

September 2018

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Voice

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PSEA Mission

We are members who promote, protect, and advocate for our schools, students, and professions.

The Voice for Education

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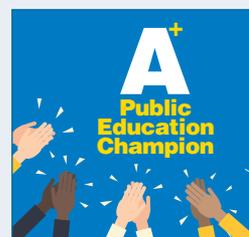
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Tom Wolf has been a terrific governor for public education. Just ask PSEA members. "Gov. Wolf listens to educators and supports pro-public education policies," said Bill Gerhauser, a psychology and history teacher in the Council Rock School District, Bucks County. "Gov. Wolf advocates for students and stands up for PSEA members."



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Showcasing your creativity and hard work

Educators and support professionals spend countless hours every summer getting their schools and classrooms ready for students to arrive at the start of the new school year.

One of my favorite parts of the job as PSEA president is to showcase your creativity and hard work. The time and energy you put into getting your school ready for students was too good an opportunity to pass up.

So, a few weeks ago, we put out a call to PSEA members on Facebook for pictures of their schools or classrooms as they get everything set up for the year. Our members sent us dozens to choose from.

The photos reflect the promise and potential that characterize the start of every school year. In these pictures, I see members who are excited to begin their journey with a new group of students.

It made me happy to see these photos and know that educators and students will spend more time this year in these amazing classrooms teaching and learning – and less time on the high-stakes PSSA tests.

That's because Gov. Tom Wolf im-

plemented changes to the PSSA tests this year that will reduce exam periods by one week, set testing time later in the year to give students more time to prepare, and reduce testing time overall by 20 percent.

By now, all your schools and classrooms are bustling with students and activity as the school year is well under way. I just want to take a moment to step back and appreciate what you do behind the scenes, before the hustle and bustle rolls in.

This is a powerful reminder that PSEA members care deeply about their students. So much so that they give up part of their summer to create welcoming, engaging, beautiful classrooms that invite students to enter, come together, and learn. 🍏



Email Dolores McCracken: dmccracken@psea.org



Laura Rockwell, Pennsbury School District



Doni Karn, IU #12 Lincoln

Jamie Motsko, Wilson School District



Katie Torres, Conemaugh Valley School District



Jane Ammary, Allentown School District



Madelyn Simmons, Wattsburg Area School District



Courtney Royer, Derry Township School District



Mandy Kirby, Carlisle Area School District

Jobs at PSEA

For a list of all PSEA job vacancies, visit www.psea.org/jobs

Askey named to statewide commission

PSEA Vice President Rich Askey has been appointed to Gov. Tom Wolf’s newly created Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

“It is an honor to be selected by the governor to serve on this commission, and to help work toward removing disadvantages some people face because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,” Askey said.

Wolf created the 40-member commission, which is the first of its kind in the nation, with an executive order in August

to “help coordinate and drive statewide equality efforts.”

The governor noted the commission was suggested by LGBTQ stakeholder and advocacy groups. ▣

PSEA Vice President Rich Askey, right, with Gov. Tom Wolf.



PSEA supports McGarrigle’s grad options bill

PSEA members’ advocacy played a major role in getting a bill passed by the state Senate in June to give high school students additional options to fulfill graduation requirements.

Now, the same support is needed as the House considers the measure.

“Senate passage would have been impossible without PSEA’s advocacy and support,” said state Sen. Tom McGarrigle, R-Chester/Delaware, who is the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 1095.

The bill would take effect when the delay in using the Keystone exams as graduation requirements expires during the 2019-20 school year.

“The purpose of graduation requirements is to ensure students can show proficiency in the knowledge and skills relevant to their individual career pathways,” McGarrigle said.

“The Keystone exams shouldn’t be the sole factor in determining high school graduation because they cannot measure the range of aptitude needed to be successful in college or

“Standardized testing has handcuffed dedicated teachers and principals, preventing them from carrying out the vital individualized instruction necessary for children to succeed.”

PSEA President Dolores McCracken praised McGarrigle’s efforts, and she urged PSEA members to continue their strong advocacy of the legislation in the House.

“Sen. McGarrigle recognizes there are other ways to measure students’ abilities than standardized tests,” she said. “Students’ academic records reflect outstanding and unique accomplishments that shouldn’t be ignored.”

Go to www.psea.org/gradoptions today and encourage your state representative to support McGarrigle’s graduation options bill. It will make a difference. ▣

Go to www.psea.org/gradoptions today, and encourage your state representative to support McGarrigle’s graduation options bill. It will make a difference.

the workplace.”

SB 1095 follows legislation passed by the General Assembly last year, and also supported by PSEA, to allow career and technical students to demonstrate their competency to graduate through their grades, alternative assessments, and industry-based certification.

“The endless regimen of standardized tests is not enough to demonstrate proficiency,” McGarrigle said.

Oleksiak looks back at history-making role

A year ago, Jerry Oleksiak made history by becoming the first PSEA president to serve in a governor's cabinet.

Looking back, Oleksiak acknowledged that weighing Gov. Tom Wolf's offer to become state secretary of labor and industry wasn't an easy decision to make.

"That call from the governor was completely unexpected, and he told me, 'before you say no, come and see me,'" Oleksiak recalled. "I thought long and hard about it, and I called him on July 4 (2017) from the NEA-RA and accepted."

