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2nd Vice President.....Tracie Yostpille
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President's Message

by Denise King



Dear MCEA Members,

First, I want to thank you for a wonderful year as your MCEA President. I cannot express how important your dedication to your job, the association and the community is to us, the leadership of MCEA. This year has seen some changes in the activism of our association. You have

made all the difference through writing letters, visiting legislators, and participating in your local associations. Whether you attend an event at your schools, participate in Professional Development or attend a PRIDE event, your involvement makes a difference! This year we are pleased to report that there was an increase in attendance to the MCEA Overnight. There has also been wonderful member engagement through some new events sponsored by the MCEA. Our sponsored social trips to Broadway shows have been very successful, as have our workshops to provide our members with important information and trainings.

And there are more opportunities for you to get involved! Currently, there are a few positions open to represent the MCEA at NJEA meetings as members of NJEA committees. A committee member attends meetings in Trenton and then presents the information to us at the four Representative Council Meetings in October, January, March and May. It is a volunteer position, but NJEA does provide dinner and your mileage is covered. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please email me at dking@mceanj.com. We have many local members who represent us at NJEA as committee members. I want to thank all our committee representatives. The time you take away from your families is greatly appreciated!

I wanted to share with you the news that we plan to change two of our volunteer positions to paid positions

due to recent changes in their roles. The Scholarship Chair oversees the planning of fundraisers for monies to provide scholarships for those children who meet the criteria established by the Scholarship Committee. Recently, this position has taken on additional responsibilities. For example, this year we held our first ever Gift Auction. I want to thank Jo-Anne Montanti, the current chair, and every person who dedicated time or resources to make this event a huge success.

The second position shifting from volunteer to paid is the Social Chair. The Social Chair plans events for members to participate in throughout the school year. Some events include a charge to members, while others are covered by the Association. If you are interested in applying for this position, contact the office.

Finally, I want to end with some further congratulations and thanks. I want to take this opportunity to wish Vicki McKeon well in her retirement! Vicki was the MCEA Treasurer for four years and due to her retirement was replaced by Gail Maher, Wall President. Vicki was also the MCEA County Executive, and her term will end in August due to her retirement. This brings me to a hearty round of congratulations to Jo-Anne Montanti who will be our new County Executive, completing Vicki's term.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer!

Upcoming MCEA Events

May 30: MCEA Friends of Education Awards Dinner – IPlay America – 5 pm

June 1: MCEA Broadway Trip to Frozen – 9:15 am

June 3: LAT Meeting – Fireside, Marlboro – 4:15 pm

Association Strengthens

by John Napolitani



Hello Colleagues,
As we close out the school year, we have much to reflect on with the MCEA. I am glad to see that we have continued our successes with the programs we do within our office. From Optical Academy, to educational workshops, to financial planning, the MCEA Executive Committee

has brought forth information to our members in a very productive way.

Moving forward as we get ready to take our summer break, the MCEA Executive Committee will be busy planning for the upcoming school year. We are satisfied with the workshops we have done in the past and will continue to provide these services. As always, we welcome your input for any additional services that we can provide to you. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to provide new services.

In closing, I am proud that we had another successful year for the MCEA. We will build on this success next year and continue our progress. I want to wish each and every member a very restful and safe summer. Enjoy!!

Pride Sponsors Community Events

by Diane Vistein

The Monmouth County PRIDE Program has been sponsoring community based events throughout the year. PRIDE has been able to provide more events this year than in the past and we hope to grow the program again next year with more exciting opportunities. Whether your passion is learning, marching, honoring colleagues, or trick or treating, we have a vast variety of events which appeal to different groups within the Monmouth County Community.

On May 30th the MCEA will hold its Fifth Annual Friends of Education Awards Banquet. The banquet allows us to thank those community members who have gone above and beyond by dedicating their time and consideration to the Monmouth County Public Schools.

Remember to visit the MCEA website for upcoming PRIDE events, and thank you to all of you who have taken the time, to not only attend PRIDE events, but have volunteered to make these events more successful.

MCEA Will Offer

Google Workshop

by Tracie Yostpille



As the 2018-2019 school year winds down, so does our professional development offerings in the MCEA office. We have had a robust year supporting our member's professional and personal growth. On May 22nd, MCEA leadership will meet with Michael Ritzus and his team to develop our schedule of professional development offerings for the 2019-2020 school year. If there are any suggestions for PD you would like us to offer, please share the suggestions with an MCEA officer at mcea@mceanj.com.

This summer we are going to offer a Google Professional Development Workshop by Rich Kiker from Kiker Learning. Rich is a Google for Education Partner for professional development. If you have ever attended one of Rich's workshops, you have come away learning something to assist you in the classroom and in your personal life. Please be on the lookout for the workshop and the date once we confirm with Rich. Have a very enjoyable end of the school year and a restful, rejuvenating summer. We look forward to seeing you at our professional development workshops next school year.



Tracie Yostpille, MCEA 2nd Vice President, and Denise King, MCEA President, attended the Red for Ed Unity Night at the Lakewood BlueClaws game May 1.

