



PEA Advocate



So, you would like to be the president of our association?

The position has gotten to be an extremely difficult as time has gone by. You can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but never both. Those who look at it as an ego trip should not apply.

Some members realize that the job is beyond their capabilities

and will not run. We have had few people who were willing to take the position and they have been open to criticism. Some of it is justified and some is not, but they have stepped up to take the position and accept what came with it.

When dealing with the board or superintendent, he or she has to know when to push hard and when to back off. Sometimes it is better to lose the battle and win the war. Strength of character and knowledge is important.

The person who takes the position of president of the Phillipsburg Education Association must try to ignore the criticism and be willing to listen to others. Taking criticism personally will be

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terproductive. He or she has to understand his strengths and weaknesses and accept assistance to compensate for those weaknesses.

He has to be a person who is willing to represent all of the members, not just a certain population. The president must also be totally visible, making himself available at all schools continually.

The job description that is listed in the PEA Constitution has to be followed. It is not something that can be done on a selective basis. It

was included to keep the president abreast of what is happening

on the county, state and national level.

The end result is that no matter who takes the position, he is going to be wrong or right and has to accept it. Strength of character is extremely important because it gives credibility to whatever he/she is doing.

Good people are hard to come by, so let them do their job and provide them with constructive criticism, advice and support that will help them and the association to

Why be a Teacher?

You really love working with kids and thoroughly enjoy the abuse you take from all the others who are involved in education.

Anna Gibbs Legislative Dinner

On Thursday, April 26, 2001, a combined legislative dinner will be held by the Warren County and Hunterdon County Education Associations at the Coach and Paddock in Pattenburg, NJ, just off Route 22.



The dinner will be to allow association members to meet with the state legislators from the local area, mainly in the 23rd Legislative District.

Phillipsburg is represented by State Senator William Schluter, Assemblyman Leonard Lance and Assemblywoman Connie Myers. Lance is of particular importance since he chairs the Budget Committee which has control over money. He has the say over changing the pension denominator from 60 to 55 by virtue of allowing or not allowing the bill to leave his



OFFICERS:

President: George Chilmonik High School	Vice-President: Barbara Alderfer Middle School	Treasurer: Burma Jo Bonano Middle School	Recording Secretary: Marilyn Shober Barber School	Corresponding Secretary: Debbie Carty Freeman School
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President's Letter

I want to thank all of you that have given me your support over the years and I will do my best to represent you and your interests. I know that John Pokrivchak has worked very hard to maintain our organization and we should all express our gratitude to him personally.

As PEA president, I want to assure you that I will enforce the contract and law so that your rights are not violated. We have some very serious issues to resolve and I will not compromise on the most important one, your health and safety.

Every contract will be negotiated during the next 12 months and our unity will be critical to ensure fair treatment. We must set aside our differences and become one during negotiations. I believe in showing respect, and respect means employers compensating employees fairly. A salary committee will be formed soon, followed by a negotiating team. I will need a lot of hard working people for these tasks.

We work with a diverse student population and I understand your frustrations in trying to be successful everyday. Every employee in the district is essential to our achieving our goals. I expect every employee to be treated with dignity and respect. I am proud to be our president and will work tenaciously for you. Thank you.

George

NJEA ELECTIONS

The Executive Committee of the Warren County Education Association has endorsed current NJEA Vice-President Edie Fulton for President and Michael Cohan for Secretary-Treasurer.

Congratulations to the new PEA officers!!!!

On Thursday, April 19, the PEA elected a new slate of officers to lead us for the next two years.

- +President George Chilmonik
High School
- +Vice-Pres. Barbara Alderfer
Middle School
- +Treasurer: Burma Jo Bonano
Middle School
- +Recording Sec. Marilyn Shober
Barber School
- +Corresponding Sec. Deb Carty
Freeman School



NJEA Secretary Treasurer Joyce Powell shows ESP program participants where to go for resources on the Web.

NJREA/NJEA/NEA Retired Membership Benefits

As a retired school employee, membership in NJREA/NJEA/NEA enables you to continue your membership benefits and participation:

- + NEA term insurance
- +Accidental death insurance
- +Homeowners and automobile insurance
- +NJEA Travel services
- +NJEA/NEA-R no-fee credit card program
- +Buyer's Edge Discount Buying

- plements and in-hospital plans
- +Magazine service
- +NJEA/NEA FDIC insured money market account
- +NEA Higher Education Loan Program
- +NEA Gold Certificate CD Program

You'll enjoy benefits you've had for years:

- +30% discount on legal fees through the NJEA attorney referral service
- +Discounts on contact lenses
- +Discounts at Great Adventure/Six Flags, Magic Kingdom, and other theme parks
- +NJEA and NEA publications
- +A special quarterly retirees' publication

- +A voice in association affairs
 - +Discounts on car rentals
- Additionally...you can attend special sessions for retirees at the NJEA and NEA conventions; the NJREA Convention in Atlantic City, and fall and spring NJREA luncheon meetings. County associations also hold monthly social and informal meetings.

Association Reps:

Andover-Morris:

Michelle Thatcher

Barber School:

Marilyn Shober

Custodians:

Robin Schofield

Freeman School:

Gail Barbadora

Green Street:

Linda Exley

Lili Mortimer

Victoria Trexler

High School:

Sue Brooks

George Chilmonik

C. Brad Howard

George Pavlinsky

Elaine Strahle

Middle School:

Jennifer DiBiase

Rick Rissmiller

Roseann Rohm

Mary Louise Sharpe

Secretaries:

Marguerite Scannell

Paraprofessionals:

Dolores Streader

Special Services:

S. Alexander/D. Hatch

