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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

Fall 2017

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

A simple ask goes a long way

The start of a new school year also means the start of a new membership year. There are many new students and staff filling the cafeterias, hallways, offices, and classrooms of our schools. Each new year brings with it various emotions.

Some of you are new to the profession or in a different position than last year. Regardless, you all work hard to ensure all students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. Your hard work and dedication as ESP members help our schools run smoothly.

I know you value PSEA and your membership. You receive information through various PSEA publications and work with great staff members who advocate for you and your local. And, you see value in the money you can save each year by using PSEA's Member Benefits Program.

Please reach out to new employees and those who are

non-members to tell your story about why you joined PSEA. Whether it is because of the advocacy, contract, or member benefits, there is a reason you see the value of membership. Engage these individuals in conversations and talk to them one-on-one to encourage them to join.

Many employees are overlooked and never approached by actual members of the local association. Engaging these individuals in conversations and making a simple ask goes a long way.

There is power in numbers, and our collective strength comes from you and more than 32,000 ESP members across Pennsylvania. More members equate to more voices, giving us more strength and power to successfully advocate for you and all students.

Your ESP leaders have been working hard the past several months, and we have great programs planned throughout



Dawn Bandle
ESP Region President

the year. By now, you should have received a flier highlighting the division meeting dates and trainings available to you. Please take advantage of these valuable opportunities to meet with your ESP colleagues and participate in professional development.

I thank you for being a member of PSEA. We have one of the largest NEA ESP affiliates in the country. While this is a tremendous accomplishment, we can do even better.

I want to wish you the best for a great and productive 2017-18 school year.

Congratulations to new PSEA leadership team

PSEA President Jerry Oleksiak left office on Sept. 2 to serve as Pennsylvania's secretary of labor and industry. Jerry is a tremendous advocate for public education, and we are proud to

see him serving in the governor's cabinet.

Jerry's resignation opened the door for one of our own to move into the president's position. Pursuant to PSEA's constitution

and bylaws, Vice President Dolores McCracken became PSEA president on Sept. 2.

Dolores is the first ESP member to ever climb the ranks to PSEA president. She is a paraprofessional

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Congratulations to new PSEA leadership team

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in the Council Rock School District and a lifelong advocate for public school students and PSEA members. She previously served as PSEA's treasurer and vice president as well as the ESP Region's treasurer and president of her local, the Council Rock Education Support Professionals Association.

"It will be an honor and a privilege to serve as PSEA's president," McCracken said. "I love PSEA, I'm absolutely committed to our members, and I'm going to



PSEA Treasurer Jeff Ney, President Dolores McCracken, and Vice President Rich Askey.

fight for them and what we believe in every day."

The PSEA Board of Directors also elected Rich Askey to serve

as vice president and Jeff Ney to serve as treasurer. Rich previously served as PSEA treasurer, and Jeff as Northeastern Region president.

Members work hard to revamp ESP logo

PSEA was proud to roll out a new ESP logo option this summer. It is the result of the tireless work performed by dedicated ESP members who spent a lot of time over the past year developing the logo to help bring more respect and visibility to ESP members.

Congratulations to the team of members who made it happen. They include Marissa Cervone-Gilson of Crawford Central, Rob Emerick of Williamsport, Deneen Dry of



Central Bucks, Theresa Dougherty of Garnet Valley, Carole Ellerkamp of Cheltenham, Joe Faulkner of Rose Tree Media, Beth Hayes of West Chester, Linda Hickman of IU #7, Arlene Hooper-Walsh of Wilkes-Barre CTC, Melanie Hudson of Upper Darby, Courtney Koontz of Somerset County CTC, Diane LaManna of Sayre, Dan Paparella of Big Beaver Falls, Pam Rossey of Elizabeth Forward, Kathy Rowan of Upper Darby, and Rose Sturgeon of Crestwood.

Mark your calendar: ESP Day is Nov. 15

Communities across Pennsylvania and the U.S. will say a special "thank you" to education support professionals on National ESP Day Nov. 15. The observance is part of NEA's annual American Education Week Nov. 13-17.

American Education Week is

an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference by ensuring that every child receives a quality education. It is also an opportunity to do something with your colleagues, parents, and community. Don't let the week slip by without letting your community

know about all the good things happening in public education. Invite them to school to see firsthand.

Please visit the NEA website at www.nea.org/aew for an American Education Week toolkit that includes sample press releases, letters to parents, and other materials.

ESP School at Gettysburg a success

This year's ESP Core School at PSEA's Summer Leadership Conference at Gettysburg College was a huge success.

Forty-one ESP members from various classifications attended the training, developing their leadership skills, engaging with each other, and forming a bond by the end of the week.

If you are interested in being part of ESP Core School in the summer of 2018, please get in touch with your local president or UniServ representative for more information. Next year's conference will be held at Gettysburg College from July 22-26, 2018.



Save money with Member Benefits

There are many benefits available to PSEA members that can save you money. The PSEA Member Benefits Program

offers thousands of discounts and saving opportunities, including savings on mortgages, mobile phone services, insurance,

restaurants, hotels, and more.

Visit the Members Benefits page at www.psea.org/MB to learn more.



Pictured, left to right, are: ASESPEA members Dawn Evans, Cindy Brett, and Sandi Pachuta.

Members of the Abington Secretaries ESP Association (ASESPA) took part in Abington's Annual National Night Out on Aug. 8. Members of the local set up a table for the event and signed up almost 100 new Partners for Public Education members.

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 Pennsylvania State Education Association
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Dolores McCracken - PSEA President
Richard W. Askey - PSEA Vice President
Jeffrey D. Ney - 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



At the close of the 2016-17 school year, the Neshaminy ESP coordinated a food drive to collect non-perishable items from district employees. The drive was an overwhelming success, bringing in more than 1,200 pounds of food that was delivered to four area food banks for distribution during the summer months. This project greatly benefited district students who typically rely on the school district for their meals.

Dates to Remember

Local Association Presidents/
 Collective Bargaining Conference
October 20-21, 2017

ESP Member of the Year
 Application Deadline
September 15, 2017

Election Day
November 7, 2017

American Education Week
November 13-17, 2017

Education Support
 Professionals Day
November 15, 2017

PSEA House of Delegates,
 Philadelphia
December 1-2, 2017