



President's Message

By now, I hope you've gotten the many pieces of information we've sent out regarding the fight to fund our pensions.

Local Associations throughout the state are working to make sure all of us are not only aware of the issue, but that we all take the time to become activists, ourselves. After all, it's our pensions that are at stake!

Join us at the Trenton lobby day on June 25, or grab a colleague and go on the 29th, or, if you can't make it to Trenton, visit <http://fundnjpension.org/> to see how you can get involved. There are excellent resources for you to use if you choose to speak with legislators or even if you need talking points for family and friends.

Check your home emails during the summer for information and for possible calls to action as we work to insure that the legislature follows the law, and forces the State to make their pension contributions.

Although this is a fight we must continue through the summer, I hope you are all able to spend some time to relax, recharge and rejuvenate.

I wish you all a wonderful break.

Lee Ann



"I Meant To Do My Work Today"

by Richard LeGallienne

*I meant to do my work today,
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.
And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand,
So what could I do but laugh and go?*

Are you receiving our email blasts?

If you haven't been receiving Chalkboard and periodic emails from your PTEA via email, please contact Lee Ann Brensinger, jbrensi@optonline.net to make sure we have your correct home email address. Also if you are on Facebook, please search for and request to join our closed PTEA Group page to stay informed about the latest events.



Vice President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Once again we've completed a school year. We've worked together, sometimes against all odds, to provide an outstanding education for the children of Pequannock. As a parent and a teacher, I continue to be inspired by your tireless efforts and your obvious dedication to our schools.

Whether you plan engaging lessons, assist struggling students with difficult concepts, keep our offices, buildings and computers running efficiently, or drive our children to school – you do everything with professionalism, expertise and a strong commitment to doing the best job possible. For that, I thank you.

Thank you also for the many ways each of you supported our Philanthropic Fund this past year. In May we awarded \$5700 in scholarships. I know that without your generosity throughout the year, we would never be able to help so many deserving students and I hope your kindness is returned to you tenfold.

One of the many messages of thanks your PTEA received included "My work ethic is rigorous and successful thanks to the dedication my teachers instilled in me. I realize that you had a difficult choice to make when reviewing applicants . . . you have eased my financial burden,

permitting me to now focus primarily on the most important aspect of college: learning."

Your PTEA leadership will work this summer (in between periods of rest and relaxation!) in order to help all members start the year ready to focus on our primary responsibility – educating the children who are our future. Enjoy this much deserved break, and reach out to us at any time with questions or concerns.

Ann Marie

Pequannock Street Fair

We had a great time at the Street Fair - giving out gifts and cold water, and sharing the good news about Pequannock Public Schools! Thank you to all who contributed photos and information for our flyers and to the following members who donated time to man our booth: Eileen Ciavarella (SJG), Jackie Griffith (SJG), Patty Sedran (HV), Charlene Valero (NB), Janelle Heise (PV), Susan Flood (PV) and Angela Kohle (PTHS).





Grievance

Diane Wolfe

2014-2015 Summary

One grievance is currently pending: a staff member was docked for taking a personal day.

We have managed to work out all others in house:

A teacher was denied movement on the guide because of a law changing. These classes were preapproved & paid for by the district. The teacher has now been appropriately moved.

A Wilson Reading graduate class that was not preapproved has been negotiated for 6 out of 9 credits.

A disciplinary letter placed in a staff members file has been removed.

A staff member that was directed to go on a class trip that extended past the regular school day was refused payment on the grounds of lack of prior approval. That staff member will now be paid.

A staff member that was not given adequate space to plan according to Article 17 now has been given adequate space.

Please urge our members to seek advice from an AR if they are uncomfortable

with any requests or directives from administrators.

Rule of thumb... work first, then grieve.

When applying for approval for graduate classes, be prepared to advocate for yourself. Some members have had denials reversed.

IPD

Denise Donch

A district consultative meeting was held with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Minutes were shared with all consultative representatives that addressed any outstanding concerns for the year.

The DEAC (District Evaluation Advisory Committee) met and discussed the evaluation process and PD. Denise will be working with administration on updating the PD form. Evaluation updates will be shared at the beginning of the next school year.

ScIP positions are available and staff members are encouraged to apply. Please apply through AppliTrack and also send your letter of interest to Lee Ann at jbrensi@optonline.net. Denise's term as ScIP is complete. However, she will continue to coordinate ScIP communication with all the schools as well as with Rosalie.



Health Insurance Premium Sharing

As you know, our contributions towards health insurance premiums are mandated and determined by PL 2011, Chapter 78. Those of us who are phasing in the full amounts of Ch. 78 (because we were protected under our previous contract) will be entering Year 3 this July, or September for 10 month employees. The chart to the right lists the 2015 monthly premium costs for the various types of coverage under Direct 10. On our website are the percentage charts for Year 3 Contributions (and Year 4 for newer employees).

	<u>NJ Direct 10</u>
Single	\$851.78
Employee & Spouse/Partner	\$1,703.58
Family	\$2,342.40
Parent & Child	\$1,490.62

Unfortunately, for most of us our contributions will increase significantly in this next year of the phase in. Contact Ann Marie at amfinnen@optonline.net if you have any questions or concerns.

Congratulations all who are retiring this year!

Thank you for your many years of service to the children of Pequannock.

We wish you the best of luck as you begin this next phase of your life.

Lillian Keating

Karen Rusiniak

Fran Mehnert

Helga Shenton

Susan Weinman