

PSEA Southeastern Region

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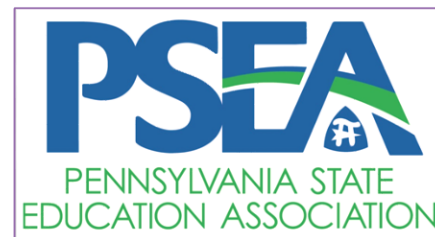
From the RFD – M. Shannon Moore
5/21/2020

Message from the RFD

The Staff in the Southeastern Region continually work together to support the needs of all our Locals and the members. We continue to do so to address the needs of your members through bargaining, discipline, and collectively advancing the interests of the members forward through unified action. We continue to share the outstanding good will and giving that Locals in our region have undertaken since the outbreak. Collectively, the Region gave \$37,850.00 to date, not to mention, the PPE supplies, food donations, gifts cards and more. Amazing! Even through stay at home orders, the strength of our Locals increases as evidenced by the seamless virtual ratification of Penn Delco EA's Tentative Agreement, and perhaps one of Interboro EA's best attended general membership meetings with both virtual meetings exceeding two hundred members. We will need to build on these successes as we prepare for the fall. That said, please take some time for yourselves and enjoy the beautiful weather and long holiday weekend. Thank you to all our military members who have served, including our Region Field Manager Jimmy Gilbert, and especially, on the Memorial Day Weekend, all those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Outstanding Giving by our Locals.:

Our Locals have been doing a lot of good work to support their communities and their families, some of which we highlighted in our last issue. It's been inspiring and quite incredible to see the collective good will of our Region. As we head to the Holiday weekend, here are more positive community impact stories from Locals in Southeastern Region:



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: 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.

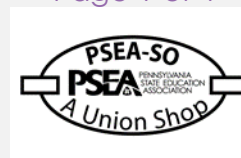
Share the page, especially if you have a local social media page.

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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- Octorara Area EA & ESP: The Locals presented the entire school district with a challenge to "Sweat it Out" - from the comfort of everyone's home. They were presented with a Google Form which linked colleagues with the Octorara Area Food Cupboard and The Point of Parkesburg (community center). After donating, members and other district staff were encouraged to take a photo in sweats to demonstrate the deed. OAEA and ESP raised \$2745.00 for the Food Cupboard and \$2025.00 for The Point.
- Owen J Roberts EA: REA collected nearly \$7,000 for various community groups who are helping people affected by Covid-19. Donations were given to the food pantry at the Spring City Regeneration Church, the OJRSD Emergency Food Program, the Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City for the Residents' Welfare Fund and the Coventry Food Bank. Members were also part of a school team with support staff and administrators helping to distribute caps and gowns to grade level graduates.
- Interboro EA: The Local funded lawn signs for all graduates, and then went house to house to personally deliver the lawn signs.
- Garnett Valley EA: The Local donated \$600 to area foodbanks and is also raising supplies and gift cards for area families.
- DCIU EA: During Teacher Appreciation Week, the leadership of DCIU EA took time to drive to the homes of all their members and provide them with Teacher Appreciation gifts.
- SE DELCO EA: Since the start of the outbreak, approximately 20 members have teamed up with the District to deliver meals to community families. SE Delco EA members have been part of a team that is distributing approximately 500 meals a week to District families since the outbreak began.
- UDESPEA: Upper Darby ESP made two one-hundred-dollar donations. One, to the Upper Darby Food Bank and another to the Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation. Some UDESPEA members have helped distribute meals with these community groups as well.

If your Local is supporting its community, healthcare workers and others impacted by COVID-19 make sure you let Zeek or you UniServ know. We want to tell these stories.

