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Published by The Monmouth County Education Association 3455 Route 66, Neptune, NJ 07753 (732) 455-5055 FAX (732) 455-5054 Editor: Debbie Adamchak MCEA Officers President.....Denise King 1st Vice President.....John P. Napolitani Sr. 2nd Vice President.....Tracie Yostpille Recording Secretary.....Donna Claus Corresponding Secretary.....Mary Jo Fabiano Treasurer.....Gail Maher

President's Message

by Denise King



Dear MCEA Members, This spring has definitely been one for the history books! I know all of you have felt the stress both personally and professionally during this unprecedented pandemic. The MCEA leadership has been working towards providing meaningful professional development, as well as continuing to operate virtually in order to facilitate the needs of our members and the running of the association. During this time, I want you to know we are here for you at any time to help alleviate any of your questions or concerns. Below are some links which can help you in and out of your classroom.

The Monmouth County Education Association strives to have an open door policy and supports the individuality of all its members and students within the county. It is with great sadness to watch what has been transpiring over the last two weeks! "Know that MCEA stands and support you! If there is additional information or guidance needed, please do not hesitate to contact me. https://neaedjustice.org/racial-justice-resources-justice-for-black-lives/?utm_source=edJustice&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=J4BL <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2016/dont-say-nothing> I wish you all well this summer and I hope you have a happy and healthy summer break.

MCEA Election Results

This past April there were elections for MCEA First Vice President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. The following members will represent you as part of the MCEA Executive Team. John Napolitani as First Vice President, Gail Maher as Treasurer, and Steve Koumoulis as Corresponding Secretary. The NJEA Delegate Assembly, which makes all decisions for the New Jersey Education Association, also had positions open for election. There was a Two-Year Term Election for Delegate Assembly and the following individuals were elected; Gail Maher, Katie Quinn and Mary Scott. For the NJEA Delegate Assembly One-Year Term, Steve Koumoulis was elected, and as our NJEA Delegate Assembly Alternate for Monmouth County, Meg Watkins was elected. Congratulations to all our newly elected Monmouth County Education Association leaders.

I would like to thank Mary Jo Fabiano, MCEA Corresponding Secretary who served the association for three terms. Mary Jo stepped down from this position this year. Mary Jo has been an active member and past president of the Keansburg Education Association and has always been active in the county association throughout her career. She is truly an inspirational leader and advocate, and although she will no longer serve as our corresponding secretary, we know she will continue to advocate for all Monmouth County Educators.

NJEA Announces Remote Convention for 2020

The 2020 NJEA Convention, scheduled for November 5-6, will be held remotely. Following extensive consideration of the factors involved in holding a traditional in-person event in the context of a global pandemic and the uncertainty of what social distancing and safety precautions will be necessary in the fall, NJEA has decided to proceed with a remote event this year. NJEA President Marie Blistan said, "We will spend the next five months building the best possible remote learning experience for our members. Making this decision now allows us and our partners to focus on providing a virtual convention that lives up to the high standards we have set over the last century. We will do everything we can to ensure that our members have the professional learning resources they value even in a new format. To that end, we are very pleased that our 2020 Keynote Speaker, Ruby Bridges, will be part of our virtual event." NJEA will announce the rest of the program for the 2020 NJEA Convention by September 1.

Members Face Challenging Year

by John Napolitani



Dear Fellow MCEA Members,
As we begin to end the 2019/2020 school year, I look back on an unprecedented culmination of a year that has left me speechless at times. Our focus in the beginning was based on passing legislative bills for Chapter 78 relief, pension reform, and ESP benefits. In the process, some of us have also been trying to settle expired contracts, a multitude of grievances and most importantly, pressing our membership for continued solidarity. This multitasking within our districts is challenging at times, but extremely rewarding.

Our focus shifted in mid-March when we were faced with a worldwide pandemic that basically shut the country down, including all school systems. Our focus quickly shifted to educating our students remotely, while simultaneously dealing with the issues that affect our individual Associations. We needed to quickly learn how to multitask all of this in a short period of time from remote locations. To say this has been a challenge is an absolute understatement. We quickly learned that everyone in every district seemed to be doing something entirely different as there were no written rules to be followed. We quickly adapted and here we are at the end of the school year wondering how our school systems will look at the start of the 2020 school year.

In closing, I will reflect on this year as truly one for the books. It has been beyond challenging for everyone. But as good educators, we learn to adapt to be successful and assist our students to be the same. I want to wish everyone a very safe, healthy and restful summer. Please take the time to reflect and see how you can continue to be successful in the upcoming school year.

Bridges at the Shore Helps Local Families In Need

Bridges at the Shore, a local organization, provides brown bag lunches for local seniors and families having difficulty during this time. Now in week four, they are providing over 350 lunches each week. They have received \$2,200 in donations to be used for both the Food Pantry and the Friday Lunch Program. The number of families using the Pantry has more than doubled during this pandemic. The Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. Their plan is to continue with the lunch program on Fridays for as long as possible. Anyone interested in making lunches, donating supplies or monetary donations, please email Kathy Logan, the director of Bridges at the Shore. lathy0731@aol.com

Take Action

by Erin Wheeler and Chiarina Guzik

We hope you and your family are staying well during this chaotic time. Below are some updates and take action items. Links are provided so that you can easily take action or learn more about a topic that will impact public education here in NJ.