That made the PSEA Board of Director's meeting later that month interesting, to say the least. A new officer team had to be put in place. Dolores McCracken, then vice president, became president, and the board elected then treasurer Rich Askey as vice president, and former Northeastern Region president Jeff Ney as treasurer, effective Sept. 2, 2017.

Oleksiak said he experienced a bit of a learning curve heading the state Department of Labor and Industry, but has settled in and is enjoying his job.

"The thing I was most concerned about was I was very comfortable with the staff at PSEA. I knew when one of them or a group of them came to see me

that I was getting advice that was in the best interests of the Association," he said. "I was concerned if I'd find that at Labor and Industry, but I did and we have a great team."

A major similarity between his for-

In addition, there is also "industry" involved in the department's work. Addressing businesses' needs and issues with their workforces is equally important, and Oleksiak has been part of business roundtables and task forces made

up of representatives from organized labor and business groups.

He said the one question he gets asked most is, "What is the governor really like?"

"He is all that he appears to be. He is genuine, he is honest, he is funny," Oleksiak said. "And I can tell you Gov. Wolf is very committed to public education and to working families, and he is very supportive of organized labor."

Oleksiak still follows PSEA on social media, and he said he talks

occasionally with the officers.

He went to the Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference in July to visit with PSEA members and to attend the governor's speech at the conference's opening session.

"I still very much respect PSEA, and I wish the Association well," Oleksiak said. "PSEA has been a big part of my life." ■

I can tell you Gov. Wolf is very committed to public education and to working families, and he is very supportive of organized labor.



mer role as PSEA president and his position as labor and industry secretary is serving working families.

"It's an executive position, and I have to make sure that the laws and policies are carried out, but I do feel like I'm able to advocate for working men and women," Oleksiak said. "We are dealing with people who are hurt on the job, who are out of work, who are looking for new skills to find work, people who have disabilities."

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Supreme Court ruling won't silence PSEA

Public sector unions may have lost a key case before the U.S. Supreme Court this summer, but PSEA remains committed to serving its members and speaking out on behalf of good public education policies and working families.

“The reports of our union’s death are greatly exaggerated,” said PSEA President Dolores McCracken, paraphrasing an early champion of the labor movement and working families, Mark Twain.

She said the ruling in late June in *Janus v. AFSCME* was disappointing, but was hardly unexpected given the current makeup of the high court.

At issue was whether public sector unions could continue to charge a “fair share fee” to non-members for the benefits and representation they receive under collective bargaining agreements. The court ruled 5-4 in favor of Mark Janus, an Illinois state

employee who contended he shouldn’t have to pay a fair share fee because he disagrees with AFSCME’s positions.

McCracken noted that Janus was backed by well-heeled, anti-union forces as part of their assault on organ-

The reports of our union’s death are greatly exaggerated.

ized labor in recent years for ideological purposes.

“This case was financed by anti-union front groups who want to silence the voices of working people who speak up through their unions for better schools, adequate public services, and good jobs,” McCracken said. “If the goal of the people who funded this lawsuit is to silence us, I can tell you that it’s not going to happen.”

Something else that will not change, she said, is the outstanding service that PSEA provides to its members. The Association will continue to work toward providing good salaries, benefits, protections on the job, policies that help kids, and a voice for working people.

McCracken said a major advantage PSEA continues to have is the solidarity of its 181,000 members.

“Together, PSEA members speak out for the kinds of policies that our public school students need to get the education they are entitled to and for the salaries, benefits, working conditions, and respect that every public school employee deserves,” she said. “That is what PSEA has always done, and that is what PSEA and its members will continue to do – regardless of the Supreme Court’s decision.”

PSEA WEAR

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Do you want to show your PSEA pride? Now, you can wear PSEA on your sleeve (or on a hat).

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Order these items online and have them delivered directly to your home.



www.psea.org/wear



+ Public Education Champion



Tom Wolf has been a terrific governor for public education.

Just ask PSEA members.

“Gov. Wolf listens to educators and supports pro-public education policies,” said Bill Gerhauser, a psychology and history teacher in the Council Rock School District, Bucks County. “Gov. Wolf advocates for students and stands up for PSEA members.”

By restoring nearly \$1 billion in state public school funding cuts in his first term, Wolf has helped school districts restore key programs and bring back staff to help reduce class sizes.

But his list of accomplishments in his first term went well beyond restoring the funding cuts. He has:

- Increased school funding overall.
- Enacted a fair funding formula.
- Established a school safety task force.
- Fought subcontracting.
- Reduced standardized testing.
- Invested in career and technical education.

And along the way he has consistently sought input from PSEA members to help formulate policy.

He included 15 PSEA members and staff on statewide task forces to develop the state’s plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act. The plan that emerged and was given final federal approval includes less emphasis on standardized testing and more reliance on multiple measures to assess student achievement and school quality.

Following the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, last February, the governor asked PSEA for sugges-

tions, and PSEA asked members to offer their views on addressing school safety. Nearly 1,000 members responded.

Their input was included in a report PSEA President Dolores McCracken delivered to Wolf and lawmakers. Those ideas also became part of a comprehensive school safety bill the governor signed in June to provide \$60 million in school safety grants for programs designed to meet specific, local needs, and to also set up a safe and anonymous network for educators, students, and community members to report threats of violence or instances of bullying.

