



May
2016
VOL. 14, NO. 2

Published by
The Monmouth County Education Association
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2nd Vice President..... Tracie Yostpille
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President's Message

by Denise King



Dear MCEA Members,

This year has been busy with many trainings, meetings, and events. The Legislative Action Team for Monmouth County worked many hours to assist in the campaign of people running for office. They attended workshops about virtual phone banking and made many calls to members.

Their efforts were truly exceptional! All of you who have participated in these endeavors should be proud of your accomplishments because without your contributions, this success could not have been achieved.

The NJEA recognized the efforts of the Monmouth County Education Association at the 2016 NJEA Walter J. O'Brien Legislative and Political Action Conference. MCEA's LAT won an award for the Most Improved LAT in a Large County. This was due to the increase in participation from the locals. Our LAT has

grown from 10 members to over 40. This number continues to climb because of the work of Marybeth Beichert, Will Potter & Lisa Rispoli and the leadership team of MCEA. We encourage all members to get involved and join the effort to get pro-education candidates into office.

We continue to encourage the local leaders and LAT Chairs to invite a member to attend one of our meetings or events. On April 27, 2016 we held the MCEA Annual Legislative Dinner which provided an opportunity for members to meet Assemblymen, Senators, County Freeholders, and State Board of Education Members. This year over 100 people attended and they had the opportunity to hear answers to many of our concerns. Opinions about PARCC, Chapter 78 & Evaluations were discussed with some new insight for our elected officials.

Your time and efforts spent on helping people understand what the laws and changes to education mean is vital. Any time you can give can and will make a positive impact for change!



Marybeth Beichert, Associate Director of Government Relations, was the monitor of the Legislative Panel which consisted of Senator Jennifer Beck, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, and Senator Samuel Thompson. These legislators addressed the concerns of MCEA members at the MCEA Legislative Dinner on April 27.



Denise King, President of the MCEA, accepted the 2016 Most Improved Achievement Award presented to Monmouth County for increased participation and political activity through the Monmouth County Legislative Action Team.

Organization Continues to Grow

by John Napolitani Sr.



It's hard to believe that we are concluding another school year. As we get older, the years definitely go faster and this year was no exception. We had an extremely productive and successful year at the MCEA, continuing our strides in improving this great county under the leadership of Denise King. I am

very pleased with the progress we continue to make.

First, we have continued our President's Roundtable events held four times this year, with our final meeting set for May 25 at Jimmy's Restaurant in Asbury Park. This event will be combined with the Collective Bargaining Council. These events have been well attended by our local leaders and we were extremely lucky to have had special guest speakers such as Ed Richardson and Bob Bobik to name a couple. The information they have provided to the local leaders has not only been informative, but worth sharing with their membership to keep them apprised of the different issues that affect our local associations.

Second, our Collective Bargaining Council meetings have really expanded with a plethora of information being provided by Uniserv. The attendance has increased dramatically and we have been very pleased that so many members are taking interest in their collective bargaining. We will continue to hold these meetings three times next year so please stay tuned to the dates that will be provided.

Finally, our office has continued to expand upon its use. There have been a multitude of workshops and meetings that have been held at the headquarters on a weekly basis. This office is also open to your locals as well. If you are interested in utilizing the office for any of your meetings, please contact our administrative assistance to see when dates are available. Our office will be open in the summer from 9am to 1pm Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Fridays. Our leadership will also be adjusting our normal school hours starting in September. We will send out a notification as soon as the hours are set.

In closing, under the leadership of the present MCEA Executive Team, we have moved this county in the right direction. We continue to come up with new and innovative ideas to keep the membership active and engaged. The leadership is only as good as its membership that continues to become more and more involved. We thank each and every member for their participation this year as we continue our

growth. I want to thank the membership for its faith to re-elect me to my position as 1st Vice President of the MCEA. This is a position I will continue to work hard for the membership and under the guidance of President Denise King as we continue our strides in making this the greatest County in the State of New Jersey. I want to wish each and every member a very healthy, restful, and safe summer break. Believe me, after a long year of school, we all need to rest and recharge our batteries.

MCEA Offers Workshops

by Tracie Yostpile



After two years of rebuilding Monmouth County's Professional Development Program, I am happy to report a very robust schedule of PD offerings for the 2016-2017 school year. MCEA will once again offer PD to all our members on Google because last year's offerings were so well at-

tended. In an effort to fill the needs of our members, there are even more "technology based" classes on the calendar. We will also continue to offer support for our certified members on evaluation models, SGO writing, and SciP and DEAC teams.

A new class on Autism Spectrum Disorder will be offered in the fall and a five part series called "Cares" will focus on dealing with "at risk" students for all members of our association. We have a diverse population and this series will be of benefit to teachers, ESP members, CST members, school nurses, and guidance counselors. A member can attend all five classes in the series or each class can be attended as a stand-alone session.

We are also giving serious consideration to changing our Monmouth County Overnight Professional Development Conference from March to October. Many of our advocacy and PD trainings which are offered during the overnight can be most beneficial if attended in the beginning of the school year. In our survey of last year's event, most members would like us to continue the practice of holding the event in Monmouth County. We are currently negotiating a contract to do just that.

2016-2017 will continue to bring change and challenges to the teaching profession and the field of education. The MCEA professional development offerings, along with our advocacy trainings, will offer support to all members of our association. The calendar will be shared with local presidents and the schedule of events will be put on the MCEA website so members can sign up directly for the sessions they are interested in attending.

