



Dolores T. Corona GR Director Retires



On Sunday, January 13, high school teachers Sue Brooks, Mike Kruczek, Carol Mertz and

Doug Morris attended the retirement dinner for Dolores "Dee" Corona. She has been with the NJEA for thirty years, the last seventeen as Director of Government Relations. The affair was emceed by NJEA Executive Director Robert Bonazzi.

There were nearly five hundred people in attendance to honor Corona for her many years of service as a lobbyist for the teachers and students of New Jersey. Some of those who came to speak for her were Governor-Elect James McGrevey, Senator Robert Toricelli, State Senator Joseph Doria, NJEA President Edie Fulton, State Board of Education President Maud Dahme, former NEA Government Relations Director Mary Elizabeth Pacheco and several others. All of the speakers praised Corona for her honesty, integrity and tenacity.

It was an extremely enjoyable event for those who attended.

Jeannine LaRue has been appointed to be the new director of government relations replacing

Corona. LaRue will be in charge of the the organization's legislative and regulatory policy advocacy.



Pension enhancement bill for veterans and disabled signed into law

Veterans and disabled retirees can expect a nice increase in their pension in the very near future. On January 6, Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco signed S-2573 (Inverso/Asselta/Azzolina) into law.

Chapter 353 provides a 9% increase in retirement benefits for TPAF and PERS members who have retired or will retire under special veterans and disability retirements.

NJEA had argued for passage of this new law to bring veterans and disabled retirees in line with the same pension enhancement as was afforded TPAF and PERS service based retirements last summer under Chapter 133 P.L. 2001.

The new law is retroactive to October 1, 2001, the same date that service based retirees began accruing the increased retirement benefits under Chapter 133.

Aides Ratify Contract

The aides contract expired on June 30, 2001 and the new contract was finally ratified in January of 2002. the contract will run from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

Along with several language changes in the contract, there some major changes.

In the new contract, the aides will have three days added to their work year and will be paid for overtime, anytime worked over forty hours. In addition, they will get travel reimbursement for the the lesser of two distances to out of district sites (board office to site or home to site) and between buildings. Also there will be pay for sick leave (up to 37.5 days) and an additional family illness day giving them a total of two.

The increase in salary was seven percent spread over a twenty-seven step guide.

Sayonara!

I will be retiring on February 1, so this is my last newsletter after seven plus years. It has been a great pleasure putting it together and I appreciate the help I have received. Hopefully someone will come forward and continue with it to keep the association in front of the members.



Doug

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President's Coming Soon? Letter

Great Public Schools: Better Teacher Development, More Learning

Most educators agree: High quality professional development is vital to helping our



students achieve academic goals.

Once thought of as seminars, workshops and courses, professional development for today's teachers incorporates peer-to-peer learning in real life classroom situations.

With its Great Public Schools Initiative, the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) is making a long-term commitment to educational quality. This includes supporting teachers' participation in professional development programs that engage educators in extended, peer-to-peer research, planning and working initiatives. By collaborating with their colleagues on an ongoing basis, today's educators drive their professional development based on their own needs and the needs of the students.

To further the advancement of our state's teachers, we are seeking the opinion of corporate and business leaders. We'd like to know your ideas about how New Jersey schools can provide the kinds of ongoing training and development that today's teachers need in order to be on the cutting edge of educational advancement.

The NJEA created the NJEA Professional Development Institute in 1981 as a vehicle for promoting the professional interests of its

members. At the time, the Institute offered the latest in professional development for our state's teachers. Now NJEA is completely updating the Institute, expanding both its use of technology and its services to members, by merging the best professional development approaches from the education and business worlds.

For more information, or to respond, send an e-mail to BusinessFirst@NJEA.ORG, write to Ed Richardson at NJEA, PO Box 1211, Trenton, NJ, 08608-1211, or call Ed at 609-599-4561 X 2314.



Accidents

The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) considers successful accident investigation to be directly related to accident prevention.

Investigating accidents and near misses is important because it:

- * Identifies the cause of the accident
- * Identifies corrective action that needs to be taken
- * Prevents similar types of accidents in the future

Remember, the purpose of an accident investigation is not to place blame, but to improve safety conditions for everyone. That's why employees and associations should cooperate fully with accident investigations. This way safety can be improved and contract protections guaranteed.

Every employee has three key roles to play in accident investigation procedures:

1. Invoke your contractual rights and association protections from the start of the investigation.
2. Always report any accident or

near miss immediately so that management can look into it and make needed corrections. Be sure to alert the association so that it can monitor the investigation and the results of the investigation.

3. Cooperate with all investigations of any accident in which you are involved, that you have witnessed, or where your first hand knowledge of situation or procedure could be helpful.



Support your Negotiating Team!!!!!!

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Michelle Thatcher

Barber School:

Marilyn Shober

Custodians:

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