



President's Message

A large part of me wishes the summer would never end. Who wouldn't want to continue spending lazy days at the beach or the lake and endless evenings enjoying family and BBQ? Then I get excited for the new year as I remember what it is that we do: We. Impact. Lives!

Every single one of us touches the life of a child. Whether we stand in front of a classroom or repair a heating unit; whether we comfort a child in the lunch room, or keep them safe on the bus - we have the potential to be a defining presence in a child's life. Next to caretakers, the staff in a school can have the greatest impact on a child. This important time should not be dominated by standardized testing and test prep.

Many educators and parents, and an increasing amount of legislators are concerned about the amount of classroom time that is devoted to testing. Various organizations and groups are working toward change. Your new NEA president, Lily Garcia, is committed to this cause, as well. In Denver this summer, your NEA Delegate Assembly representatives, Patty Walker and I, voted with the assembly to take steps to remove the culture of "toxic testing" from our schools.

Your PTEA has brochures and other literature which outline the issues surrounding standardized testing. These materials are available on our website, and will soon be available on our new, public Facebook page. We also hope to arrange for teachers, parents and community members to attend a viewing of the movie "Standardized" - a tough look at the culture of standardized testing. Together with parents and the community, we can work to preserve the authentic learning experiences that allow our children to soar. We can celebrate

creativity and encourage music and art and the enjoyment of literature. As educators, we understand how important we are to the children in Pequannock. We know that we can give them the tools to succeed, and that not all their successes can be measured on a multiple-choice test.

I'm proud of who we are and of what we do. I'm proud we are united to insure the children in Pequannock receive the best possible education. I'm proud that together, we are the Pequannock Township Education Association.

Lee Ann

Vice President's Message

Welcome back, colleagues! In many ways, it feels like we never left. Your PTEA has been busy this summer – planning, advocating, receiving invaluable training, and preparing for another school year that promises to be as challenging and as rewarding as ever. I know that many of you have also been hard at work since June and, as a parent of two PTHS students. I thank you for your dedication and commitment to the art of teaching. You are public servants who deserve the utmost respect from the public. It saddens and angers me to witness attacks on our profession, on our union, and on our outstanding NJ public school system. At the same time I am grateful to live in this community that is supportive of our work, and I am grateful for my fellow PTEA officers and AR's who stand up and fight for what is right. I wish all of you a wonderful, inspiring school year.

Ann Marie



Fall Apparel Sale

If you would like to purchase apparel with our PTEA logo, an order form will be in your mailbox this week, or you can find it on our website www.pequannocktownshipea.org and on our closed Facebook page. Orders are due to Ann Marie Finnen at SJG by September 25.

They will be delivered by the last week in October. If you have an item you would like embroidered, bring it to Initial Encounter in Pequannock and ask for our PTEA logo!

Negotiations

Josh Danziger (PV), Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

We are proud to serve as your Negotiations Co-Chairs. We both recently received invaluable training at NJEA's Summer Leadership Conference, and we will continue to attend workshops and stay abreast of the current trends and legislative changes that affect bargaining. This school year, Josh will be leading informational sessions for all members in each building. These sessions will provide an opportunity for you to learn about the negotiations process and salary guides, as well as to voice your opinion about what matters most to you regarding the new negotiations in 2015-2016. Stay tuned in your buildings for announcements about when you can meet with Josh and become informed about this crucial benefit of your membership. All PTEA members are welcome to attend.

On January 16, 2015, all twelve month employees who began work on or before this past July 1 will move to the next salary guide in our agreement. Similarly, in February, all ten month employees who were employed on September 1 of this year will also move to the next guide. If you have any questions about this or any other negotiations issue, do not hesitate to reach out to Ann Marie or Josh. We are always happy to answer any and all questions.

Philanthropic Account

Ann Marie Finnen (SJG)

We are signed up with Yankee Candle for their Fall/Winter Sale. Our Philanthropic Fund will receive a generous 40% of all purchases made either through the catalog or online at www.yankeefundraising.com. If you order online, make sure to enter our Group Number – 990064263. Shipping is free when you order from the catalog, or spend \$100 online. The current sale includes great items for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, plus many other products. All profit from this sale will go directly to our scholarship fund. If you would like a catalog, please contact me or your AR. Catalog orders are due by October 10. Online ordering will be open through December.

