



The official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association

# PEA Advocate

Volume #9 — Issue #1

September 27, 2002

## The Association

This week marks the Association's "New Members Week" in New Jersey. What follows is information about each of the four branches of the Association, their place in the Association and how these branches serve you.

### WCEA

The Warren County Education Association is the regional branch of the Association. It serves all Association members in Warren County, NJ.

The President of the WCEA, Carol Mertz, teaches English at Phillipsburg HS. Other P'burg staff members also are active in the WCEA giving us an opportunity to work very closely with this branch of the Association.

The main focus of the WCEA is professional development workshops. These workshops will start in October. The first one of interest to the Association's general membership is "Classroom & Behavior Management". It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 at the Clarion Hotel

here in Phillipsburg. The workshop will start at 4:30 p.m. and is presented at no cost to members. You can learn varied classroom management techniques and earn approx. 2 hours of Professional Development (PD) credits while doing so. To reserve a spot in this workshop, contact Barb Alderfer via e-mail no later than Tuesday, Oct. 15.

To learn more about the WCEA, visit its web site by clicking on the URL below.

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

### PEA

The Phillipsburg Education Association is the local branch of the Association. It serves all Association members in the Phillipsburg Public School District. In P'burg this includes teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, secretaries, para-professionals, custodians & maintenance, and security personnel.

The President of the PEA, George Chilmonik, teaches math at Phillipsburg HS.

The Executive Committee, the legislative body of our local, is comprised of the PEA officers and building reps (representatives) and meets monthly during the school year. Building reps are elected every year within each school building.

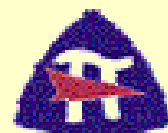
The main focus of the PEA is professional security & protection. The PEA is the recognized bargaining agent for all teachers, secretaries, para-professionals, custodial & maintenance, and security personnel in the Phillipsburg School District. Also as an Association member, you are entitled to have an Association rep with you at any administrative meeting where an accusation against you may be made. If you have any questions in this area, contact your building rep or George.

A strong secondary focus of the PEA is our social programs. This Thursday, September 26, is our "Welcome Back Picnic". It will be held at Flynn's on the Hill outside pavillion (near Green

nea



WCEA



St. School.) The cost is \$10 to current members but is free to new members and those who join that day. All new staff members are invited to attend for food, fun & fellowship.

To learn more about the PEA, visit its web site by clicking on the URL below.

<http://www.pburgea.org>

## **N J E A**

The New Jersey Education Association is the state branch of the Association. It serves approximately 175,000 members in New Jersey. In P'burg this includes teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, secretaries, para-professionals, custodians & maintenance, and security personnel.

Mike Kruczek, technology coordinator at Phillipsburg HS, is the NJEA Executive person for Warren County. Mike's position gives us an opportunity to work closely with this branch of the Association.

The main focus of the NJEA is statewide advocacy and support.

Education in the US is primarily the function of the state governments. The NJEA is our advocate in the offices & hallways of the state capital. It is recognized as the largest, most professional and powerful lobbying force in Trenton. Over the years, the NJEA has been successful lobbying for:

- minimum teaching salary guidelines;
- a pension package that is recognized as one of the best in the nation;
- an average state teaching salary that has been ranked #1 or #2 in the

nation over the past few years; and

- many other educational endeavors.

The NJEA provides support to the hundreds of local Associations throughout the state in the form of UniServ reps, research data, lawyers, analyses of educational legislation, accountants, and many other resources that are beyond the financial means of the locals to afford. In matters of negotiations, grievance procedures, lawsuits and many other items, the NJEA brings a wealth of resources & expertise to the table on the side of the local Associations.

To learn more about the NJEA, visit its web site by clicking on the URL below.

<http://www.njea.org>

## **Membership Benefits**

Benefits of Association membership fall into 4 broad categories: Educational; Professional; Personal & Social.

### **Educational**

We work in the Phillipsburg School District because education has a high priority in our lives. Our Association reflects our values and works to improve education by working for:

- more varied & effective teaching pedagogies;
- more monies for schools;
- smaller class sizes; and
- better school environments.