Gov. Wolf listens to educators, supports pro-public education policies, advocates for students, and stands up for PSEA members.

“Tom Wolf is a great pro-public education governor, and a great friend of working families,” McCracken said. “Over the past four years, he has stood up for policies that help kids, and for good salaries, benefits, and protections on the job for working people.”

The task at hand now is to make sure he is given another four years this November to build on the outstanding work he’s done for public education during his first term.

“Gov. Wolf has made public education his number one priority,” said Melanie Hudson, a personal care assistant in the Upper Darby School District, Delaware County. “We need to keep him in office.”

More information on Wolf’s accomplishments and PSEA members’ views follow:



“ Under Gov. Wolf, I have seen our teaching community being **more positive, more confident, and ready to take on the future.** ”

To know that pensions have been protected under Gov. Wolf is paramount. It’s nice to know that my younger colleagues and teachers coming into the profession are going to have that security. ”

Erin Chiridon, learning support teacher, West Shore

Public Education: Gov. Wolf’s **Number One Priority**

Since his first day as governor, Tom Wolf has made public education his top priority.

Gov. Wolf has restored the \$1 billion in school funding cuts he inherited when he took office.



“ Gov. Wolf has made a tremendous impact on education by helping to restore the nearly \$1 billion in funding cuts the previous administration had made. ”

It has made a huge difference for my students, my school, and my community.

The governor has also been a huge asset in Harrisburg in helping to protect our pensions and making sure our pension system remains viable for all members of PSEA.”

Christopher Piasecki, technology teacher, Wayne Highlands

Gov. Wolf Listens to You

Gov. Wolf asked PSEA members for their suggestions on making our schools safer.

He listened and provided \$60 million in school safety grants and other initiatives to address potential threats to our schools.



The things we needed we are now able to get. Because of Gov. Wolf's investments in public education,

I've seen a difference for the students in Chester Upland.

Our graduation rates have gone up, our education levels have gone up, our special education needs are being addressed, and our kids overall are being served better.”

John Shelton, dean of students, Chester Upland

Wagner distorting governor's record

Sometimes you must consider the source.

Gov. Tom Wolf doesn't support the fair funding formula for Pennsylvania's public schools and wants to cut funding for rural school districts? It's just not true.

This is the same governor who has restored \$1 billion in school funding cuts.

But that hasn't stopped his opponent in this year's gubernatorial race, former state senator Scott Wagner, from distorting Wolf's positions.

Perhaps Wagner is trying to divert attention from his own positions on public education and working families. For example, Wagner:

- Voted against every bipartisan state budget agreement to invest in public schools while a state senator.

- Co-sponsored a tuition voucher bill that would siphon \$500 million away from public education.
- Wants to eliminate public pensions and collective bargaining rights and force employees to pay more for health care.

And what does he think about public school educators? Here is what he told ABC 27 in Harrisburg: “We have 180,000 teachers in the state of Pennsylvania. If we laid off 10 percent of the teachers in the state of Pennsylvania, we'd never miss them.”

The next time you hear that Tom Wolf isn't a friend of ALL public schools, consider the source. And look at the real records.



Whether he’s talking about testing, subcontracting, funding, or fighting for school employees like me,

Gov. Wolf puts public education front and center.

He’s made promises, and he’s kept them.”

Melanie Hudson, personal care assistant, Upper Darby

PSEA members going door to door

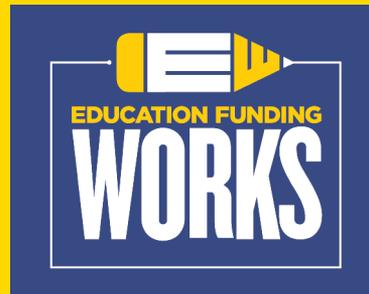
Nearly 200 PSEA members are knocking on doors across Pennsylvania, talking to their friends and neighbors about how pro-public education policies benefit Pennsylvania’s schools, students, and educators.

The Education Funding Works initiative is all about educators telling their stories and letting people know that education policy, education funding, and the elected officials who make decisions on those issues make a difference for public schools and the students who learn there.

“I remind people about how great public education is,” said PSEA member Jason Davis, Penn Trafford EA. “After I do, they’ll probably talk with two or three people, which means I helped facilitate not just one,

but multiple conversations.”

PSEA members participating in the EFW program have knocked on thousands of doors, and they’re just getting started.



In Penn Manor, because of Gov. Wolf’s funding increases,

we’ve been able to hire more teachers, including an emotional support teacher

who our students really needed. Students are receiving one-to-one laptops to keep up with technology.”

Megan Szentesy, elementary teacher, Penn Manor

Gov. Wolf invests in **Career Education**

Gov. Wolf increased career and technical education funding by \$10 million.

The number of students in career and technical education programs has risen by 42 percent.



Gov. Wolf understands that standardized testing takes away from the real work in the classroom.

