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Dispatch

P E N N S Y L V A N I A S T A T E E D U C A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N - E S P

Summer 2017

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

Get involved and bring a friend

Ninety ESP Region members converged on Gettysburg April 21 for the annual ESP House of Delegates. Members participated in a variety of professional development workshops by day and convened for the House of Delegates at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

Those 90 members represent a small fraction of the 451 locals and 33,709 ESP members throughout PSEA. I would like to see the number of attendees double at next year's event which will be held at the Double Tree Pittsburgh-Cranberry. I challenged each member in attendance at this year's event to bring a guest next year. Locals may send guests if they exceed their allotted number of delegates.

Your ESP Region Board of Directors is focused on ways to engage our members today for a stronger union tomorrow. This encompasses local, state and

national politics, building local capacity, mobilizing members, and reaching out to the community to tell our story and gain support and respect. You can help by doing at least one thing in your local and encouraging a fellow ESP to join you.

A strong local is so important, now more than ever. There are legislative proposals at the state and federal levels to diminish bargaining rights and weaken unions. We need to explore how to best organize our locals in a way that positively promotes your commitment to public education and to the students in your schools, while ensuring a safe working environment. By organizing your locals, you will build support for bargaining, foster relationships with your communities, and help us gain the respect we all deserve.

We need to have our members engaged to combat the many threats to our jobs — to be ready to



Dawn Bandle
ESP Region President

act when PSEA asks us to call our legislators to speak out against proposals that will harm public education and hardworking ESPs. I want to thank all of you who have contacted your legislators when the calls went out. It does make a difference. Please check your email over the summer in the event a call to action is deployed to contact legislators.

Remember, we all need to step up to protect our rights as employees and to promote a strong, united front.

Have a great summer!

Neshaminy ESPs take part in "May Day of Action"

The Neshaminy Educational Support Professional Association and PSEA were proud to join the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers, Neshaminy School District, and other

community partners on May 1 for "May Day of Action: Justice Where We Live, Learn and Work."

PSEA Vice President Dolores McCracken was among the speakers, reminding attendees of

the important role ESP members play in public education and the harmful effects subcontracting has on our schools and students.

Community partners included Homes for Heroes, Welcoming

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Neshaminy ESPs take part in “May Day of Action”

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the Stranger, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), AFSCME Council 88, and the Neshaminy Education Foundation.

Linda Gaul, an instructional assistant and Neshaminy ESP/PSEA member, was nominated at the event for the “Women Who Make

a Difference” award by the Bucks County YWCA. Congratulations to Linda, who has been an employee in the district for 34 years.



Neshaminy ESP members Debbie Greenleaf and Joan Linebaugh work at a table promoting the great work ESPs perform in schools.

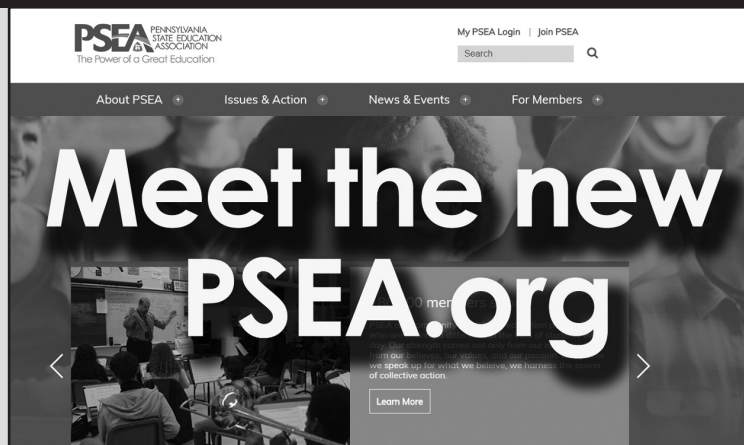


Neshaminy ESP member and instructional assistant Linda Gaul was nominated for the Bucks County YWCA’s Women Who Make a Difference Award. Pictured (from left): Neshaminy ESP President John McGinley, teacher Jen Emerich, Linda Gaul, and Neshaminy Federation of Teachers President Tara Huber.

Check out PSEA’s new website

PSEA is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. Check it out at www.psea.org.

The new site is optimized for viewing on computers, tablets, and mobile devices, offers an improved search, and provides a modern, streamlined destination for news and resources to help PSEA members in their jobs and show the value of membership in the Association.



Seeking nominations for ESP of the Year

Many of your members are doing wonderful things within their job classifications, for their union, and in the community. Please consider nominating one of these great members for the PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award so that we can recognize this hard work and dedication.

This award is presented to a

PSEA member who demonstrates the many contributions ESPs make to public education and the community. PSEA’s recipient is then nominated for the National Education Association’s ESP of the Year Award.

A nominee must have been a PSEA member for at least three years as of Sept. 1, 2017. Any PSEA member in good standing, a

PSEA local, or the ESP Executive Board may make a nomination for the award.

Nominations should be submitted by Sept. 15 to Candace Kuba at ckuba@psea.org or mailed to her attention at PSEA, 400 North Third St., PO Box 1724, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724. For nomination forms please visit www.psea.org/espoftheyear.

Has your local elected new officers?

If your local elected new officers for the 2017-18 membership year, or if your officers changed throughout the year, please take a moment to inform your PSEA region office of the changes. You can find contact information for all PSEA Regions at www.psea.org/locals.

ESP Region: 2017 Election Results

President – Term 2017-2019

Dawn Bandle, Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

Treasurer – Term 2017-2019

Holly Harrington, Bangor Area School District

Secretary – Term 2017-2019

Mindy Anderson, Neshaminy School District

Legislative Committee – Term 2017-2019

Ann Monaghan, Wallenpaupack Area School District

Pat Petruska, ESP Member at Large (Southern)

Karen Witman, Lancaster-Lebanon IU #13

Alternate Legislative Committee – Term 2017-2019

Mary Beth Brookshaw, New Hope Solebury School District

Resolutions Committee – Term 2017-2019

Ruth Ann Mlakar, Hermitage School District

Delores Scales, Woodland Hills School District

Mary Thiess, Colonial School District

Alternate Resolutions Committee – Term 2017-2019

Thomas Gard, Lower Merion School District



Oil City ESP members pose for a photo on Read Across America Day, March 2. Students and teachers invited them to be guest readers in various classrooms in the elementary building. The members chose their favorite Dr. Seuss books to read to the students.

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 400 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1724
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

W. Gerard Oleksiak - PSEA President
Dolores M. McCracken - PSEA Vice President
Richard W. Askey - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

Dawn Bandle - PSEA ESP Region President
Marc Howshall - PSEA ESP Region Vice President
Mindy Anderson - PSEA ESP Region Secretary
Holly Harrington - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer
Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



A statewide ESP initiative to collect summer supplies for K-5 students in the Chambersburg Area School District was a great success. At division meetings throughout the spring and during the 2017 ESP Region House of Delegates in April, many members contributed items that meet the needs of the whole child. Donations ranged from healthy snacks and drinks to books and games to sand buckets. All items collected were related to ensuring students that are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. The response was overwhelming, and we thank everyone who donated.

Dates to Remember

NEA Representative Assembly
June 30-July 5, 2017

Gettysburg Leadership Conference
July 23-28, 2017

ESP Member of the Year Application Deadline
September 15, 2017

Collective Bargaining Conference
October 20-21, 2017