

President's Message

Colleagues,

We are coming to the end of a very busy summer for some of our Association members. Laura Higley and I were in Washington DC for the National Education Association Representative Assembly, where we voted on Association policy that will affect all of our members. Before our 6-day conference, we were able to do some sightseeing. It was a moving experience to be able to celebrate July 4th in our Nation's Capital. At the conference, itself, we were fortunate to not only have Vice President Biden as a guest speaker, but to have a phone-in conference with President Obama. It was an exhilarating moment when our Country's President greeted the assembly!

Members also attended the NJEA Summer Leadership Conference in East Brunswick, where we participated in workshops on Evaluation, Negotiations, and Organizing, to name a few. We are anxious to share what we've learned, and, in fact, we have been meeting with the new Superintendent to collaborate on the new evaluation procedures. Per the new legislation, your Association is working closely with the Administration in order to select teachers for the "School Improvement Panels" in each building.

Additionally, the Association Evaluation Committee welcomes members who are interested in participating in the process. Please contact me via my home e-mail: jbrensi@optonline.net, if you would like to be involved.

We are excited to be involved with a great deal of Association activities in the upcoming year.

To that end, we need members from each building to take a turn at our booth at the Pequannock Ho-Down on September 15. Please email PRIDE chairperson, Karen Schiffel, for information. I look forward to seeing you at our Pride events and Association Socials. Please check our schedule of events in this issue of Chalkboard.

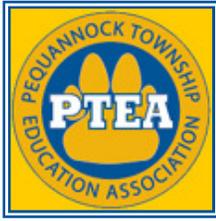
Lee Ann (PTHS)

Vice President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we prepare to begin the 2012-2013 school year, I would like to thank each of you who, since last Spring, have so generously pledged a contribution (or donated outright) to the PTEA Philanthropic Fund. Helene Zablocki (PTHS) and I appreciate the support from so many members – teachers and ESP's – who believe that our awarding of scholarships to graduating seniors is an initiative that needs to continue. We are still accepting donations. Please contact Helene or me if you would like a payroll deduction form in order to contribute as little as one dollar a pay period. If you've already signed up for payroll deductions, they will begin with the September 15 pay period. Of course, we will gladly accept cash or a check made out to PTEA Philanthropic Fund. 100% of your contribution is tax deductible. A member who sent me a check this summer commented on how helpful the scholarship was for her own family when her child graduated. There will be fund raisers this year to support this account – thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

In August, I was proud to once again participate in NJEA Summer Leadership



training. The information I learned will hopefully prove invaluable as we maneuver through bargaining, a new tenure law, a new evaluation procedure and untold other realities of our work. I am always interested in hearing your perspectives and working with all of you and the administration on providing our students with the best possible education. Enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

Negotiations

Ann Marie Finnen and Helene Zablocki attended a three-day workshop on Advanced Bargaining during the Summer Leadership Conference sponsored by NJEA. The entire team will be meeting in late August to prepare proposals for negotiations. In early fall, the membership will fill out questionnaires to assist the team with prioritizing items. In addition, informational workshops about the negotiations process will take place in each building during the fall. Check the MAC board in faculty rooms and future Chalkboard messages for more details.

The 2012-2013 year is the last year of the existing contract. We will sit down with the Board of Education's team to plan a successor agreement that will take effect after June 30, 2013. Because of legislative changes that impact health costs, and increases to the pension and budget caps, it is essential that members understand the issues facing public education and contract bargaining.

Helene Zablocki (PTHS)

PTEA Evaluation Committee

As you know, your PTEA has formed an evaluation committee to collaborate with the administration on the implementation of our new evaluation system and to inform and advise our members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact PTEA President, Lee Ann Brensinger. Details about the Tenure and Evaluation Bill that was signed into Law by Governor Christie on August 6 are available on the legislative page of our website, www.pequannockea.wordpress.com as well as on www.njea.org.

Join us on Facebook!

Don't forget to look for us on our private Facebook page! You must have a Facebook account to become a member. Search 'Pequannock Township Education Association', send a friend request, and wait for an approval. You can easily read hot topics, announcements, and join/start a conversation with colleagues.