The less time we have to spend on standardized testing, the more time we have to spend on the content

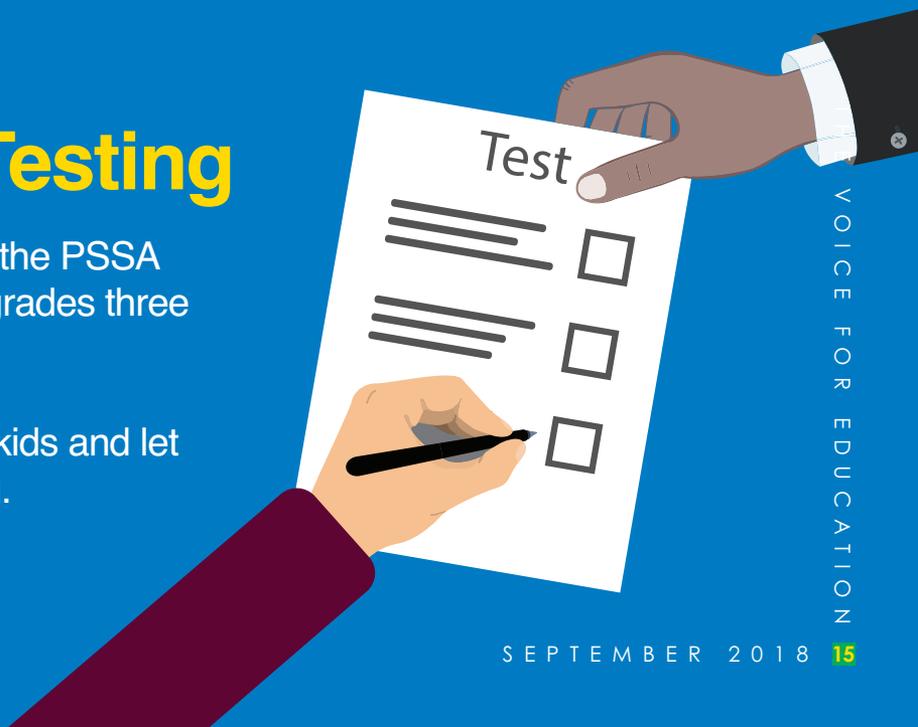
we know our kids need in the real world.”

Bill Gerhauser, psychology and history teacher, Council Rock

Gov. Wolf believes in **Teaching not Testing**

Gov. Wolf reduced the length of the PSSA by an average of 20 percent in grades three through eight.

That will ease the stress on our kids and let teachers focus more on learning.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP

WHAT DO OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION AND PSEA DO? **TOGETHER...**



We fight for the salaries and benefits we need to support our families.



We protect members when you need it most so we have the peace of mind to do our jobs.

WE

That's the key word.

Our association is only as strong as the members who belong. We all need to belong in order to effectively negotiate our salaries, benefits, and working conditions. Membership is strength.

181,000

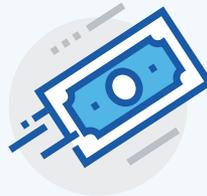
PSEA members



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The average ESP salary in PA is

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MATTERS.



“ Being a PSEA member is extremely important to me as a teacher. It means that I have a collective unit of people who have my back no matter what. We are stronger together than we are as individuals. PSEA makes the difference.”

- Jennifer Wahl, Loyalsock Township EA

“ If we lose members, we’re going to lose our seat at the table and the influence that we have to get good salaries, good benefits, and good working conditions. ”

- Kevin Deely, Easton Area EA



“ Here in Pennsylvania, I want to see that our members continue to have that opportunity to bargain and to have a living wage. I think it’s really important that we all stick together and that everybody is treated with respect and equality.”

- Dawn Bandle, Lehigh Career & Technical Institute ESP



PREVIOUS
LEARNING LESSON
UPDATE

Learning Lessons

Great ideas, Great schools

This story is part of a regular series, “Learning Lessons: Great ideas, Great schools,” that features educators who are doing great things or conducting great programs in Pennsylvania’s public schools. For other stories in the series go to www.psea.org/learninglessons.

On a warm, June day, the sun is peeking through the leaves of towering oak trees outside the Third and Spruce Recreation Center in Reading. Groups of students are huddled around enthusiastic teachers. Children are laughing, smiling, and enjoying their lessons.

And as the breeze blows and birds sing a summer song, this doesn’t feel like a community that is struggling. It doesn’t feel like a community with 40 percent of its residents living in poverty. It feels like a community with hope.

Bringing an opportunity

When Daphne Klahr, executive director of the Reading Recreation Commission, learned about the Teachers in the Parks program, she was eager to bring it to the children and community she serves.

“Kids in the city of Reading deserve the same opportunities as kids everywhere,” she said.

Klahr found support from administrators in the Reading School District, Berks County, and parents in the community. She sent fliers home with the tagline, “Give your child an ad-

vantage this summer.” The response was overwhelmingly positive.

She also found support in Exeter Township EA member and founder of Teachers in the Parks, Matthew Hathaway.

“All children deserve access to quality summer learning programs. Teachers in the Parks started in Exeter, but the research is clear. All children slide in math and reading, but especially those in poverty,” Hathaway said. “So when there was an opportunity to work with the Reading Recreation Commission, we jumped on it right away.”

More than 80 children already attend a summer program at Third and Spruce Recreation Center. They participate in the “Give a Book, Get a Book”

initiative to encourage literacy skills. And they receive a free lunch through a federally funded program.

Hathaway believes in meeting children in their natural summer environments, so the location was the perfect venue for a Teachers in the Parks site. But finding teachers to be a part of the program proved to be a challenge of a different kind.

“The response has been overwhelming,” Hathaway said.