All of us, students & staff, benefit from the Association's work in these and many other areas of education.

### **Professional**

Professional demeanor and growth is expected of us by students, parents, administrators and ourselves, but which of these groups provide us the most opportunities to develop this professionalism? Right. We do through our Association. Professional Development (PD) workshops provided by the county, state & national branches assist in improving our teaching pedagogies and improving our content-specific knowledge & skills. In addition, our Association works for better salaries, working environments and laws that affect us in the classrooms as befits professionals.

### **Personal**

Group rates are always better than rates you can obtain as an individual. Our Association works hard to provide many of these group rates in the areas of insurance, car rentals, hotels, amusement parks, legal services, energy/home heating oil, travel tours, credit card programs, financial plans, magazine services and more.

### **Social**

The opportunity to meet with other individuals committed to education and those who share your specific love of art, science, poetry, math, physical education and many other disciplines is provided on a regular basis by our Association.

Today is the PEA's "Welcome Back Picnic" at Flynn's on the Hill. Starting at 3 p.m., you'll have an opportunity to meet & mingle, nibble & stuff, sip & drink in the company of some of the finest folks

in Phillipsburg. Come and find out what the Association is about.

It's about us.

### NEA

The National Education Association is the national branch of the Association. With its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NEA has 2.7 million members who work at every level of education, from pre-school to university graduate programs. In P'burg this includes teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, secretaries, para-professionals, custodians & maintenance, and security personnel. NEA has affiliates in every state, as well as in more than 13,000 local communities across the United States.

The NEA was founded in 1857 "to elevate the character and advance the interests of the pro-

fession of teaching and to promote the cause of popular education in the United States".

Its current mission statement is:

"To fulfill the promise of a democratic society, the National Education Association shall promote the cause of quality public education and advance the profession of education; expand the rights and further the interest of educational employees; and advocate human, civil, and economic rights for all."

In pursuing its mission, the NEA has determined that it will focus the energy and resources of its 2.7 million members toward the "restoration of public confidence in public education."

Barb Alderfer, language arts teacher at Phillipsburg MS, and Mike Kruczek, technology coordinator at Phillipsburg HS, were NJ delegates to this year's national convention in Dallas, Texas. Their familiarity with the

NEA gives us an opportunity to work closely with this branch of the Association.

To learn more about the NEA, visit its web site by clicking on the URL below.

<http://www.nea.org>

### Conclusion

The Association is you, me and millions of individuals who have dedicated their professional lives to others: specifically the young people of our nation. Individually we are like a hay straw - easily broken. As an Association, we are like a hay bale. As Aesop said so many years ago, "In unity there is strength."

We invite you to join us by clicking on the link below to contact our Membership Chairperson, Gail Barbadora.

[Join the Association](#)

## Editorial Policy of the PEAdvocate

The PEAdvocate is the official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association (PEA.)

The PEA is the recognized "... exclusive representative for collective negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment for all certificated personnel, under contract..." — Article I of PEA contract

PEA membership also encompasses the Warren County Education Association (WCEA), New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and the National Education Association (NEA).

Editor ..... Charles Nowalk, PHS

### — Association Web Sites —

<http://www.pburgea.org>

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

<http://www.njea.org>

<http://www.nea.org>

### — Association Officers —

President . . . . . George Chilmonik  
PHS

Vice-President . . . . Barbara Alderfer  
PMS

Treasurer . . . . . Burma Jo Bononno  
PMS

Recording Sec. . . . . Marilyn Shoher  
Barber Elementary

Corresponding Sec. . . Debbie Carty  
Freeman Elementary

### — Association Reps —

Andover-Morris Elementary  
Michelle Thatcher

Barber Elementary  
Marilyn Shoher

Custodians  
Robin Schofield

Freeman Elementary  
Gail Barbadora

Green Street Elementary  
SueAngelozzi - Linda Exley - Lil Mortimer

PASS

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Kelly Franco - Rick Rissmiller - Roseann Rohm - Beth Smith

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Marguerite Scannell

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