



CHALKBOARD

JANUARY 2018

President's Message

Happy New Year!

The evaluation process is a constant source of stress and worry for our members. Your Association maintains that it is often arbitrary and capricious. While some of the data gleaned from the 30-40 minute observations may prove to be valuable, for the most part, we believe that it can be easily manipulated. And we know that the numbers do not accurately measure what kind of impact you have on students. Certainly, the data mined by the administration in observations doesn't reflect the work done in our classrooms.

Rather than celebrating the high quality of its teaching staff, we suspect that the evaluators may be limited as to how many "Highly Effective" ratings they are permitted to give. It is further illustration of the continued lack of acknowledgement of our professionalism that a year of teaching is reduced to a number. My experiences with evaluation practices around the state have shown me that this does not have to be the case.

Your Association would like to monitor our evaluators and note how they score each member. To that end, we've created a spreadsheet to allow us to track administrators. We are looking to determine if there are patterns. We are deeply concerned that there may be a misapplication of the evaluation practice. Please see the information about the evaluation spreadsheet elsewhere in this issue of Chalkboard.

In April, your Pequannock Township Education Association will be voting for President and Vice President. This year will be one of change for our Local; for the first time in many years, neither Ann Marie nor I

will be running for office. As I reflect on my years of service to our local, I think of the many things our Association has accomplished, together. I was fortunate to follow several excellent local leaders whom I consider to be my mentors. I have also been lucky to be surrounded by dedicated advocates. It will take all of a future President's Message to properly thank all of those people! For now, I invite each of you to think about what you want the PTEA to accomplish in the future. I invite you to consider taking a leadership role in your Association. I invite you to consider the future direction of the PTEA. Your Association belongs to YOU, and this is an opportunity to make our Association what you believe it should be.

In Solidarity,

Lee Ann

Shoes for Scholars!

Thank you to everyone from all five schools who donated to our MCCEA Shoe Drive to benefit county scholarships. Before the break we delivered a carful of shoes to the county office. The deadline has been extended until our next MCCEA meeting on January 31. If anyone would still like to donate gently used shoes, please contact Lee Ann, Ann Marie or one of our county reps, Diane Wolfe (HV) and Susan Shuttlesworth (PTHS).



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Evaluation Survey

We encourage all members to use their home computer to upload data from their observations into this Google [Form](#). The data is being collected ANONYMOUSLY. It will help to ensure there is inter-rater and inter-domain reliability among various administrators.

We want to ensure that the observation process is being fairly and equitably applied for all members. The more detailed the observation data that can be provided, the better. You can also access the google form on the Members Only area of our website (<http://pequannocktownshippea.org/members/membersonly/>), or on our closed FB page.

Winter Leadership

NJEA will hold its Winter Leadership Conference for the Northern Region on March 2-3, at the Sheraton Parsippany. You can find a registration form with information about the offerings here. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lee Ann. We do have PTEA funds available to send several members. This would be a great opportunity for individuals who are considering running for a leadership position this Spring. <https://www.njea.org/event/njea-winter-leadership-conference-north-2018-march/>

Save the Date!

Friday, March 23

Our Annual PTEA Baked Potato Night will once again be held on Opening Night of the PTHS Musical. Dinners will be available “to go” or perhaps you’d like to stay and enjoy the production. This year, our talented students will present “The Addams Family.” All proceeds from this event will go towards our Scholarship Fund. Information about reserving tickets or making a donation will be sent to each PTEA member in late February.



Just some of our dedicated and hardworking “Essential School Personnel” at the MCCEA ESP Celebration in November.



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Health Insurance Update

Premiums for the SEHBP have increased effective January 1, so all members who take health insurance from the district will see an increase in their Chapter 78 contributions effective with their January 15 paycheck. Denise Donch has prepared a document to assist us in verifying that our payroll deductions are accurate. Please click on the following link and contact Denise if you have any questions or if you need assistance.
<http://pequannocktownshipea.org/2018/01/09/health-insurance-premium-chart-2018-rates/>

Also, effective January 1 our prescription plan is now managed by OptumRx. Members with prescription coverage should have received new membership cards in December. If you have any concerns or questions, contact OptumRx directly. If you need further assistance, contact Denise.

Upcoming Dates

Jan 24 – Experienced Member Celebration
Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph

Jan 31 – MCCEA Meeting
Zeris Inn, Mountain Lakes

Feb 15 – PTEA Rep Council Meeting
Friends of Education Celebration

March 2-3 – NJEA Winter Leadership
Conference, Sheraton Parsippany

March 15 – PTEA Rep Council Meeting

March 23 – Baked Potato Night
PTHS Cafeteria

March 28 – PTEA General Membership
PTHS Cafeteria

Register for the MCCEA Experienced Member Celebration on January 24 at the Meadow Wood Manor. All members with 10 or more years of public school experience are welcome! Online registration is on the MCCEA site or here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presidentexperienced-member-celebration-tickets-36955993371>

Congratulations to our Teachers of the Year and Education Services Professionals of the Year!

PTHS – Deb Thomas and Chloe Cogavin
PV – Allen Kaye and Lindsey Toth
HV – Alice Galliano and Toni Macchiarelli
NB – Dina VanNess and Barbara Fede
SJK – Elizabeth Dowd and Yvette McBain