From the RFD – M. Shannon Moore
4/9/2020

**Message from the RFD:**

With the announcement that schools will remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, many educators, staff, and many of us as parents may be concerned about their present circumstances and the future. The Staff understand these concerns and are here to help our leaders and members navigate through the next few months. Please reach out to your UniServ when presented with new and different requests by your Administration so we can evaluate them and help you respond. Now more than ever it is critically important that your bargaining teams work with the UniServs as we are discussing region and statewide responses. Finally, please enjoy the holiday and time off over the next few days.

**New Pennsylvania Primary Date and Region Candidate Recommendations:**

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, the state Legislature and the Governor made the wise decisions to reschedule the Pennsylvania primary election to June 2, 2020. On March 27, 2020 Governor Wolf signed Senate Bill 422, creating Act 12. Here are several other important new deadlines relating to Act 12.

Last Day to Register to Vote: Monday, May 18.
Last Day to Register to Vote by Mail: Tuesday, May 26.

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.
If you register to cast your ballot by mail, the ballot must be **received** by your county voter services office by 8 pm on the day of the election, **not postmarked** in order to be counted.

Finally, the Southeastern Region PACE committee made several recommendations for the June 2\textsuperscript{nd} primary.

2. Representative Carolyn Comitta State Senate District 19. This is an open seat due to the retirement of State Senator Andy Dinniman.
4. Representative Greg Vitali for State House District 166. Rep Vitali is the incumbent.
5. Representative James Roebuck for State House District 188. Rep. Roebuck is the incumbent and minority chair of the state education committee.

More information on the candidates will be shared closer to the election and you can always use [www.schoolhouseballot.com](http://www.schoolhouseballot.com) to find the PSEA recommended candidates where you live.

**Keeping In Touch with Your Members:**

As we navigate these surreal and unprecedented times, it’s important for you, our local leaders, to find time to check in with your members, preferably on an individual basis. We want to highlight the different ways our leaders are connecting with their members. Chichester EA President Nancy Dunn began a one to one campaign to reach out to her members individually to check in, make sure they know she is available for questions, share information from PSEA and Administration, update contact information, and essentially just be available to support her members as they move forward.

Similarly, Downingtown Area EA President Craig Krusen holds a weekly Coffee with Craig livestream for DAEA members on DAEA’s private Facebook group. The closed Facebook group comprised of DAEA members allows members an opportunity to ask questions over chat and Craig can provide answers or reach out to PSEA or the District to get them answers.

If you are interacting with your members in new and different ways than before, please be sure and let us know. With so much happening each day and in isolation / social distancing, some folks may feel disconnected and on their own. Membership and involvement in a union provides another outlet to feel connected and part of a movement greater than just oneself. Collectively, with your participation, is how we accomplish so much.

**New Member Benefits:**

New NEA Member Benefit: NEA Member Benefits has expedited the launch of a new discount program for NEA members with Office Depot/OfficeMax, one of the leading purveyors of school and office supplies.

Key features of the Office Depot/OfficeMax discount program include:

- Discounts of up to 75% off on thousands of items purchased in-store and online
• Discounts on printing and copying services
• Free shipping for online orders over $50
• Best pricing: members receive the deepest discount available on their products—whether offered in-store or online
• Family members are also eligible to participate in this discount program

Information about the program is available on the NEA Member Benefits website at: https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-office-depot-officemax-discount-program. Like any other online buying program, you will need to create an account with NEA member benefits. If you already have an NEA member benefits account, your log in information will work. If you don’t have an NEA member benefits account, visit: https://www.neamb.com and follow the create account steps in the upper right of the page.

• **VERIZON BENEFIT:** Even More Data for Teachers: Verizon automatically added 15 GB of priority data for all customers. They went a step further for our EA members and students, you can increase this to 30 GB of additional data by calling it into 800-922-0204.

If you are using a Jetpack/MIFI or Mobile Hotspot on your phone, you will get the best experience if that device is dedicated to the task. As in any technology, the less devices using that connection, the better and faster the connection will be and more reliable. Teachers should change the WEP encryption code, so the Mobile Hotspot or MIFI is only used by the teacher while doing instruction. And yes, Mobile Hotspot on a phone is as fast or faster than a MIFI. Power Point and Video Conferencing on mobile is compressed and doesn’t use a tremendous amount of data, but the connection can be easily interrupted. This is the reason for the dedicated connection during instruction.