Message from your president

Essential partners in the educational process

It was uplifting to see so many great stories and pictures posted to social media on ESP Day during American Education Week. You are doing exceptional things in your schools and deserve to be recognized.

Education support professionals are often the first and last people to see students each day. You drive students to and from school, help them cross the street, greet them in the office, care for them when they’re sick, serve them nutritious meals, and keep their school buildings clean and safe.

It is easy to see why ESPs are essential partners in the educational process. We ensure all students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. A great education is built on a solid foundation of support, and ESPs provide that solid foundation in our public schools.

Our ESP members were honored and recognized in several local associations across the state. Connellsville ESP members wore ESP shirts and received a letter of appreciation from the officers along with a pack of Extra gum with the message, “Thank you for going the Extra mile for our students.”

The Upper Darby ESP officers presented each building with a card that said, “We are not a team because we work together. We are a team because we respect, trust, and care for each other.” Each member is also receiving a RESPECT bracelet.

In Pennsbury, the ESP members were treated to a celebration dinner attended by more than 120 members. During this time, ESPs from different classifications shared their favorite parts of their jobs.

I am proud to be your president, representing more than 30,000 ESP members in PSEA. Thank you for all you do to make our public schools great.

PA workers deserve a raise

Pennsylvanians who work hard and play by the rules should have every opportunity to succeed. Yet for many working families, that is becoming harder and harder to do.

That’s why PSEA is advocating for an increase in the state’s minimum wage to at least $10.10 an hour, along with annual increases to keep up with inflation.

It’s been more than a decade since the minimum wage was increased in Pennsylvania. Raising it to $10.10 an hour would benefit 1.2 million low-wage workers in Pennsylvania and a half million children whose parents would get a raise. Three out of four minimum-wage workers in Pennsylvania are women.

Researchers have found that an increase in the minimum wage does more to help a local economy than hurt it. That’s because it puts more money in the pockets of working families who will spend it at local businesses.

PSEA strongly believes we need to build an economy that works for all Pennsylvanians. An increase in the minimum wage is the first step to realizing that goal.
Elections for officers and committee positions will take place at the ESP House of Delegates in Gettysburg on April 21, 2017.

Members wishing to run for election to any of these positions should complete the Statement of Candidacy form on Page 3. Candidate forms submitted to the Credentials and Elections Committee will be published in the March issue of Dispatch. Candidacy statements are due to the Credentials and Elections Committee by 4 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2017. The following officer and committee positions will be up for election for the 2017-2019 term:

- **Region Officers**: President, Secretary, and Treasurer
- **Resolutions Committee**: Three committee members and three alternate members
- **Legislative Committee**: Three committee members and three alternate members
- **Instruction and Professional Development (IPD)**: Two committee members and two alternate members
- **PACE Director**: One member

The PSEA Central-Western, Midwestern, Northeastern, Northwestern, Southeastern, and Western divisions will hold elections of officers at their spring meetings. Officers will serve three-year terms. Members interested in running for office should contact their respective division president:

- **Central-Western**: Kathy Martz, 724-545-6173 (meets on March 28, 2017)
- **Midwestern**: Dan Paparella, 724-581-7041 (meets on April 5, 2017)
- **Northeastern**: Adam Lanza, 570-937-9199 (meets on April 1, 2017)
- **Northwestern**: Barb Valimont, 814-774-0680 (meets on March 18, 2017)
- **Southeastern**: Denise Kennedy, 610-945-5986 (meets on April 7, 2017)
- **Western**: Karla Lewis, 412-607-7951 (meets on April 26, 2017)

Elections for officers and committee positions will take place at the ESP House of Delegates in Gettysburg on April 21, 2017.

Members wishing to run for election to any of these positions should complete the Statement of Candidacy form on Page 3. Candidate forms submitted to the Credentials and Elections Committee will be published in the March issue of Dispatch. Candidacy statements are due to the Credentials and Elections Committee by 4 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2017. The following officer and committee positions will be up for election for the 2017-2019 term:

- **Region Officers**: President, Secretary, and Treasurer
- **Resolutions Committee**: Three committee members and three alternate members
- **Legislative Committee**: Three committee members and three alternate members
- **Instruction and Professional Development (IPD)**: Two committee members and two alternate members
- **PACE Director**: One member

The PSEA Central-Western, Midwestern, Northeastern, Northwestern, Southeastern, and Western divisions will hold elections of officers at their spring meetings. Officers will serve three-year terms. Members interested in running for office should contact their respective division president:

- **Central-Western**: Kathy Martz, 724-545-6173 (meets on March 28, 2017)
- **Midwestern**: Dan Paparella, 724-581-7041 (meets on April 5, 2017)
- **Northeastern**: Adam Lanza, 570-937-9199 (meets on April 1, 2017)
- **Northwestern**: Barb Valimont, 814-774-0680 (meets on March 18, 2017)
- **Southeastern**: Denise Kennedy, 610-945-5986 (meets on April 7, 2017)
- **Western**: Karla Lewis, 412-607-7951 (meets on April 26, 2017)

