



## President's Message

Colleagues,

Here we are, just steps away from Thanksgiving. If you're like me, you are looking forward to some well-deserved rest. I love my students, and my classroom, but I'm struggling to keep up with the mounds of paperwork.

I'm going to ask you, however, to take on some more paperwork; please make sure that you continue to keep a written personal record of your observations and evaluations. As I've said before, we should all be active in our evaluations. We can no longer be passive participants.

To that end, I recommend that you take thorough notes after every observation. Take time to jot down what transpired during the visit, even if seems trivial. It's important, because if there is ever a discrepancy, you will have something in writing, that day. Such evidence will be important should you ever need to formally argue your case.

We should also actively participate in our professional development. While we are no longer able to drive the professional development in the district, we are able to choose the PD we attend on our own time.

On November 6 and 7, the NJEA will host the largest educational gathering of its kind, anywhere in the world: the NJEA Convention. Along with a convention floor full of vendor displays of all kinds, this year's Convention hosts speakers like Pasi Sahlberg, a Finnish educator and scholar and Grant Wiggins, the co-author of *Understanding By Design*. This year's High Tech Hall on the Convention Floor will be

bigger than ever. Most importantly, the convention features almost 300 seminars, workshops and programs, including offerings in ESP career development. For \$20, MCCEA is offering a bus ride there and back on Thursday, November 6. Coffee and snacks are included. Please see your AR, or the county website for details -

<http://mccea.com/event/bus-to-njea-convention-2/>

Also on Thursday is the County hospitality suite from 3:30 – 5:30pm at the Sheraton Hotel Convention Center Crown Ballroom. There is a free buffet meal and a cash bar, no reservations required.

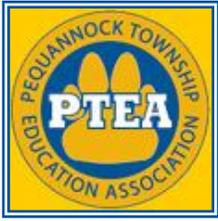
Now, more than ever, we need to take charge of our profession. Being active in our evaluations and our professional development are excellent ways to do so.

I hope to see all of you at the Convention in Atlantic City next week.

Sincerely,  
*Lee Ann*

## Vice President's Message

Our newly formed Scholarship Committee met this month to review criteria for PTEA Scholarships. A report will be given at our general membership meeting. Our philanthropic fund is mainly supported by member donations. We have planned several fund raising activities, and hope all members will participate when possible. Currently only about 10% of members are signed up for payroll deductions. Remember this is a simple, relatively painless way to contribute to our scholarship account. If you'd like a form – just contact me at SJG; I will also have plenty available at the Member Benefits Fair. My goal for this school year is to get our percentage up to 25% of all



members. You can contribute as little as \$1 a paycheck.

All apparel orders will be delivered to the buildings by November 3. Yankee candle orders will be delivered by November 12. Remember you can order online at [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) through December. Just enter our code 990064263. New items have been added for the holidays.

I hope to see you all at our Member Benefits Fair on November 20, and at our next PTEA Night at Sunset Pub and Grill on Wednesday, December 3.

Sincerely,  
*Ann Marie*

## General Membership Meeting and Member Benefits Fair!

Please make plans to attend this event on Thursday, November 20 at the Grand Chalet.

As we approach the date, a definite head count will be required. This year, there will be no guest speakers. After a short business meeting, you will have plenty of time to visit the many vendors who can help you save money and enjoy the benefits of your NJEA membership. A delicious buffet meal will be provided, and there will be plenty of prizes.

This event is free for all PTEA members!

## Friends of Education

All members will be receiving a nomination form for our annual Friends of Education Award. Please consider nominating a deserving community member or parent who has donated time and energy to our schools. Nominations will be due to our PRIDE Chair, Susan Flood, by December 15. Our celebration will be held in February.

## Proud of our Little League Teams!



Former PRIDE Chair, Karen Schiffel (SJG) was recently presented with plaques commemorating our PTEA sponsored Little League Baseball and Softball teams.

## Grievance Diane Wolfe (HV)

The Association filed a grievance because a disciplinary letter was improperly placed in a member's file. The letter has been removed.

If you have any questions about your contractual or legal rights, please contact Diane or an AR.



## Join us for PTEA night at SUNSET Pub & Grill!

(425 Beaverbrook Road, Lincoln Park)

## and help support the PTEA Philanthropic Fund.

10% of the day's proceeds will be donated to our scholarship fund for graduating seniors. Come for Happy Hour, dinner or both, or stop by for some take out. Plus, if you mention PTEA, you will receive a drink coupon good for your next visit!

The PTEA is grateful to Bob Egan, the owner of Sunset, for his generosity.

**Hope to see you there!**

Congratulations to our PTEA members who earned tenure this year:

Sarah Diver (HV)  
Elliot Honig (PTHS)  
Krista Lau-Munoz (PTHS)  
Adam Piccoli (PTHS)

**Congratulations  
on earning tenure!**

In 1909, New Jersey became the first state to pass tenure legislation when it granted fair-dismissal rights to educators. Tenure is vital to the protection of public education. It provides you with due process procedures that protect you from arbitrary discipline or political interference.

Ultimately, it gives your students the stability and consistency they need to **reach their full potential.**

## Instruction/Professional Development Denise Donch (PV)

Members are reminded that all evaluations must be signed at the post conference even if the teacher plans on writing an objection to the evaluation (also known as "reflection piece") Teachers should sign the evaluation and include the following statement: A written objection will be forthcoming by \_\_\_\_\_ date (within 10 teaching days).

Teachers should send the final objection/reflection piece via email to the administrator so they have a record of sending it. They can follow up with a hard copy as well.

Lastly, teachers are encouraged to seek help from the SciP member of their building if they need help writing the objection/reflection piece. Teachers should be visiting the teachscape platform to assist in reviewing the domains for their write up. Here is the website: <http://login.teachscape.com> The username is your email address. Passwords will be the one you established when the account was activated. If you have misplaced your password, you can reset it by clicking the 'Forgot password' link on the login page and following the directions.

Additionally, teachers should visit the NJEA website [https://www.njea.org/njea-media/pdf/NavigatingAchieveNJ\\_RebuttalTips.pdf?1410190355741](https://www.njea.org/njea-media/pdf/NavigatingAchieveNJ_RebuttalTips.pdf?1410190355741) for tips on rebuttal writing.



### **Important PD Websites:**

1. There is a PD Calendar on the Pequannock Website under Teacher Portal that lists PD opportunities.
2. Morris County Council of Education Association, [www.mccea.com](http://www.mccea.com)
3. State website to locate PD requirements, <http://www.state.nj.us/education/profdev/>
4. Bergen County Etc, [www.bergen.org/ettc](http://www.bergen.org/ettc)
5. State website to locate PD opportunities, <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/> (hit calendar of events in lower right corner to see upcoming PD workshops)



### **Legislative Update**

Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. The NJEA endorsed candidate for the Eleventh Congressional District is Mark Dunec (D). Cory Booker has been endorsed in his candidacy for the United States Senate. Please remember to exercise your democratic right to vote and consider casting your ballots for these gentlemen. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



### **Upcoming Dates**

**Nov 4** – Election Day

**Nov 6-7** – NJEA Convention; Atlantic City  
MCCEA Hospitality Suite, Thurs, 3:30  
Sheraton Hotel Convention Center

**Nov 12** – PTEA Rep Council, SJG

**Nov 13** – MCCEA ScIP Workshop  
Zeris Inn, 4:30-6:30;

RSVP to county office 973-366-0202

**Nov 20** – General Membership Meeting/  
Member Benefits Fair  
Grand Chalet; 3:15 p.m.

**Dec 3** – PTEA Night  
Sunset Pub and Grill