Take Back Your Paycheck

by Vicki McKeon – NJEA Executive Committee



Spring has arrived. Daffodils and tulips are emerging from the ground, and trees are beginning to bloom. PARCC testing wrapped up and Advanced Placement testing is underway. Rather than taking time to relax, we are all racing to finish the curriculum, document our professional development hours, finalize our PDP and prepare for our end of the year evaluation. Each year, it seems that we have more material to cover in class, more paperwork to complete, more disruptions due to testing, and less money in our paychecks.

NJEA has begun the Take Back Your Paycheck campaign to educate and organize members. NJEA is gathering personal stories from members whose lives have been affected by the health insurance premium shares mandated by Chapter 78. Visit www.NJEA.org and select the banner on the home page under “Why are you earning less?” to tell your story. We must show elected officials the impact that the law is having on our lives. Chapter 78 requires members’ premium shares to be a percentage of the total premium. In many cases, the premium is going up at a much faster rate than your salary causing take home pay to decline from one year to the next. NJEA has developed the pieces of a legislative package to provide relief from Chapter 78. One way to stop this “negative net” would be to cap a member’s premium share as a percentage of his or her salary, rather than a percentage of the total premium.

Other components of the legislative package would require transparency and disclosure of premiums and premium-share calculations, district health insurance costs, the amount collected in premium shares from employees, and other relevant data. It would require that health plans for which a premium share is charged must be broken down into at least four levels of coverage – single, parent/child, employee plus an adult, and family.

My article wouldn’t be complete without mention of our continuing fight to preserve our pensions. At the polls this November, you will have the opportunity to pass a constitutional amendment to require regular, responsible pension payments. Quarterly pension payments will reduce the long-term cost of fixing the problem by at least 8.5 billion dollars over the next 30 years. If you haven’t already signed up to be a pension activist, do so today. If you are already a pension activist, recommit to the fight. Visit votenjpension.org to learn more and join the fight. To win this battle, it will take every member, working together from now until November 8th.

Friends of Education Awards and Recognition Dinner

by Christopher Johnson

The Monmouth County Education Association will host its 2nd Annual Friends of Education Awards and Recognition Dinner on Thursday, June 2nd, 2016 from 5:00 – 9:00 at iPlay America Event Center, 110 Schanck Road Freehold, New Jersey 07728. This event is one of the numerous PRIDE in Public Education events organized by MCEA each year. Over 300 guests are expected to be in attendance. Hosting this event is one of the many ways the MCEA recognizes the importance of individual and collective commitments to excellence in education. The Friends of Education Recognition and Award Ceremony gives the Monmouth County Education Association a way to simply say thank you, and in a very small way express gratitude for the tireless efforts of all their community partners.

The Monmouth County Education Association is a non profit organization that represents the needs of Monmouth County’s Educators and Educational Support Staff through advocacy, information, and service. We represent teachers, guidance counselors, child study teams, librarians, nurses, paraprofessionals, secretaries, transportation workers, custodial maintenance staff, as well as other support staff. We provide opportunities for networking, collaboration, sharing, knowledge, and support. We host meetings and seminars, as well as annual workshops. Working together we find strength in mutual support and common cause that allows us to grow as individuals and educators. Our members make a difference every day in the classrooms and schools throughout our fine county of Monmouth.

Working together with our Friends in Education, we build excellent public schools. The organizations, groups and individuals that have been recognized by our members are a very important component of what we need in our public schools, dedicated and committed community partners. Our students and our Association would not be the successes we are if it were not for all of us working together.

The Monmouth County Education Association (MCEA) is the New Jersey Education Association’s (NJEA) county affiliate that represents the over 13,000 public school employees who proudly serve the Monmouth County Public Schools.

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Friends of Education Awards and Recognition Dinner

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2015-2016 Friends of Education Award Winners

Park Avenue School Parent Teacher Organization

Ron Villano

Senator Jennifer Beck

Laura Brophy

Kathryn Coulibaly

Mary O'Keefe

Parent Advisory Council for Excellence

Robert Antonelli

Wayne Hamilton

John Niesz

Roslyn Simek

Marcy Mason

Tara Smith

John and Svetlana Pallone

Assemblyman David Rible

Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling

Assemblywoman Joann Downey

Grace West

Senator Frank Pallone

Gloria Furey

Susan Caldwell

Kathy Logan

Robert Hook

Dr. Brian McAndrew

Most Program

Where the Angels Play Foundation

Neptune Supporters of Diverse Learners

Dr. Jared Rumage

Jodi Navitsky

Donna Campbell

Spring Lake Education Foundation

Dee Burek

Judi Hoffman

Attention

Anyone who will be attending the NEARA Convention, there will be a meeting on Monday, May 23rd at 4:00 pm at the MCEA Neptune office.

If you cannot attend, you need to provide the MCEA with a phone number, address, and shirt size no later than Friday, May 20th 2016.



Assemblyman Dave Rible speaks with members of the MCREA at the MCEA Legislative Dinner on April 27.



Members of the MCEA walk in the annual Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Congratulations!

Tracie Yostpile, 2nd Vice President of the Monmouth County Education Association, was honored at the NJEA Legislative Action Awards Dinner for her dedicated service representing NJEA on the NJ Commission on Student Achievement.



Denise King, President of the MCEA, introduces Mr. Ed Richardson, Executive Director of the NJEA, who was the guest speaker at the MCEA Overnight Conference in March.