



The official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association

PEA Advocate

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The Association

The NJEA is celebrating today as *New Members Day*. In honor of the occasion, the *PEA Advocate* presents this collection of articles about your Association

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 and workshop programs. On Tuesday, October 7, our first workshop of the year is being offered at Flynn's on the Hill in Phillipsburg. All new members are invited to attend.

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

www.pburgea.org

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 while the Treasurer, Mike Kruczek, teaches math 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 are slated to begin soon. Visit the WCEA web site to learn which workshops are being offered and when.

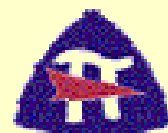
To learn more about the WCEA, visit its web site by clicking on the URL below.

www.warrencoea.org

nea



WCEA



NJEA

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, math teacher 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;
- contract imposition & early retirement legislation; 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.

www.njea.org

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

Its mission statement says: "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."*

Carol Mertz, English teacher at Phillipsburg MS, and Mike Kruczek, math teacher 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.

www.nea.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.

Watch your e-mail box and visit the PEA website often so that you will be aware of the social opportunities the Association presents.

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.

“In unity there is strength.”, as Aesop said so many years ago in his legendary fables.

If you were to ask “What is the Association about?”, the answer would be “It’s about us.” 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 PEA Advocate

The PEA Advocate 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>

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PMS

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