Students select books at a Teachers in the Parks program in Reading.

“We had to turn away more than 30 teachers this year because we didn’t have the capacity in our first pilot year to serve that many. Just imagine the possibilities for children in Reading, or any major city, if teachers filled the parks to help children bridge the summer gap.”

A calling to serve

Wilson EA member and reading specialist Teresa Lubas no longer teaches in the Reading School District, but it’s close to her heart. She grew up in Reading, is a Reading High School alumni, taught in the district for more than five years, and is invested in the community. She knew the Teachers in the Parks program would be a success.

“A lot of these kids come to the after-school program,” she said. “This is home to them. They come here in the summer to the parks and since they spend such a great deal of time here, the best way to help them educationally is to have a program like this.”

Lubas worked with rising first- and second-grade students on the first day of Teachers in the Parks in Reading.

“I read a story to the kids today called, ‘First Day Jitters,’” she said. “And the whole time, the kids believed the story was about a little kid nervous about the first day of school. And then they realized it is about a teacher, and they laughed. It really broke the ice.”

Bernadette Norton is a school counselor in the Reading School District and a member of Reading EA. She believes the casual nature of Teachers in the Parks helps with its success, especially in a community like Reading.

“It’s in the neighborhood where the kids already are, and it’s extra help for them in a no-pressure environment,” she said.

Kayla Welsh, a Reading EA member and fifth-grade teacher, is eager to see the progress her students make over the summer.



Students listen to a teacher in a shady, grassy spot.

“Throughout the year, you work with the students every single day in language arts,” she said. “In the Reading School District, we use a system where they move up levels and when they come back after summer, they’ve either moved down a level or

two levels. I think Teachers in the Parks will really help bridge that gap so they don’t lose what they learned throughout the school year.”

Addressing the two-thirds

Hathaway is passionate about expanding Teachers in the Parks because he cares about the kids and their success.

“I think a program like Teachers in the Parks is important in any community,” he said.

“Districts isolate them-

selves and think only children who attend their schools are their responsibility. That’s not true. Children in every community are going to grow up to become our teachers, our doctors, our business people, our workforce.”

He noted that this thought process also applies when the outcome is negative.

“If we don’t reach them, they are also going to become our social responsibility. They’re going to become our responsibility with health care, they’re going to become our responsibility with welfare. And statistically they are more likely to become our responsibility in the prison system,” Hathaway said. “I’d rather spend a few hundred dollars per child every summer to provide a meaningful learning experience than tens of thousands of dollars when they are adults in need of social programs.

“If we can reach them early, make them literate by third grade, and sustain their success through ninth grade, then children are far more likely to lead satisfying and rewarding lives.”

To learn more about Teachers in the Parks, visit

www.teachersintheparks.com.



See it for yourself!

Watch this program in action at
www.psea.org/LearningLessons

Got a story? If you know about a program that would make a good feature for “Learning Lessons: Great ideas, Great schools,” please email John Troutman at jtroutman@psea.org.



Teachers in the Parks founder honored nationally

Matthew Hathaway's labor of love in developing the Teachers in the Parks summer program has earned him national

recognition as one of 46 recipients this year of the NEA Foundation's prestigious California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence.

Hathaway, an elementary teacher in the Exeter Township School District, Berks County, founded Teachers in the

Parks as a young teacher in 2004. Other teachers and school districts, particularly in the Berks County region, have joined in over the years.

our nation that high-quality summer learning programs provide children a much clearer path to literacy and math proficiency."



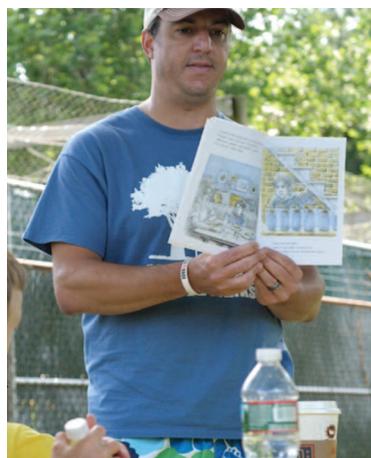
Matthew Hathaway

Recipients of the Teaching Excellence award are nominated by their peers in NEA state affiliates based on their dedication to the profes-

sion, attention to diversity, and advocacy for fellow educators. 🌱

...high-quality summer learning programs provide children a much clearer path to literacy and math proficiency.

"Teachers across Berks County earned this national honor," Hathaway said. "Together, they have sent a clear message across Pennsylvania and now



Teachers spend summer days working with students in a Teachers in the Parks program in the Exeter Township School District.

Teacher makes students part of history

In the musical “Hamilton” there is a famous line, “When you got skin in the game, you stay in the game.”

Joe Welch, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s 2018 Pennsylvania History Teacher of the Year, starts with that quote when he begins to describe his teaching philosophy.

“In education, especially history, if you allow students to be part of the story, and to really interact with their story, and to put their own view on the story, I think that is huge for student engagement,” said Welch, a middle school social studies teacher in the North Hills School District, Allegheny County.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (www.gilderlehrman.org) is a national organization that promotes K-12 history education by providing schools with resources and teachers with various training opportunities. As part of its

activities, it names state teachers of the year. As the 2018 Pennsylvania recipient, Welch, who was nominated by a fellow teacher, received a \$1,000 cash



Joe Welch works one-on-one with a student.

award and a spot in one of the institute’s teaching seminars. His school’s library received an archive of books and resources.

