Central-Western Region News

A Message from Maria Heinrich
Central-Western Region President and Fourth Grade Teacher

IMPORTANCE OF OUR UNION: I’ve been thinking a lot about the uncertain times we are living in and there are so many concerns. Concerns about everyone’s health and safety, about the potential for students’ academic backsliding, about their readjustment to in-person instruction in some areas and concerns about remote learning in other areas. Maybe the single area I have no concerns about is my ability to be supported by our union. PSEA staff in the field, in the Legal Department and in Education Services have made such a difference in providing information for educators and for school districts in these uncertain times. This is all part of the benefits of membership in our union.

PSEA played an important role in working with PA Association of School Administrators, the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools, the PA Association of School Business Officials and other related organizations to come up with recommendations in their “PA School Reopening Task Force Report” – with input from educators! Now more than ever, I can’t imagine teaching without the strength of our union supporting me. And it’s up to each of us to be an active part of our union, to ask questions and to be involved, to lend our own expertise to keep our unions strong.

DID YOU KNOW?

PSEA’s Legal Department put together an informative list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for all PSEA Members to help with COVID-19 related concerns and to prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. To access this information, go to www.psea.org/COVID19 and you’ll find the most recent updates from our expert legal team.

FOR THE FULL BRIEFING, visit www.psea.org/COVID19 and select July 21’s Legal Alert on FERPA and Online Learning.
STAFF SPOTLIGHT
STEVE WILSON
Region Field Manager

How long have you worked for PSEA and what do you do? My current position is a Region Field Manager for both Central-Western and Southwestern Regions. I started working for PSEA as a UniServ Rep in early 2007. Prior to coming to C-W Region I was the Region Field Director in Midwestern Region. My background prior to PSEA was in teaching. I taught sixth grade in the Moniteau School District and was also the Head Football Coach. Leaving teaching was a difficult decision, but I have absolutely loved advocating for our members, our professions, and public education while working for PSEA.

Are you a dog or cat person? My family has both a cat and a dog. While I am more of a dog person, our cat rules the house even over the 130-pound Newfoundland dog.

Where are you from? I am from the small town of East Brady, which is located along the Allegheny River in southern Clarion County. When I went to school, it was part of Armstrong School District.

Where is the last show you binge watched or last book you couldn’t put down? I probably read more than I watch TV. With three kids, I don’t get the remote control too often. If I do watch TV, it is usually sports or whatever someone else is watching. Or Gold Rush, I do watch that when I can. As far as reading, I mix it up from crime, thriller and suspense novels to historical non-fiction. Putting both together, I like some of James Michener’s historical fiction novels like “Caribbean.”

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO DINA MCGEE!
Thank You for your many years of service to PSEA’s Central-Western Region.

Dina taught family consumer science for 32 years and retired from Everett School District last fall. She has remained active with PSEA’s Central-Western Region to carry out her term as Vice President until Aug. 31.

What have you seen as the most positive change in your profession over the years? The role of technology. Technology has given us so much information right at our fingertips. It has given us the ability to share with each other so easily.

How did you first get involved in PSEA? I taught at a very small school at my district. The president of the local was there and he said to me, “you are coming to a meeting with me” I didn’t even realize we were a union for about a year until someone said the word union and I said to myself “so this is a union!” and I’ve been active since.

What advice would you give to a member who may not be too involved with the union yet? You don’t have to be all in, involved, like I was but you had better know your contract and know what your rights are. Speak up when you need to. Do your part. Get involved in some way. And just know your contract!