

PSEA Southeastern Region

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From the RFD – M. Shannon Moore
4/17/2020

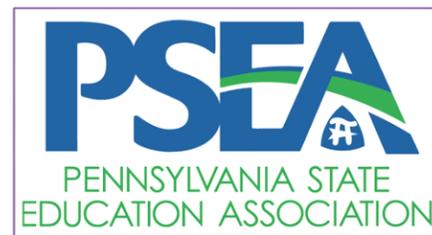
Message from the RFD

Why do most days feel like Groundhog Day? As we continue to navigate working remotely, PSEA and the Southeastern Region Staff continue to discuss the best ways to support you and your members. We want to hear from you about the needs of your Local and members, but also, please let us know of your successes. Sharing positivity in these trying times can hopefully uplift us all! Finally, as your Districts revise and update their continuity of education plans and look at District calendars, please keep your UniServ updated to ensure compliance with the contract. Have a great weekend. Stay safe!

Register for ED Forums:

Educator's Growing Together is a series of seven online-trainings that explores our new working environment due to the COVID-19 outbreak. PSEA launched this Act 48 professional development online training series to meet members' needs as we all adapt to our new reality. Topics include continuity of education, educating students with disabilities, useful online resources, apps for educators, and more. Each course provides two Act 48 hours and you will need your PSEA member login to register.

Educators Growing Together is designed to bring groups of PSEA members together to share ideas and respond to one another's questions about specific challenges related to our new teaching and learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The forums reflect a belief that the most effective way for PSEA members to cope with these new and sudden professional demands is together and the best source of information for problem-solving is each other.



Join our Region Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pseaSoutheasternregion

Remember to consistently check the Region Web site for all the latest memos and guidance information from NEA & PSEA relating to COVID-19. To date there are more than 15 posted documents: www.psea.org/ser

REMEMBER! Our region Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/pseasoutheasternregion is up and running and open for anyone to join. In the last month, more than 125 new members have followed or liked our page, we are a little more than 100 fans away from 2000.

Share the page, especially if you have a local social media page.

What's Happening in Your Local?!
Have something innovative and interesting happening in your local, email Zeek (zweil@psea.org) and we'll include it in our region newsletter.

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To register, visit the region page: www.psea.org/ser

Membership Audits:

Our Associate staff completed membership audits to help Locals get an accurate count of their membership rosters. For many Locals, the rosters closely matched the audits and will be sent by your UniServ soon. Some Locals may have already received it by now as well. The audit involves taking the District's Bargaining Unit roster and comparing it with the Local membership roster submitted to PSEA. Last October, UniServs obtained the bargaining unit rosters to begin the project.

An annual membership audit is a critical function of governance and allows Locals to know where nonmembers work, if there are clusters of nonmembers at certain worksites, and importantly, if PSEA is correctly billing your Local for membership dues.

On April 1st, the early enrollment program began, and any nonmember that joins the union now will begin to pay dues in the fall. Using your membership audit to target nonmembers for membership during the open enrollment period allows leaders to engage nonmembers and converse with them regarding the positive work the union underwent to protect pay and benefits during the outbreak. Many members may be unaware that the union's collective action helped pass Act 13. If you need electronic membership forms that can be filled out digitally, please contact Zeek or your UniServ today.

Check your Vote by Mail Registration Status:

Over the last few weeks, we have been talking about the importance of registering to vote by mail. After you complete the simple online registration process, several weeks will pass before you receive your ballot. You can check the status of your application here:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/ballottracking.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3ciKOHkJTRb1pCS2AoFcivc7fqQ98laW6Ll9c1X2hEDhk1CvUFNRCNjIs>

Don't forget to vote by mail, nearly 700 SE Region members have so far. Register here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/psea/event/265329/>

Leave Concerns:

Common questions currently posed to our leaders include issues regarding leave and returning from leave. Concerns range from a return from FMLA to wanting to end childbearing leave early. In addition, members posed questions regarding the use of personal and sick leave while educators and support personnel are working, a majority of whom currently work from home. Please reach out to your leaders / UniServ as each question is fact specific, as the timelines continue to run during the pandemic.

Members should follow their Employer's leave policies and reach out if they have questions or concerns. If the Employer's actions contravene contractual language or practice, please reach out to your UniServ right away.

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New York Times is Free for High School Students:

Through July 6th, the New York Times is offering free subscription services to all high schoolers across the country. You can learn more here: <https://www.nytimes.com/initiative/highschoolaccess>. However, students cannot register. The paper needs an email list provided by teachers or administrators. The link above has all the information and this could be great resources for your high-school students, or children, over the next few months.

Region Golf Tournament-Canceled:

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Region made the difficult decision to cancel our annual golf tournament at Kimberton Golf Club in Phoenixville. The region golf tournament continues to grow in popularity and really affords our members an opportunity to socialize and interact with each other prior to the much-needed summer break. Please be sure to hold the date for the 2021 Golf Tournament tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2021.

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