Currently, approximately 15% of PTEA members are signed up for payroll deductions to benefit our scholarship fund. I have set a goal of 25% for this year. Please contact me at SJG and I can answer any questions you may have about this easy, relatively painless way to support your PTEA's philanthropic endeavors. We welcome contributions at any time and truly appreciate your generosity. This year, your rep council will be reviewing our scholarship criteria and eligibility requirements. We welcome all input.

Welcome and thank you to our new AR's and Committee Chairs:

Keith Brady (PTHS) – AR
Ellen Italiano (PV) – AR
Leslie Ulrich (NB) – AR
Dana Vuola (NB) – AR
Jen Fairweather (SJG) - AR
Susan Flood (PV) – PRIDE Chair
Diane Wolfe (HV) – Grievance Chair
Denise Donch (PV) – PD Chair



Township Hoedown

Pequannock's annual Hoedown is scheduled for Saturday, September 20. Each year your PTEA sponsors a table at this community event. PRIDE Chair Susan Flood (PV) is looking for several members from each building to man the table for one hour, greet children and their parents, and give out goodies, including apples **from** the teachers! Please contact Susan if you can spare an hour, and we hope to see many PTEA members enjoying the festivities throughout the day.

We will be distributing flyers listing many of our schools' and teachers' recent accomplishments. If you have good news to share – about yourself, your students, a team or club, or anything else from your school – please forward that information to Ann Marie Finnen, so that it can be included in the flyer. Let's make sure everyone knows about all the great things that are happening in our public schools.

Join us on Facebook!

Don't forget to join our private Facebook group! 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 read about hot topics, announcements, or join in a conversation with colleagues. This is a great way to stay in contact from building to building! We also recently started a public PRIDE Facebook page. Ask to join and help share the good news about our public schools, by inviting parents, friends and your family members to do the same.

Click on the link below to get started!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152572778089142/>

What did you do this summer?



Diane Wolfe (HV) and Janelle Heise (PV) supporting our NJEA colleagues at the Rally for a Better Belleville

Leave Requests

If you are planning on requesting a maternity leave or other medical leave for yourself or to care for a newborn or family member, please contact Vice President Ann Marie Finnen. Our NJEA Uniserv rep, Vickie Walsh, will also review letters to insure members are receiving the leave to which they are entitled.

New Member Welcome

All new PTEA members are cordially invited to a welcome reception on September 25 in the high school Library/Media Center. Light refreshments will be served, and you will have an opportunity to relax with your colleagues and meet the Representative Council of your PTEA. Please RSVP to

Sue Berardinelli (PTHS)

Hope to see you there!



Evaluations

In compliance with AchieveNJ, the district has assembled a committee to oversee evaluations and professional development in each building. The School Improvement Panels are comprised of building administrators and teaching staff members. The building teacher members of the ScIP will not only work with the building administrators to determine appropriate professional development, but will also act as evaluation advocates for staff members. Our teacher members of the ScIP receive training to assist members as they navigate their observations and evaluations, and to help them to craft observation reflections they can include in their files.

Your PTEA teacher representatives on the ScIP's are:

Patty O'Hara – HV
Karen Rusiniak – NB
Ann Marie Finnen – SJG
Denise Donch – PV
Victoria Bonaccorso – PTHS

We thank them for their service and commitment to our membership.



SAVE THE DATE!

We will hold our Third Annual **PTEA Picnic** on **Saturday, October 12 from 1:30-4:30**. Once again this year, entertainment will be provided by our very own "Gary Evans and The Moondogs." Bring your whole family to Greenview Park. They'll be face painting and pumpkins for the kids, and hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks provided by PTEA. Each school will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Come enjoy an afternoon among friends and colleagues. Price will be \$10 for your entire family. Your AR's will be distributing flyers and ticket forms soon.

Upcoming Dates

Sept 18 – PTEA Rep Council, PTHS

Sept 20 – Pequannock Hoedown
Greenview Park

Sept 22 – Fall Focus, Zeris Inn
Contact Lee Ann to attend

Sept 25 – New Member Welcome
PTHS Library/Media Center

Sept 25 - Apparel order deadline

Sept 30 – MCCEA workshop:
SGO's Next Generation
Zeris Inn, 4:30-6:30;

RSVP to county office 973-366-0202

Oct 9 – PTEA Rep Council, PV

Oct 12 – Fall Picnic,
Greenview Park

TBD – General Membership/
Member Benefits Fair
(Stay tuned for this date and venue)