We celebrated ESP Day during American Education Week in November – a day when communities show their appreciation for education support professionals in our public schools.

I took some time to reflect on how proud I am to work with such great ESP members across Pennsylvania. One such member is Susan Lynam, who works in the North Penn School District, Montgomery County. I was especially proud on ESP Day this year to announce that Susan has been awarded PSEA’s 2017 ESP of the Year.

For most of her 15 years at North Penn, Susan has been the guidance office secretary at Penndale Middle School. She is also active with the North Penn Education Support Professionals Association, having served as president, PACE chair, and treasurer.

As a guidance office secretary, Susan interacts with students daily. She gets to see many different students throughout the day and believes school is a place where they feel safe. She encourages all ESPs to be present and available to help the students.

Mideastern Region President Alan Malachowski nominated Susan for ESP of the Year. Susan lives in Hatfield with her husband of 27 years. They have one daughter who went through the North Penn schools and is now a teacher in the district.

As PSEA’s ESP of the Year, Susan will be nominated for the National Education Association ESP of the Year Award.

Just like Susan, all ESP members, regardless of job title or classification, make a positive impact on the education of all students. You are the foundation on which public education is built and are an integral component of the educational process. You ensure our students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

We all need to advocate to protect all ESP members from poor working conditions, layoffs, and privatization. ESP jobs are not for sale, and we do not want strangers taking over our jobs. Please keep alert for a potential call to action in the future. The state House and Senate have introduced bills to make privatizing our jobs more difficult and the process more transparent. We may need you to contact your legislators regarding these bills.

Thank you for making a difference and having a positive impact on public education and our students.

“...A group of swimmers used to come in to see me. They were eighth-graders all on the swim team, and they had to be at the high school early because that’s where our pool is. Then they would be bused here to the middle school, and instead of going to the cafeteria before school opens, they used to sit here and eat their breakfast and talk to me. I was what I call the ‘Mom Counselor.’ I would give them a little advice about what they needed to do, stop being petty, those kinds of things. I miss it this year because they all moved to the high school. … We still have a lot of kids who like to come in. This is their safe haven – this office.”

– Susan Lynam, Guidance Office secretary at Penndale Middle School, leader in the North Penn Education Support Professionals Association, and PSEA’s 2017 ESP of the Year.
Elections for the following officers and committee positions will take place at the ESP Region House of Delegates at the DoubleTree Cranberry Township on April 20.

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 spring issue of Dispatch. The candidates will have their names printed on the election ballots.

Statement of Candidacy is due Feb. 9, 2018.

REGION OFFICERS
Term 2018-2020
• Vice President
• Officer-at-Large

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Term 2018-2020
• Committee Members (two)
• Alternate Members (two)

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Term 2018-2020
• Committee Members (two)
• Alternate Members (two)

PSEA will host the 2018 Summer Leadership Conference in Gettysburg July 22-26, 2018. 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) 606-9519 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 Feb. 23.
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

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SUBMITTED CANDIDATE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 4 P.M., FEB. 9, 2018 at:

ESP REGION CREDENTIALS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

c/o Candace Kuba, Field Assistant

PSEA

P.O. Box 1724

Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724
The Upper Darby Education Support Professional Association was presented with a state House Resolution by Rep. Jamie Santora, R-Delaware County, for the great work it does enriching the lives of children. Receiving the resolution, left to right, are: Denise Kennedy, Kathy Rowan, Kim McDevitt, Denise Worthington, and Mary Dougherty.