NJ State issues:

Chapter 78 & ESP bills, which would provide a million dollars of relief to tax payers as well as relief to members, have **not** been passed. Urge your Assembly representatives to pass this bill. Send them an email [here](#).

The **primary election** in NJ has been moved to **July 7**. Anyone who is a registered Democrat or Republican will receive a mail in ballot. For additional information about vote by mail go [here](#).

Federal issues:

Congressional District 4 screening on July 14 - Chris Smith (Rep) and primary winning Democrat.

Congressional District 6 – Frank Pallone is a friendly incumbent and has been endorsed.

Don't forget to complete the **census**. You can complete it online by going [here](#).

Urge Congress to include equitable relief for **all** student loan borrowers by going to [here](#).

Heroes Act – a proposed \$3 trillion package that would provide additional **education** funding, state and local aid, a second round of stimulus checks, meals assistance and Medicaid funding. Stay tuned.

Smart Act – Bipartisan legislation by Senator Menendez (NJ) & Senator Cassidy (LA) that would bring \$500 billion in emergency funding to every state and prioritize the states with the most need. Stay tuned.

Hope you have a relaxing and restful summer break. Get ready for an eventful election season this fall!

NEW JERSEY'S ELECTIONS: COVID-19 RESPONSE

Understanding Governor Murphy's Executive Order #144 regarding the upcoming July 7th Primary. Visit LWVNJ.org to learn more!

<h3>AUTOMATIC VOTE-BY-MAIL</h3> <p>All active registered Republican and Democratic voters will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot. A pre-paid postage return envelope will be included. All unaffiliated voters and inactive Republican and Democratic voters will receive a postage-paid vote-by-mail application.</p>	<h3>DEADLINES</h3> <p>Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before July 7 (Election Day) and must be received by the County Board of Elections by July 14.</p>	<h3>DROP BOX LOCATIONS</h3> <p>To the extent possible, there will be at least 5 readily accessible secure ballot drop box locations per county.</p>
<h3>NO SAMPLE BALLOTS</h3> <p>Voters will not receive sample ballots, but will receive notification of their polling locations.</p>	<h3>POLLING PLACES</h3> <p>A minimum of 1 polling location per municipality will be available and each county will open a minimum of 50% of its polling places (provided that sufficient poll workers are available). CDC guidelines for polling place safety and sanitation will be followed. Voters cannot return voted vote-by-mail ballots to polling places.</p>	<h3>PROVISIONAL BALLOTS</h3> <p>Voters who vote at polling places will vote using a provisional ballot. Voters with disabilities may vote on ADA-accessible voting machines.</p>

MCEA Provides Virtual Training

by Tracie Yostpille



Hello Monmouth County Members. I hope you are well and safely socially distancing. Educators and support professionals find themselves reinventing instruction as we moved to remotely teach and support our students. We find ourselves in constant search of tools that will allow for connection to our students, delivery of instruction, resources for lessons, and ease of use. The Monmouth County Education Association is trying to help by providing virtual trainings on some useful digital platforms. We conducted live virtual trainings on Google Classroom and Screencastify. The trainings were well attended and meaningful because they are conducted by NJEA PD consultants who are current educators or retired educators. PD certificates are issued to attendees through the NJEA Website in the Professional Development Portfolio for everyone who attends the session. The Screencastify PD Session had over 70 Monmouth County members in attendance.

NJEA leadership met virtually with Mike Ritzius, Associate Director of Professional Development, to develop our MCEA PD offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. We have planned monthly PD sessions that can be delivered virtually or held in the MCEA office if it is permitted. We developed a comprehensive selection of trainings that will be helpful to our members during this “new normal” of education.

NJEA is also providing digital trainings for members on the NJEA.org website. The trainings are on topics that range from remote educational instruction supports, to Pride Month topics, to social emotional learning supports, to open topic happy hours. Click on the link below to see if there is something you are interested in virtually attending. [NJEA LEARNING](#)

Many of our Monmouth County members are concerned about what leaves of absence are available to them if they or someone they care for tests positive for Covid-19. I made a Screencastify video to assist you with what options you have if you need to take a leave of absence due to the virus. The document I’m referring to in the Screencastify video can be found by clicking the following link. [Covid-19 Document](#)

Feel free to share the video below if you find it helpful. [Covid-19 Scenarios and Benefits Available](#)

I made a second Screencastify video to help you find the Covid-19 resources available to you on NJEA.org. NJEA has compiled FAQ’s and legal opinions on Covid-19 related issues. They have also compiled social emotion resources for our members because we recognize the struggles we all face on a daily basis.

The Screencastify video below shows you what is available to you and how to find the Covid-19 resources on NJEA.org. Again, feel free to share the video if you find it helpful. [NJEA.org Covid-19 Resources](#)

In closing, the MCEA is here to support you as you close your school year. We are also actively planning support for our next school year whatever it looks like. Please take time to access the available sessions. Wishing you and your families good health during this difficult time.

Pride Events



Gail Maher, Treasurer, Diane Vistein, Pride Chairperson, Denise King, President, and Sue Shrott and Debbie Adamchak, MCREA Members, distribute books during a Read Across America event sponsored by the Monmouth County Education Association at IPlay America February 29, 2020.



Monmouth County Education Association members march in the Belmar St. Patrick’s Day Parade March 1.