



Pequannock Township Education Association



CHALKBOARD

June 2010

~President's Message~

Happy June!

Although I have often longed for the warmth of summer, I am stunned that June is here! As we wind down to prepare for the end of the school year, I invite us all to reflect on our successes in the past ten months. My wish is that we may all begin the summer with a sense of accomplishment, and satisfaction in a job well done.

Several of your colleagues attended the May 22 Rally in Trenton to protest Governor Christie's budget cuts to public services in the state. We were among over 35,000 singing, chanting, sign-waving, peaceful protesters: I felt like we were part of history in the making!

A number of your Association Representatives are attending the Summer Leadership Conference in August, at the Hilton in East Brunswick, so they may continue in their training to advocate for our members. I will also be attending the Conference, to obtain further training in Legal Issues. Prior to that, I will be at a week-long session sponsored by NJEA, to study the history of advocacy and labor organization.

I encourage you, too, to take advantage of any summer workshops and learning opportunities offered by the Morris County Council of Education Associations, NJEA, or of your own professional organizations.

Most importantly, I encourage you to relax.

Colleagues, have a safe and healthy summer. Recharge your batteries and renew your energies. September is around the corner!

Lee Ann

~Negotiations~

Helene Zablocki (PTHS)

The PTEA negotiations team met with the Board's team on May 12, 2010. After more than three hours of talks, some progress was made and we agreed on several issues. We meet again on June 16th and hope to address other important points and continue to move forward towards an agreement.

~Grievance~

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

The Association and the Board of Education have reached a tentative agreement in the Vacation Days Grievance. If finalized, it would provide payment to the member in question for the vacation days he was denied.

Please remember that the first step in a grievance is always an informal discussion with your administrator. If you are unsure of whether or not your contractual rights have been violated, or if you need guidance on how to proceed, immediately contact your Association Representative or Pat Dean (PTHS) or Ann Marie Finnen (SJG).

This August, your Grievance Chair will attend NJEA summer leadership and receive training in Advanced Legal Issues.

~PRIDE~

Karen Schiffel (SJG) and Jamie Dean (NB)

Our PRIDE is showing! Let's KEEP it GROWING!

Through PRIDE, a Public Education campaign, NJEA provides grants to bring together our community and share public education successes. Building strong community support and highlighting our students' achievements only helps to enhance positive ongoing relationships for all involved.

A sampling of this year's activities supported in part by our PRIDE campaign is as follows:

- Greenview Park Ho-Down
- Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
- Stephen J. Gerace's Veterans' Day Celebration
- Full page High School Yearbook Advertisement
- Our Neighbor's at Hearle Village SJG Holiday Concert
- Friends of Education Dinner
- PTEA Website
- Dr. Seuss Read Across America
- Run for Marge
- Morris County Poster Contest

Projects are presently in the works for next year. If you have a PRIDE idea, please contact either myself or Jamie Dean. The deadline for projects to be considered is JUNE 15th.

Let's share the GOOD NEWS!

~Publicity~

Amanda Schlesinger (SJG)

Beginning next school year, Chalkboard will be sent to you digitally via your personal email. I would like to thank all the Association Representatives for collecting personal addresses from our members to help begin this PTEA "Green" initiative. If you chose not to share your personal email address with the PTEA, a hard copy of Chalkboard will be made available to you.

~Teachers of the Year~

Congratulations to the following teachers for being named Pequannock Township's Teachers of the Year:

David Claeys - Pequannock Township High School

Traci Shikhman - Pequannock Valley Middle School

Anne Meyers - Hillview Elementary School

Yvette McBain - North Boulevard Elementary School

Lauren Newton - Stephen J. Gerace Elementary School

Special congratulations to Pequannock Township's District Teacher of the Year, **Yvette McBain**, who was also named the 2010 Morris County Teacher of the Year.

~Scholarships~

The PTEA Scholarships are funded by the interest earned from members who participate in the summer payment plan, **not our dues**. This year, we awarded over \$8,000! Thanks to all who are part of this plan-- it enables the PTEA to award scholarships to PTHS seniors every year.

PTEA Scholarships of \$750 each:

Jessica Blossfeld
Donovan Horwath
Taylor Macchiarelli
Margaret Mary Ochner
Angelo Pasquino
Erin Quinn

John M. Murphy Memorial Scholarship \$1,200: Alexandra Brown

George Maginness Memorial Scholarship \$1,200: Michael Legregni

Winifred Tarakajian Memorial Scholarship \$1,200: Jessica Moloughney

~Member News~

Russ Irving, a teacher in the Social Studies department at PTHS has been awarded two fellowships for study this summer. One is through the Teaching East Asia program at the University of Colorado and will concern Modern China. The second is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Foundation at George Washington University and will concern U.S. China relations. Congratulations Russ!

HAVE A VERY RELAXING SUMMER!