STATEWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Act 48 Extension
Educators have five years from the effective date of issuance of initial Instructional I certification to complete professional development requirements. Educators are expected to complete additional professional development every five years thereafter. Act 13 of 2020 gives all educators another year to complete those requirements. The actual deadline will depend upon when the educator was certified and if the educator received any other extensions during that time.

Fingerprinting Deadline:
On April 29, the PA House unanimously passed an amendment to HB 360 that extends the FBI clearance requirement to December 31, 2020.

Central-Western Region News

A Message from Maria Heinrich
Central-Western Region President and fourth grade teacher

Buildings May Be Closed, But School Is Still In Session: There’s no question that we are finding ourselves in a new reality that we never could have imagined... a world of online instruction, Zoom meetings that look like the intro to the Brady Bunch, and social isolation at home. Through all of these changes that were put in place at a moment’s notice, teachers in PA have shown adaptability, creativity and an unrelenting commitment to our students. For many students who are going through a transition of their own away from their friends and their routines, it’s our teachers who are making the difference for them. Whether it’s cleverly written instructions or words of encouragement to check in, we support our students each day and that support is often just what our students, and sometimes even their parents, need most. Hang in there!

COVID Cancellations:
All previously scheduled in-person County Coordinating Council Meetings for the month of May have switched to an online meeting platform. Please contact either the County Council President or the appropriate staff liaison for the registration links.

Whose home office is really this neat anyway?! Let’s get real. Send a picture of your current work space to abriscoe@psea.org to be used in our next newsletter!
Staff Spotlight
GARY CIRELLI, UniServ

Previous Work? U.S. History Teacher at Central Cambria School District and a temporary UniServ in PSEA’s Northwest Region

Education? I have three degrees and attended Edinboro University, Bowling Green State University, and IUP.

Where do you live? Indiana with my wife, twin boys, two cats, & a dog.

Dog or cat person? This is a tough one given the make-up of my household. In 1924, a psychologist wrote in the New York Times that cats are anarchists and dogs lack sincerity. Putting that useless research aside, I like both dogs and cats for different reasons. If I had to add another pet to the mix, however, it would be a dog. I think that ultimately answers the question.

First place you want to go when the stay at home order is lifted? To my mother-in-law or parents to drop off my kids...for a week.

Most used emoji in your texts? Power Fist. 🙇

Favorite spot to grab dinner on the way home? I like most foods and just go wherever my kids and wife are feeling.

Whether it’s supporting students or the community, or often both, PSEA members across Central-Western Region are proving every day just what kind of innovative problem solvers teachers are in any environment.

If there are ways your local association is supporting your community at this time, please share your good news by emailing abriscoe@psea.org.

MEMBERS SUPPORTING THEIR COMMUNITY

Freeport EA: Members in the Freeport Education Association donated $3,485 to a local organization providing meals to families in the district during the stay at home order. Nearly 10,000 meals have been served since the program started!

Indiana Area EA: IAEA asked its 216 members to each donate $100 and about 80% participated, many gave more than $100, and in total raised over $18,000. Next, IAEA went to 7 local pizza shops and bought gift cards for a large, one-topping pizza (1800 pizzas) giving each local business roughly $2,500 in revenue. We then sent out a voucher to every family who has students in the district for a pizza with a flyer, "Dinner Is On Us." This effort provided dinner for 2,900 students and supported 7 local area restaurants.

Punxsutawney Area EA: PAEA raised $2,500 from teachers and used that funding to partner with two local restaurants to provide 600 meals to the community. There will be several locations across the district where meals will be available by drive-thru pick up on Sat., May 8 and all safe distancing precautions will be taken. PAEA’s effort started with their “Student Focus” committee – which typically is a fund set aside every year for students and district families in need. This year, that effort will focus on their free community meal program.

Freeport EA Member Jennifer Dell, an elementary and middle school music teacher, hands out the 10,000th meal to a resident and Freeport grad.