In honoring Welch, the institute cited his use of creative and innovative projects that require students to see history through the eyes of those involved

in it, and those affected by it.

For example, in studying the first colonial settlement at Jamestown, students look at weather, ship manifests to see what supplies were brought to the New World, and journals about the relationships with Native Americans. They then relate that to what settlers must have experienced.

Studies of other historical events may take students to do interviews with military veterans, or to senior citizens in nursing homes.

That is followed by using technology to put together written and visual presentations that Welch stresses “must be based on facts – not just a pretty video.”

The common thread is for students to see themselves and others in history.

“Often in a movie, we watch characters and we connect with them,” Welch said. “I try to do this with my students.”

Innovative Teaching Grants

PSEA’s Council on Instruction and Professional Development annually awards Innovative Teaching Grants. This year’s recipients are:

Christie Z. Orlosky
Armstrong EA, Armstrong/Indiana counties

“SPARKS” (*Science Piques a Rural Kid’s Senses*). This project will be designed and led by high school science student leaders. Their mission is to create science activity centers for



From left, Christie Orlosky; Judy Metzler and Amy Lightner of PSEA’s Council on Instruction and Professional Development; and Eric Gopen.

each of the five elementary schools within the school district with the hopes of sparking science excitement and curiosity among younger students.

Eric A. Gopen
Parkland EA, Lehigh County

Emergency Medical Technician. The Emergency Medical Technician class will provide students with the opportunity to earn a national registry EMT certification that can be used to work on an ambulance anywhere in the country.

2018-19 PSEA Professional Learning WEBINAR SERIES

PSEA members can earn Act 48 credits by participating in the following webinars.



For more information and to register, visit www.psea.org/act48webinars.

Oct. 8, 2018, 5-6 p.m.

Advancing Education Equity through Federal Legislation: The Every Student Succeeds Act

Nov. 13, 2018, 5-6 p.m.

Behavior and Students with Disabilities

Jan. 14, 2019, 5-6 p.m.

Certification, Evaluation, Tenure, and Act 48 for Educators in PA

Feb. 11, 2019, 5-6 p.m.

Career Portfolios: Productively Contributing to your School's Future Ready PA Index

March 11, 2019, 5-6 p.m.

Universal Design for Learning

April 8, 2019, 5-6 p.m.

Equity Audits: What are they and how can they be used to create more equitable and excellent schools?

May 13, 2019, 5-6 p.m.

Supporting Students with Allergies: Requirements and Best Practices

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Young students, blacksmith forge bond

Every year, elementary arts teacher Jessica Noel and her students produce a permanent piece of artwork for the school as a legacy project.

When the 2017-18 school year started, Noel's principal at Danville Primary School asked her if she could find a way to build an iron train sculpture for the front of the building to capture the rich ironmaking and rail history of Danville, Montour County.

"I thought, 'that's not exactly in my wheelhouse,'" said Noel, a K-2 arts teacher. "But I made some calls and came up with the idea of an artist-in-residence program."

Not just any artist in residence – a practicing blacksmith, Doug Firestone.

"I found Doug through a community member involved with the Danville Heritage Festival," Noel said. "Doug came and demonstrated forging. And he turned out to be such a gentle giant that he fit in perfectly with this age level."

To demonstrate his craft and how he planned to build the iron train sculpture, Firestone worked with 575 young students to build clay models

of the sculpture. He also told the kids about the history of ironmaking and trains.

The only missing piece of the

logistically impossible to take nearly 600 kids on a field trip.

So Noel and technology teacher Paul Breon went to his shop to videotape Firestone doing his craft, and to have him do a video presentation for the students.

The sculpture was unveiled as part of the heritage festival this summer, and the students' clay models were on display at the festival.

"The project gave the students a greater understanding of our community history, and insight into a craft that is beyond their world," Noel said. "It's not every day that students get to interact with a blacksmith."

Firestone, who specializes in 18th century blacksmithing, said it was a two-way street.

"I'm not used to working with kids, and I wasn't in my comfort zone at first. But it turned out to be a wonderful experience,"

Firestone

said. "They were so excited to see me when I went to the school that it was easy to get their attention." 



Blacksmith Doug Firestone, above, helps students make clay models for an iron train sculpture in front of the school. Below, the finished project is unveiled.



Join the conversation

Stay current on education news. Share what's going on in your schools. Discuss professional issues, and weigh in on the latest state policy debates. **Join the conversation.**



Send in your delegate nomination for NEA-RA

The NEA Representative Assembly is the primary legislative and policy-making body of the Association. It derives its powers from and is responsible to the membership.

The NEA-RA adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, legislative program, and other policies of the Association.

Delegates vote by secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Those delegates with full voting rights elect the executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors.

Allocation of delegate credentials for the annual NEA-RA is based on Active membership in the Association as of January 15 of the calendar year in which the Representative Assembly convenes.

The following criteria are used to describe the four delegate categories:

NEA Active Member - Category 1

Delegate includes:

- NEA/PSEA Active members, including Active, Education Support Professional, and Higher Education members who are not supervisors
- NEA Active Life members who are not

retired, who are not supervisors, who are members of PSEA.

