



May
2017
VOL. 15, NO. 2

Published by
The Monmouth County Education Association
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President's Message

by Denise King



Dear MCEA Members,
The Summative Evaluations are being completed throughout the county by administrators. If you have any concerns about your overall rating, contact your union leadership. The end of the school year can be overwhelming with all of the responsibilities. We all are here to assist you in your professional growth.

The MCEA has seen growth in attendance to the trainings and meetings throughout the year. I encourage you to remind your colleagues that the Professional Development opportunities and trainings are free to all members. The year is coming to an end for these opportunities. The NJEA has Summer Leadership, August 5-12, 2017. There are scholarships available through both NJEA and MCEA for first time attendees. If you are interested in attending, you need to speak to your union leadership because they will submit the documentation to the MCEA office.

The NJEA Elections take place every April and this year was no different. As usual, only 10% of the NJEA members voted in the election. However, Monmouth came out stronger. This is a testament to the commitment to grow our membership involvement! I want to thank all of you who took the time to get to know the candidates and vote for the open positions. The election for NJEA President, NJEA Secretary/Treasurer, and for MCEA members for NJEA Delegate Assembly and Delegate Assembly Alternate were contested elections. Congratulations to the new NJEA Delegate Assembly members Diane Vistein, Tracie Yostpille, and Daniel Rodrick and the DA Alternates Mike Marino, Heidi

Brachee, Meg Watkins, and Gail Maher! Your vote counts, so don't let your voice go unheard. I would like to thank all of you who voted for me for NJEA Secretary/Treasurer. Although I did not become the next NJEA Secretary/Treasurer, your votes made a strong statement of support.

The NEARA will take place in Boston, MA this summer from July 1-6. If you are attending as a local or state delegate to the NEARA, there will be a meeting at the MCEA Office on May 24, 2017 at 4:00pm. There is a mandatory meeting on June 3, 2017 at the Hilton East Brunswick with all NJEA members who are attending. I look forward to seeing you in May.

Join us for the following MCEA Events

Thursday, June 1: Friends of Education Recognition and Awards Dinner

Thursday, June 6: LAT Summer Kickoff and Training

Saturday, June 17: MCEA Pride Event "Politics and Ponies"

Wednesday, June 28: MCEA Canvas Kickoff and Social

*For more information visit our website at
mceanj.com*

National Education Association Representative Assembly Meets

in Boston

by Vicki McKeon



I am looking forward to being a part of the largest democratic assembly in the world this summer in Boston, Massachusetts, the National Education Association Representative Assembly. Each summer, over 9,000 educators and educational support professionals from across the country debate and determine the policies, procedures, and legislative agenda for the NEA. The New Jersey Education Association Delegation will number about 550 this year with about 30 members attending from Monmouth County.

Each year, around 100 new business items are moved by members of the delegation, discussed and voted on. As the top decision making body for the 3 million members of the NEA, the delegates play a very important role. One of the issues discussed last year was protecting the civil rights of LGBTQ individuals. A new business item was passed that called upon the NEA to join the national effort to prevent acts of violence that target these individuals. Another hot topic was the school-to-prison pipeline. A new policy states the following, "As educators, NEA and its members are committed to changing the policies and practices of the schools in which we work to end the school-to-prison pipeline. Our work to that end will be guided by the following five principles:"

- 1: Eliminating Disparities in Discipline Practices
- 2: Creating a Supportive and Nurturing School Climate
- 3: Professional Training and Development
- 4: Partnerships and Community Engagement
- 5: Student and Family Engagement.

NEA will lead efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline by focusing its work in the areas of awareness and advocacy.

In addition to debating issues and revising policy, it is this body that elects the officers and the directors of NEA. If being a part of this Representative Assembly sounds like something that you would enjoy, or if getting more involved at the county level interests you, email me at vmckeon@njea.org.

Workshops Continue to Grow

by Tracie Yostpille



As we come to the conclusion of another school year, the MCEA is very proud of the robust offerings of professional development that we held for our members in the 2016-2017 school year. It was wonderful to meet so many of our members. Not only did we offer workshops to improve your professional standing this year, we decided to offer workshops to improve your financial and personal standing. One of the most popular and best attended workshops this year was the Social Security Workshop. We offered the same workshop on how to get the most from Social Security four times and each time we had a full house. Members walked away enlightened and optimistic about money they weren't aware they were entitled to from Social Security, a great help in planning for a life after your career. Other well attended workshops were the seminars on estate planning and investing. The MCEA realizes not all our members are in need of professional development credit. We have expanded our offerings so all our members can find something to enrich and enhance, not only their professional life, but also their personal life.

We are in the process of scheduling a very interesting workshop on student loan forgiveness this June. So keep an eye on the mceanj.com website for the date. If we have your personal email, you will be sent an Eventbrite invitation to all our professional development and personal development workshops including this one. If we don't have your personal email, email it to mcea@mceanj.com and ask to be put on the MCEA email list. Our members always walk away from our workshops well fed and well informed. So grab a friend and give an MCEA workshop a try.



Teachers attend one of the many informative workshops offered by the Monmouth County Education Association.

MCEA Becomes Stronger

by John Napolitani Sr.



Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of the school year. It has been one challenge after another for most of us in the trenches. The challenges that we face only make us stronger and more successful to represent all staff members in our school districts.

The MCEA continues to move in a very positive direction with increased workshops and meetings held in and out of the MCEA Headquarters. Workshops have been so well attended in the office that we are actually running out of space, which shows how involved people are getting within the county under our leadership. This is very exciting news as we begin to wrap up the year and start to plan for next year.