Federal Heroes ACT Needs Our Help:

On Friday May 15th, the United States House of Representatives passed the Heroes Act setting up a fight with the United States Senate and Trump Administration to turn the Heroes Act into law. The bill provides more than \$915 billion in direct aid and relief to the states over the next two fiscal years. Most importantly, the bill provides more than \$100 Billion in direct aid via the Department of Education for K-12 and higher education. The bill is expansive, covering a variety of areas including the digital divide, early education and student loan debt. NEA created an eight-page bill summary that has been posted to the region page:

www.psea.org/ser

As has been widely stated in the media, the Republicans in the Senate, led by Mitch McConnell, have no immediate interest in passing a bill like this. For the bill to pass, we will need to put an extraordinary amount of public pressure on our two Federal Senators and hope that states around the country will do the same. Earlier this week, Local Leaders from around the state joined webinars to learn and discuss PSEA's advocacy strategy, working with our counterparts around the country, to zealously advocate for the passage of the Heroes Act.



Without aid and support from the Federal Government, Pennsylvania and our Local Districts could collectively face shortfalls approaching \$5 Billion. This could result in as many as 40,000 furloughs, cuts to many district programs, and increased class sizes. In addition, these cuts could compromise safety for our students and staff. We need every member to engage in this effort and stand up, write personalized letters, make phone calls and more. To start, send our two Senators an email right now, then share the information in your Local: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/federal-heroes-act>.

Virtual Region House:

Southeastern Region plans to hold the spring House of Delegates on a virtual platform on June 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Registration is open, and all Local Leaders and Delegates should have received an email from Cathy Journey to register. While the meeting begins at 4:30, we expect close to two hundred attendees so please be sure to give yourself enough time to check in and still arrive at the meeting on time.

PA Primary Primer:

The Pennsylvania primary is less than two weeks away on Tuesday, June 2nd. Polls are open 7 am – 8 pm, and if you plan to vote in person, you will need to practice social distancing and wear a mask. Many polling locations have been consolidated or relocated to account for reductions in poll workers due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Be sure and check your county voter services office to ensure your polling place is not relocated if you plan to vote in person.

The better option is to Vote by Mail. Locally, many counties have recently hired additional staff and the backlog of voter applications and ballots are being processed and shipped. You still have time to register to VBM. The deadline is Tuesday, May 26. You can register by visiting here:

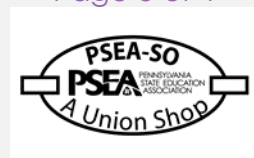
<https://www.mobilize.us/psea/event/265329/>. A couple other important pieces of information regarding vote by mail:

1. Your ballot must arrive at your county's voter services office by 8 pm on Tuesday, June 2nd to be counted. **It cannot be postmarked; it must be received.** Some counties have set up drop off boxes at their county seat and if you are concerned your ballot will not arrive on time, check your county's voter service office website or call.
2. If you applied to Vote by Mail, but did not receive your ballot, you can still vote. You go to your usual voting location and request a provisional ballot.

Finally, the Region recommended several candidates for the primary. The easiest way to check and see PSEA's recommended candidates is by visiting: <https://schoolhouseballot.com>. See below for the Region's recommended candidates:

1. John Kane for State Senate District 9. State Senator Tom Killion is the incumbent.
2. Representative Carolyn Comitta State Senate District 19. This is an open seat due to the retirement of State Senator Andy Dinniman.
3. Representative Danielle Friel Otten for State House District 155. Rep. Otten is the incumbent.
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

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chair of the state education committee.

6. Representative Maria Donatucci for State House District 185. Rep. Donatucci is the incumbent.

Virtual ACE Training is Next Week:

Reminder: A virtual Region ACE Training will occur on May 27, 4:30 p.m. ACEs are Advocates for Children and Education, our members that lobby elected officials in their home districts, Harrisburg, and Washington DC. To date, SE Region trained 115 ACEs, and we can always use more (both EA and ESP). Please register online: <https://www.psea.org/seracevirtual>.

Finger Printing Extension:

Reminder! Governor Wolf signed House Bill 360 creating ACT 18. The new law extends the finger printing deadline to December 31, 2020 in hopes of an improvement in the spread of COVID-19 and safer conditions for school employees to get the required clearance. There is more info on the region website:

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