NEA Active Member - Category 2

Delegate includes:

- NEA/PSEA Active members who are supervisors
- NEA Active Life members who are not retired, who are supervisors, who are members of PSEA
- NEA Active Life members who are retired, who are members of PSEA-Retired, who are not members of NEA-Retired.

NEA-Retired Delegate includes:

- PSEA-Retired/NEA-Retired members, who must be a member of both PSEA-Retired and NEA-Retired
- NEA Active Life members, who are retired, and who are members of PSEA-Retired and NEA-Retired.

Student Delegate includes:

- PSEA Student/NEA Student members.

Active Life members

An Active Life member of NEA who is eligible for NEA-Retired membership may join NEA as a Retired member while retaining his or her Active Life membership.

However, as an NEA-Retired mem-

ber, he or she will be considered an NEA-Retired member for purposes of participation in NEA governance. If the member is also a member of PSEA-Retired he or she may nominate, vote for, and serve as an NEA-Retired delegate. If he or she is not a member of PSEA-Retired, he or she may nominate and vote for, but may not serve as an NEA-Retired delegate.

An Active Life member of NEA who is eligible for NEA-Retired membership who does not choose to join NEA-Retired, but who is a member of PSEA or PSEA-Retired, may nominate, vote for, and serve as a NEA Category 2 delegate.

He or she may not nominate, vote for, or serve as an NEA-Retired delegate.

An NEA Active or NEA Active Life Member who is a supervisor and is a member of PSEA may nominate, vote for, and serve as an NEA category 2 delegate.

An NEA-Retired Member for Life who is not—and who is not required to be—a member of PSEA-Retired (that is, who joined prior to the effective date of unification for Retired members) may nominate and vote for NEA-Retired delegates, but cannot serve as an NEA-Retired delegate.

Online nomination form:

www.psea.org/nomination

Voting for NEA-RA delegates

A member with a valid email address will receive an email from PSEA that includes instructions on how to request a paper ballot to vote for delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly.

A member without a valid email address or who voted via paper ballot last year will be mailed a paper ballot no later than Dec. 21.

If PSEA does not have a valid email address, members can update their email address at www.psea.org/myprofile. Those members who want an online ballot must have a valid email address. Members without email can vote at www.psea.org/voteneara.

If there are questions regarding the voting process, email NEABallot@psea.org or call Kelby Waltman at (800) 944-7732, ext. 7105.

Use this form to run for next year's NEA-RA or use the online nomination form.

Declaration of Candidacy

For State Delegate to the 2019 NEA Convention in Houston, Texas (July 2-7, 2019).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Work Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Home Email _____

PSEA ID # _____ Region _____

Local Association _____
(do not abbreviate)

Category:

- 1. NEA Active Member – Category 1/Non-Supervisory (includes Active, Education Support Professional, and Higher Education members who are not supervisory and NEA Active Life/PSEA members who are not supervisory and who are not retired)
- 2. NEA Active Member – Category 2 (includes Active, Education Support Professional, and Higher Education members who are supervisory, NEA Active Life/PSEA members who are supervisory and who are not retired, NEA Active Life/PSEA-Retired Members who are retired but who are not a member of NEA-Retired)
- 3. NEA-Retired Member (must be a member of PSEA-Retired and NEA-Retired)

Ethnic Grouping, Other Information:

- Yes, I want my ethnic grouping listed. Select from the list below:
- American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Black
 - Caucasian Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- No, I do not want my ethnic grouping listed.

Biographical Sketch: Please give a brief biographical sketch of **no more than 25 words**. (If more words are used, the flier that accompanies ballots will include only the first 25 words.) If you wish your ethnic grouping to be listed, please indicate above. This will not count as part of the 25-word limitation. *Your biographical sketch will be reproduced exactly as submitted. Please review it for accuracy. We strongly encourage you to attach your biographical sketch as a typed page to this form or use the online nomination form.*

Candidate Signature _____

Duties of delegates to Representative Assembly

1. Each delegate will be expected to arrive in time to ensure registering as an official delegate to the Representative Assembly (RA), with both the PSEA delegation and NEA.
2. Each delegate will be expected to attend all caucuses of the PSEA delegation and to participate in the caucus. Delegates are expected to remain through the convention.
3. Each delegate shall attend all business meetings of the RA.
4. Each delegate may be assigned tasks by the PSEA president.
5. Each delegate should take into consideration PSEA policy when voting.
6. Each delegate is encouraged to participate fully in all activities of the PSEA delegation.
7. Each delegate—state and local—will be expected to sit with his or her region delegation on the RA floor. This is to ensure communications regarding RA business and/or personal emergency information of concern to the delegate, as well as to verify attendance.

I understand that, as a state delegate, my attendance is directly funded by membership dues. I accept my responsibility to carry out the above specified duties. I understand that failure to fulfill the duties listed above may result in the loss or return of a portion of the funding provided by PSEA.

Date _____

Name _____

Forms should be mailed or faxed to:
**PSEA President, PO Box 1724,
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724.**

Fax # 717-255-7128 or submit your nomination form online at www.psea.org/nomination.

If you do not receive confirmation from PSEA that your form has been received within 10 days of the date you sent the form, contact Denise Rutledge at drutledge@psea.org.