Election to be held for division officers

The PSEA Central-Western, Midwestern, Northeastern, Northwestern, Southeastern, and Western divisions will hold elections of officers at their spring meetings. Officers will serve three-year terms. Members interested in running for office should contact their respective division president:

- **Central-Western**: Kathy Martz, 724-545-6173 (meets on March 28, 2017)
- **Midwestern**: Dan Paparella, 724-581-7041 (meets on April 5, 2017)
- **Northeastern**: Adam Lanza, 570-937-9199 (meets on April 1, 2017)
- **Northwestern**: Barb Valimont, 814-774-0680 (meets on March 18, 2017)
- **Southeastern**: Denise Kennedy, 610-945-5986 (meets on April 7, 2017)
- **Western**: Karla Lewis, 412-607-7951 (meets on April 26, 2017)

Vote for ESP representatives to 2017 NEA-RA

Remember to take a moment to vote for the ESPs who will represent you at the 2017 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) in Boston June 30-July 5, 2017. Online voting for delegates opens on Dec. 7, 2016 and closes at 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2017. Go to www.nea.org/RA for more information. Members who request a paper ballot must return it by Feb. 3, 2017.

Scholarships to attend Summer Leadership Conference

PSEA will host the 2017 Summer Leadership Conference in Gettysburg July 23-27, 2017. There are several scholarship opportunities for ESPs interested in attending.

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship to attend ESP Core School, contact your local president and UniServ representative. Specific questions regarding Core School can be sent to Nate Greenawalt at ngreenawalt@psea.org. Participation in this school is by invitation only.

The PSEA-Retired School will award three scholarships to retired ESP members. If you will be retiring prior to the conference and are interested in being considered for this school, please contact Norb Paunovich at 412-664-3790 or npauno@comcast.net with “ESP Scholarship” in the subject line.

The PSEA ESP Jack Connolly Gettysburg Scholarship is awarded annually to an ESP member. This scholarship was established in memory of ESP board member and dedicated advocate Jack Connolly, who passed away in 2014 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Go to www.psea.org/esp to view the application form and scholarship guidelines. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on March 3, 2017.
ESP Region Statement of Candidacy

Name______________________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________________________________

City________________________________________ Zip Code ________________________________________________

Home Phone__________________________ School Phone ____________________________

Membership Category: □ Aide □ Custodian □ Maintenance Personnel □ Food Service □ Secretarial/Clerical □ Bus Driver □ Paraprofessional □ Confidential Personnel □ Other

Local Association/Division______________________________________________________________

Candidate for the office of __________________________________________________________

Candidate for Committee/Term ______________________________________________________________

Association positions held____________________________________________________________

Statement of Candidacy
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

SUBMITTED CANDIDATE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 at:
ESP REGION CREDENTIALS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
c/o Candace Kuba, Field Assistant
PSEA
P.O. Box 1724
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724
Dispatch is a publication for education support professionals of the Pennsylvania State Education Association
400 North Third Street, PO Box 1724
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724

W. Gerard Oleksiak - PSEA President
Dolores M. McCracken - PSEA Vice President
Richard W. Askey - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

Dawn Bandle - PSEA ESP Region President
Marc Howshall - PSEA ESP Region Vice President
Mindy Anderson - PSEA ESP Region Secretary
Holly Harrington - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer
Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large

Winter 2017

Dispatch is a publication for education support professionals of the Pennsylvania State Education Association
400 North Third Street, PO Box 1724
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724

W. Gerard Oleksiak - PSEA President
Dolores M. McCracken - PSEA Vice President
Richard W. Askey - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

Dawn Bandle - PSEA ESP Region President
Marc Howshall - PSEA ESP Region Vice President
Mindy Anderson - PSEA ESP Region Secretary
Holly Harrington - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer
Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEA-RA voting</td>
<td>December 7, 2016 – January 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESP Local Audit Certificate Due in PSEA Headquarters</td>
<td>January 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for receipt of NEA-RA paper ballots</td>
<td>February 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSEA Minority Leadership and Women’s Leadership Training Conference</td>
<td>March 17-18, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESP Region Leadership Conference and House of Delegates, Gettysburg</td>
<td>April 21-22, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Southern Tioga ESP donated supplies for students, including dry erase markers, whiteboards, calculators, musical instruments, and items for the day care students. Pictured from left are Southern Tioga ESP President Sandra Worden and member Norma Martin, who came up with the idea to donate items to district students.

Tussey Mountain ESP members prepare to attend a school board meeting in a show of solidarity. The district recently announced plans to explore subcontracting of the cafeteria staff.