Over the course of the next six months, our team and the LAT will ramp up for the upcoming November elections. These elections in Monmouth County will be pivotal for all members of the MCEA. We are always looking for increased involvement in your communities by way of running for local offices. This upcoming election year is extremely important as we say good bye to one of the most negative and destructive Governors of all time. As we get closer to the election, you will see more and more information coming forth from our endorsed candidate for Governor, Phil Murphy. We encourage everyone to get involved to ensure we are once again included.

Over the next month or two, the Executive Team will be finishing the calendar for the 2017/2018 school year. We are planning workshops, meetings and the MCEA Overnight. We currently have a Presidents Welcome Back event slated for August 30. Details will be forthcoming. Our office hours will be limited in the summer starting on July 1. We will be open from 9am to 12pm Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. We are currently looking at the schedule and plan to close the office for a couple of weeks with dates to be determined.

In closing, I am proud of the accomplishments we have done in this county over the past three years. We will continue in the most positive direction with added support and continuity in our county. I am also extremely proud of our President, Denise King, for a fantastic showing in the NJEA election for Secretary/Treasurer. Although she fell short, Denise garnered more votes in Monmouth County than any other candidate since the elections began decades ago. She is to be commended for this run. I want to wish each and every member a very restful and enjoyable summer break. See you in September!

Legislative Action Teams

Inform Members

By Will Potter and Mary O'Keefe

Now, more than ever, it is important that we keep a close eye on the decisions made by legislators that affect our profession. With so many areas to watch, it can be a little daunting being on the Legislative Action Team right now. That just makes their jobs even more important. Our LATs are responsible for keeping our members informed and ready to voice their concerns in a timely matter on many of the issues. Here are just a few issues that members need to be kept up-to-date. Members need to be educated on school funding, pension reform, PARCC, privatization of ESPs, healthcare, and Chapter 78.

You might ask yourself, "How can I be expected to know everything about all these issues?". Well, the good news is that you don't. Many districts have LATs that attend meetings to learn about the issues and return to their districts to share their knowledge with their members. These same individuals are eager to talk to members about the issues that affect all of us. So please, talk to your LAT members and ask questions about the issues. If your LAT member does not know the answer, he/she can always contact the Government Relation chairs in the MCEA, and we will do our best to get the answer.

As educators, it is our responsibility to question everything until we have a clear understanding of the issues. However, if you don't ask or read the information provided to you by your LATs, you will have a lot of unanswered questions and /or misconceptions about the issues. So, after you thank your LATs for the wonderful job they are doing, ask questions. Remember, there is no such thing as a bad question if you learn something from the answer.

Our last LAT meeting will be held on June 6 at Bar Anticipation in Belmar. We will be having a barbecue to welcome in the summer and plan for the upcoming elections. If you can attend our June meeting, please register on the MCEA website.

We have the power to make the necessary changes to protect our professions and to help our students succeed. When we work together, we can achieve awesome results!

On October 8, the 125-member NJEA PAC voted unanimously to endorse Ambassador Phil Murphy in the Democratic gubernatorial primary because he shares NJEA members' priorities and values.

MCEA Members Enjoy LAT Dinner

The Monmouth County Education Association held a Legislative Conference and Dinner at the Sterling Ballroom in Tinton Falls on May 3, 2017. Marybeth Beichert, NJEA Associate Director of Government Relations, led a panel of legislators which included Senator Jennifer Beck, Senator Samuel Thompson, Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, and Assemblywoman Joann Downey. They discussed school funding, pension reform, Parcc Testing, Chapter 78, and other issues which are important to MCEA members.



MCEA members discussed many educational issues with legislators and guests at the LAT Dinner on May 3, 2017.



Mr. Wendal Steinbauer, president of the New Jersey Education Association, was the keynote speaker at the LAT Dinner on May 3, 2017.

Monmouth County Students Succeed

- Among only 12 schools in the nation to reach the finals in the Air Force Association's Cyber -Patriot Competition, and the only from New Jersey, the Red Bank Regional High School CyberPatriot Team scored second in the nation within this competition that prepares students for careers in cyber security and defense.
- Three Monmouth County students were named winners in the Protect Me With 3+ poster and video contest, a challenge designed to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination.
- A Red Bank Regional senior, Ella Brockway, was named the Garden State Scholastic Press Association's Student Journalist of the Year. She will represent NJ in the 2017 Journalism Education Association's National Student of the Year competition.
- One of the very best high schools in America is in Monmouth County, according to a new report released by U.S. News and World Report. High Technology High School in the Lincroft section of Middletown topped the list of best STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) public schools in the nation and highest among high schools in New Jersey.

MCEA Organizes Many Pride Events

by Diane Vistein

MCEA PRIDE has been busy organizing several exciting and invigorating events which increase community awareness of the great things happening in our public schools.

The MCEA sponsored Read Across America event successfully engaged over 200 public school students and their parents in multiple Dr. Seuss based activities.

Monmouth County EA members enjoyed a brisk, but invigorating walk through Asbury Park, as they participated in the St. Patricks Day Parade.

Shortly, members will be uniting with the community on June 1 at IPlay America as Monmouth County hosts its annual Friends of Education Dinner. This is an evening set aside to recognize outstanding citizens from Monmouth County who have made exemplary contributions to our public schools.

Future events include the Gay Pride Parade (Asbury Park), June 4, and Politics and Ponies being held at Monmouth Park on June 17th.

PRIDE events are open for all members to attend. Please visit the MCEA website for further information.