Pequanock Hoedown
Greenview Park

Sept 22 – New Member Welcome
PTHS Library/Media Center

Oct 6 – Fall Focus, Zeris Inn
Contact Lee Ann to attend

Oct 12 – PTEA Rep Council, PV

Oct 26 – General Membership/
Member Benefits Fair, PTHS

Nov 2 – MBOS (Pension) training, PV