Educators and Legislators Discuss School Funding

by Vicki McKeon



As this school year is winding down, there are many school districts in our state that are scrambling to figure out how to fund their programs after losing state aid for the coming fiscal year. NJEA has been in contact with Governor Murphy's administration about the districts that are receiving less school funding under the Sweeney S-2 plan.

NJEA Research Division created a calculator allowing NJEA to identify the impact of state aid for every district and what the district can do to address it. This revealed that some districts are unable to raise the monies needed. These districts are going to need bridge funding and must identify additional options to consider.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy made a brief, surprise visit to the March 30th meeting of the NJEA Delegate Assembly. Murphy expressed pride in working alongside organizations, such as NJEA, that represent public employees. Murphy noted that, although the state has restored nearly \$500 million dollars in state aid to schools over the last two years, there are some districts facing funding challenges. Governor Murphy said, "I have directed the Department of Education—including and beginning with the commissioner—to work alongside those school districts to ensure that we're looking out for everyone."

NJEA is working collaboratively with its partners, along with a coalition of superintendents, as well as the local association presidents and field reps from those districts affected by the funding cuts. These stakeholders met in April to learn about the nature of the funding problems faced by many of the 197 districts whose state aid is being reduced, and to agree upon a game plan. The meeting included presentations by the Education Law Center and NJEA staff.

This statewide school funding joint coalition is asking to sit down with the governor and legislative leadership to address this year's funding problems and to also discuss a more permanent solution. In addition, NJEA continues to work with individual local affiliates to analyze their funding situations and discuss possible solutions. These analyses show that there are dozens of different causes of funding shortfalls, but the remedies must originate in the same place – the State Legislature.

As advocates for students and public education, we must urge the governor and legislators to begin working together now with public education stakeholders to ensure that future funding allocations meet the needs of every student in every community. Stay informed through your local and county associations and the

MCEA and NJEA websites.

In a few months, I will be stepping down from my position as the Monmouth County NJEA Executive Committee member due to my retirement. It has been a pleasure representing our county in this capacity and I look forward to continuing to advocate for students and public education through the very active New Jersey Retirees' Education Association. I wish Jo-Anne Montanti all the best when she begins her very exciting and active position as Monmouth County's Executive Committee member.

Governor Murphy Visits Delegate Assembly



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy made a surprise visit to the March 30 meeting of the NJEA Delegate Assembly. From Left: NJEA Pre-service President Jennifer Bentivegna, NJEA Vice President Sean Spiller, NJEA President Judy Perkins, NJEA Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beatty, NJEA President Marie Blistan, NJEA Executive Director Steve Swetsky, and NJEA Executive Director Ed Richardson.

Summer Leadership Conference

The 2019 NJEA Jack Bertolino Summer Leadership Conference will offer a broad menu of workshops that teach members to become stronger association advocates. There are two sets of three day programs:

Workshop 1-August 3-5

Workshop 2-August 5-7

This year's conference will take place at the Hilton in East Brunswick. To register, talk to your local or county association president.

Stay Involved After Retirement

Some of you will be retiring at the end of the school year, and we want to welcome you to the Monmouth County Retired Educators' Association. Upon your retirement, you will receive a letter from NJEA/NJREA to join the New Jersey Retired Educators' Association. Association membership is one of the best investments a retiree can make, especially in the current political climate. As a member of NJREA, you have access to a variety of resources to get the most of your retirement, as well as peace of mind knowing there are people working on your behalf to protect it. We encourage you to maintain your membership so you will have the benefits you had as an active NJEA member. Some of the benefits are quarterly publications, professional assistance with medical benefits and pension questions, discounted legal services, Buyer's Edge, NJEA Travel, and NEA insurance and financial programs. In addition, you will have opportunities to meet with other Monmouth County Retirees four times a year for informational luncheons and participate in local philanthropic endeavors.

Your dues payment covers membership in NJREA, NJEA, NEA, and MCREA. Current Life Membership for professionals is \$1,200 and for ESP members it is \$810. These amounts are good until August 31, 2019. As of September, Life Membership will increase to \$1265 for professionals and \$875 for ESP Members. An actively employed professional or educational support staff member who is eligible for a NJ state pension may join NJREA prior to retirement at the current lifetime dues rate. An employee who elects NJREA pre-retirement lifetime membership may pay the dues in installment payments during one school year. The NJEA will bill the employee monthly. Dues may not be deducted from the employee's salary. For more details about this opportunity and payment installment options, call the NJEA Membership Division at 609-599-4561, ext.4123.



Members of the Monmouth County Retired Educators' Association volunteer at the Bayshore Lunch Program.

Monmouth County Education Association Legislative Conference and Dinner



Assemblywoman Joann Downey (LD11), Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling (LD11), Senator Sam Thompson (LD12), Assemblyman Ronald Dancer (LD12), and Assemblyman Sean Kean (LD30) participated in a legislative panel discussion at the Monmouth County Education Association Legislative Conference and Dinner on April 4, 2019 at Jumping Brook Country Club.



Sean Spiller, the NJEA Vice-President, was the keynote speaker at the annual MCEA Legislative Conference and Dinner on April 4, 2019.