



## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep pride that I begin a term as your PTEA President. During my 23 years as a member of our union, I have been cognizant of how committed all of our elected officers are to each and every member. Former Presidents Joe Endres, Helene Zablocki, Bobbie Spezio, and of course Lee Ann have all positively impacted my growth as a leader, and I look to the example each of them has set to help pave our way forward.

I also look to all of you to help determine the future of our association. What shall be our priorities? How shall we best preserve the gains in our working conditions that we have achieved in the years since we first began bargaining? How shall we best advocate for our students?

I invite you all to play a role in shaping our union, in whatever capacity you feel comfortable and to whatever extent you are capable. PTEA is 300 members strong and all of your voices are vital to our strength. Our rep council meetings are open to all members and there are numerous small and large ways you can become involved.

In the coming weeks, I will be visiting each building, before and after school, (with breakfast and snacks!) I hope to meet with all of you, to hear from you about how we can work to strengthen our union and together make Pequannock Township the best possible district in which to work and learn. You and our students deserve no less.

In Solidarity,

*Ann Marie*

## Vice President's Message

In the past ten years I've learned a lot of lessons. The most important one is how NOT to give up. My fellow members have taught me that. Although we have not always been able to prevail, so many of you have thanked me and thanked the association - for fighting on your behalf.

Ultimately, I came to realize that the essence of the PTEA isn't winning - the essence of the PTEA is unity.

Those of you who have expressed support have understood that idea from the beginning. You know that we're in this together - we're a part of this union of colleagues who support and sustain and uphold each other.

You've all done that for me in the past ten years. You've raised me up and sustained me and supported me.

I thank all of you, (including the superintendents and administrators who've taught me the virtue of tenacity) and especially, I thank the line of PTEA giants on whose shoulders I have stood.

Moving forward, I can't imagine a person more committed to advocacy than Ann Marie. We are so fortunate to have her as President.

I am honored to act as your Vice President, now. I remain always available to serve all of you.

*Lee Ann*



Thanks to all who supported our Baked Potato Night. We served more than 100 dinners and raised over \$900 for scholarships! From left: Marcia Dimetrosky, Justin Lefebvre, Ann Marie Finnen, Lee Ann Brensinger, Angela Kohle, Sue Berardinelli, Nancy Smith, and Susan Shuttlesworth.



## PTEA Communication

Please make sure your Association Rep and Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS) have your home email address for PTEA updates and reminders. If you are on Facebook, search for Pequannock Township Education Association and request to join our closed group, where members post information and discussion points.

## Grievance Chair Vacancy

In September, there will be an opening for PTEA Grievance Chair. Thank you to Diane Wolfe who has given 110% to this position during the past several years. If you are interested or would like to know more about the position, please contact Ann Marie or Lee Ann. You do not need specific experience; PTEA and NJEA will provide training.

## Mall Project

Once again Pequannock student work will be on display at the MCCEA Mall Project at Rockaway Mall. This year you can visit the displays from Sunday, April 8 through Sunday, April 15. Pequannock's display will be located on the second floor by the AT&T store. All five schools will be represented, and this year promises to be as impressive a showing as ever before.

Consider attending the Opening Ceremony on Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. when PV's own Megan Hall will be honored as a Poster Contest Winner.

Tremendous thanks to all of our members who are setting up and taking down the displays, and to our Mall Project Coordinator, Janet Drashinsky, without whom none of this would be possible.



Congratulations to our 2018 PTEA Friend of Education recipients. These dedicated members of our community have gone above and beyond to support the staff and students within our schools. From left to right: Lee Ann Brensinger, Ann Marie Finnen, Friend of Education Recipients Renee Blustein, Thomas Andrea, and Katherine Iglar, and PTEA PRIDE Chair, Angela Kohle.

## Upcoming Dates

**April 8-15** – Mall Project on display  
Rockaway Mall

**April 9** – Mall Project Opening Ceremony  
Rockaway Mall, 6:30 p.m.

**April 19** – PTEA Rep Council  
3:30 at NB – all are welcome!

**April 26** – MCCEA ESP Workshop  
“Para-Power” at Zeris Inn, 4:30  
Register for free [here](#).

**May 9** – PTEA Rep Council Meeting  
3:30 at PV – all are welcome!

**May 16** – MCCEA Clam Bake  
For early career members (7 years or less)  
Black River Barn, Randolph  
Register for free [here](#).

**Welcome to our new PTEA members!**  
**We are happy that you have joined our Association.**

Lauren Habermas – Behaviorist (NB)  
Lynn Hutman – Secretary (PV)  
Barry Marciano – Custodian (PV)  
Eric Santos – Maintenance (PTHS)  
Alexa O’Brien – Instructional Aide (SJG)