This is a great way to stay in contact from building to building!

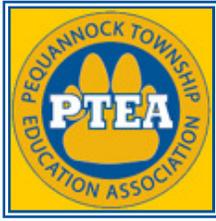
PTEA Officers

Lee Ann Brensinger, President
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Ann Marie Finnen, Vice President
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Jeri Asaro, Treasurer
jthreejs@optimum.net

Sue Berardinelli, Secretary
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Tuition Reimbursement/Graduate Credit Reminders:

If you are requesting movement across the salary guide as a result of graduate work, your transcript is due to the Board Office by September 1 in order to have the move take effect in September. Remember that all courses, whether or not the district reimburses you for them, must be approved by the Superintendent in order to qualify for movement.

If you were approved for reimbursement for the Fall semester, but have decided not to take the course, please notify the Board office immediately so those funds can be allocated for someone else.

Help share positive news about our schools!

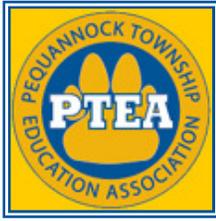
We are putting together a list of accomplishments of our students and staff to help demonstrate the excellence of our public schools. Please email Ann Marie Finnen with any exciting information you can share about recent achievements, successes and/or positive activities in which you are involved. She will compile them into a flyer to distribute to parents. Your PTEA also plans to share information like this throughout the year at BOE meetings.

Upcoming Dates

September 6 – Rep Council
September 11 – PTHS Back to School Night
September 12 – PV Back to School Night
September 13 – SJG Back to School Night
September 19 – NB Back to School Night
September 20 – HV Back to School Night
October 1 – New Member Welcome
October 10 – Rep Council
October 25 – Member Benefits Fair/
General Membership Meeting

Pequannock Township Ho-Down

Our community's annual Ho-Down is scheduled for September 15 (raindate – September 16). Once again our PRIDE committee, led by Karen Schiffel (SJG) will host a table for PTEA members to greet parents and students and to hand out apples **from** the teachers. We will also have information available about our schools and other PTEA PRIDE events, as well as an estimation game for students with hourly prizes. Please save the date, and contact Karen as soon as possible if you can commit to being at the booth for an hour. We need representatives from each school. If you are not available to help on that day, perhaps you can assist with assembling a photographic display (poster or book) that shows our great staff members and students at work and play. This is an excellent opportunity for community outreach, and it promises to be a fun-filled day.



Thank you to following PTEA members (and business) for their generous contributions to the PTEA Philanthropic Fund:

Jenna Berkowitz (HV)
Priscilla Brown (HV)
Mary Raczko (HV)
Marie Raimondo (HV)
Bill Vivino (HV)
Lisa Warner (HV)
Kristin Zerden (HV)

Mary Anne Abazia (NB)
Jamie Dean (NB)
Cathy Furia (NB)
Terrie Horgan (NB)
Michele Rubino (NB)
Leslie Ulrich (NB)

Sue Berardinelli (PTHS)
Peggy Bionde (PTHS)
Lee Ann Brensinger (PTHS)
Eileen Ciavarella (PTHS)
Betsy Crocker (PTHS)
Pat Dean (PTHS)
Joanne Egan (PTHS)
Julia Goodson (PTHS)
Laura Higley (PTHS)
Megan Petrucelli (PTHS)
Helene Zablocki (PTHS)

Jeri Asaro (PV)
Kathleen Bionde (PV)
Lillian Keating (PV)
Dale Schoenig (PV)
Mary Shemeyko (PV)
Patty Walker (PV)

Sally Belmont (SJG)
Kristin Carr (SJG)
Sarah Diver (SJG)
Cathy Donato (SJG)
Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)
Donna Madison (SJG)
Courtney Mangarelli (SJG)
Fran Mehnert (SJG)
Nancy Mugan (SJG)
Dianne Pasquino (SJG)
Karen Schiffel (SJG)
Amanda Schlesinger (SJG)
Deirdre Schmitt (SJG)
Helga Shenton (SJG)
Diane Wolfe (SJG)
American Carbide Company-
(Husband of Fran Mehnert: SJG)