

PEA advocate

Volume #8 Issue #1 *Affiliated with Warren County, New Jersey and National Education Associations* September, 2002

Welcome Back PEA Members!

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY JULY 2-7, 2001

The NEA/RA was attended



by four PEA members. They were Barbara Alderfer, Mike Kruczek, Carol Mertz, and Doug

Mike Kruczek Morris.

Kruczek was the County Coordinator and Morris was the state contact representing NJEA to Montana .

This convention was extremely long and arduous. We started our days at 7:00am with the state caucus. We had an hour off before the RA started. Usually we ended around 6:00pm, until the last day which seemed to go on for every. NJEA leadership released us early, at midnight, with the gavel



Carol Mertz confronted

officially falling at 12:38am!

There were several major issues which

with the creation of a third organization, the NEAFT. The second dealt with forgiveness of a loan to Education Minnesota. The third was the NJEA new business item which would provide for accountability for any monies spent by the NEA in the new organization. The last was a resolution dealing with sexual

be explained by any one of the four delegates who attended the RA.

The second



Barbara Alderfer



issue was forgiveness of the remainder of a \$2.4 million dollar loan to Education Minnesota. Two years ago the Minnesota Education Association merged with the Minnesota Federation of Teachers before any merger guidelines were approved. The new organization, Education Minnesota, was charged with six months

orientation.

The issue of the NEAFT was put to a secret ballot and passed. The main reason the NJEA opposed the creation of the organization was that is an unnecessary union. The NEA, as has the NJEA, has participated with many coalitions to further the interests of education without formally joining them. Our leadership also felt that this was a precursor to a formal merger. NEA President, Bob Chase, vehemently denied this. There

dues. They wanted the dues money waived, but the new business item to do this was defeated by 141 votes out of 8,600 cast in a roll call vote. After having paid off \$800,00, yet another new business item was presented and this time it passed, after another roll call vote.

NJEA felt they should have paid the money since the merger occurred prior to guidelines



Doug Morris

OFFICERS:

President: George Chilonik High School	Vice-President: Barbara Alderfer Middle School	Treasurer: Burma Jo Bononno Middle School	Recording Secretary: Marilyn Shober Barber School	Corresponding Secretary: Debbie Carty Freeman School
---	---	--	--	---

ership had denied to the very end that the merger was imminent.

The third issue was passed with very little discussion. Our leadership felt there would be quite a bit of opposition because of making NEA financially accountable for the **NEAFT** partnership. The NBI stated that "the NEA Board of Directors were to develop and implement a procedure so that a proposed budget detailing NEA's projected expenditures for activities of the NEA-AFT partnership shall be

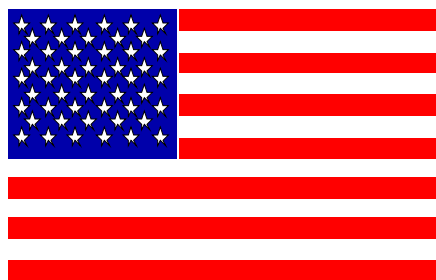


10 GREAT REASONS TO COMBINE LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

- *Increased numbers equal increased strength
- *Mutual goals become easier to achieve
- *Great diversity
- *Greater opportunity
- *Association workload is shared
- *Education opportunities for all members
- *Better representation
- *Increased financial resources
- *Eliminates districts ability to divide and conquer
- *Increased awareness and appreciation of the jobs we all do for education
- *Increased awareness and appreciation of the jobs we all do for education

the Board of Directors at its fall meeting and at each Representative Assembly meeting a report of actual monies expended, the source of those monies in the NEA program budget, and the partnership activities that were funded shall be distributed to the delegates." It appeared the NEA leadership would be opposed to the NBI, but the opposition never materialized.

The most controversial issue dealt with sexual orientation. This was in the form of a resolution (New B) that tried to find a way to address the needs of and the problems confronting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students and educational employees. With a tremendous amount of publicity, and even some protesters outside the convention center, it was eventually withdrawn by the Resolutions Committee, who called for a task force to look at the issues relating to sexual orientation in a "thorough and meaningful way." Bob Chase was very strong in his statement that this was not, in any way, backing off the issue because of fear or pressure from an outside group. He said it was a matter of



They say what doesn't kill us,
Only strengthens what remains.
And no one sees a rainbow
Without going through the rain
And whether that's still true today
Time will only tell.
'Cause now we face our darkest time,
The day the towers fell.

expanding the scope of inquiry. Chase also stated it was the "responsibility to our members and to our students to ensure that they teach and learn in a safe, supportive environment, and we fully intend to live up to that responsibility."

Another important event that occurred was the honoring of NJ State School Board President Maude Dahme at the annual Human Rights Awards Dinner. Dahme is a survivor of the Holocaust and has done much to educate the generations in this area. For this she was recognized along with others in the human rights areas.

You were well represented by your delegates. They took the time from their summers to journey to Los Angeles for the RA.

There were many other issues facing the RA, but these are some of the most significant. All others can be read in the latest *NEA Today* or discussed with any of the attending delegates.

Association Reps:

Andover-Morris:

Michelle Thatcher

Barber School:

Marilyn Shober

Custodians:

Robin Schofield

Freeman School:

Gail Barbadora

Green Street:

Linda Exley

Lil Mortimer

Karen Volkert

High School:

Sue Brooks

George Chiltonik

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