This form must be received at PSEA headquarters no later than 4:30 p.m. Oct. 19, 2018. Candidates are urged to use certified mail, or register online, to ensure proof of receipt and compliance with the deadline.

PSEA Bylaws Article X, Section C.2. Fiscal Policies — Any member who is not current with his or her financial obligation to any local education association, state education association, or national education association shall not be entitled to represent the Association in any elected, appointed or official capacity. The region president shall be notified of delinquent accounts.

Minority members encouraged to attend NEA-RA

PSEA met an important goal when 20 percent of the state delegates at the NEA-RA were ethnic minority representatives, meeting a target set by NEA's 3.1(g) Bylaw.

The 3.1(g) Bylaw encourages states to send delegates to the RA who reflect the percentage of minorities in the general population of each state.

"We are happy that we met our goal of ethnic minority delegates in 2018," said PSEA Treasurer Jeff Ney, who heads PSEA's 3.1(g) efforts. "But this is

just one step in our overall effort to increase participation of ethnic minority members in all national, state, and local activities."

There are two ways to serve as a delegate to the NEA-RA, as a state delegate or a local delegate. To serve as a state delegate, members must complete the NEA-RA State Delegate Candidacy Application. Names will be included on the ballot that all PSEA members receive in January. To serve as a local delegate, the member's local must vote

to approve this status. The process for this varies from local to local; however, obtaining local delegate status makes members eligible for the Minority Affairs Committee's annual NEA-RA scholarship.

Scholarship information will be available in October through the Minority Affairs Committee. Information on the 3.1(g) plan is available at www.psea.org/minorityinvolvement. 

Valero grants awarded to nine students

Lucy Valero built PSEA's student program into one of the strongest in the nation, and her legacy continues to financially aid future educators through the Lucy A. Valero Scholarship Fund. Four college students and five high school students are this year's recipients. *Student PSEA winners, each receiving a \$3,000 scholarship, are:*

- **Jenna Achtzehn**, Slippery Rock University
- **Elizabeth Brunquell**, West Chester University
- **Hannah Fiscus**, Slippery Rock University
- **Adam Stiner**, Penn State University-Altoona

High school students receiving \$500 scholarships are:

- **Tomianne Anderson**, Riverside High School
- **Emma Britton**, New Oxford High School
- **Hannah Frederick**, Clarion Area High School
- **Ashley Kovel**, Everett Area High School
- **Sofia Jacalone**, Central Bucks High School South



Lucy Valero

Golfers raise money for Valero fund

More than \$16,000 was raised for the Lucy A. Valero Memorial Scholarship Fund by the 84 golfers who participated in PSEA's annual Friends of Public Education Golf Tournament.

The tournament is held the Friday of the Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference.

The first place team was made up of Brian Berkley, Kevin Berkley, Greg Knight, and Keith Williamson.



Tell Voice about it

We all know there are many good things going on in our public schools. Teachers and support professionals are doing wonderful things, both in schools and in the community. Please pass along items to Voice Editor John Troutman at jtroutman@psea.org.

DPS book drive



Members of PSEA's Department of Pupil Services – school counselors, dental hygienists, home and school visitors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers – donated 800 books to the Partners for Public Education Book Drive at the DPS conference in State College in August. The books were donated to Erie County Head Start.

PSEA starts Fund for Student Success

In July, the PSEA Board of Directors voted to approve the Fund for Student Success, a new PSEA account that will allow the Association to better communicate with the public about the needs of our students, schools, communities, and professions.

The new account provides PSEA greater flexibility to share news and information with friends, families, and neighbors related to issues, policies,

elected officials, and pro-public education candidates.

The Fund for Student Success will not – and legally cannot – provide campaign contributions to candidates, elected officials, or campaign committees. PSEA members can support pro-public education candidates and elected officials through their continued support of PSEA-PACE.

Too many districts in Pennsylvania

still lack resources necessary to adequately educate their students. They cannot afford to hire enough educators or other school staff, and cannot provide up-to-date textbooks, remedial programs, technology, or other supports and equipment.

That's why PSEA will use the Fund for Student Success to drive a message to the public: that Pennsylvania's children deserve better. 



PSEA supports battle against breast cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which PSEA observes as part of its year-round efforts to educate the public about the disease.

As part of those efforts, PSEA supports the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, a statewide organization dedicated to awareness, outreach, and education.

"The coalition does remarkable work in educating women, and in supporting victims and their families," said PSEA Treasurer Jeff Ney. "PSEA is proud to support their efforts, and we encourage all women to be aware of the need for screening and early detection."

For more information, visit www.pabreastcancer.org.

Student PSEA gets national honors

Student PSEA picked up some impressive honors at the 2018 NEA Representative Assembly in Minnesota this summer.

tion and infrastructure, recruitment of new members, communications, diversity of membership, professional de-



Student PSEA members at the NEA-RA this summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Student PSEA is an outstanding program for our future educators.



Christopher Clayton

Student PSEA won the NEA State Excellence Award that is given annually to NEA's top student affiliate. Criteria for the award includes organiza-

tion and infrastructure, recruitment of new members, communications, diversity of membership, professional de-

velopment, leadership, community outreach, and political action. In addition, Christopher Clayton, PSEA assistant director of education services who oversees Student PSEA, was honored with the Outstanding State Organizer Award. The award recognizes the dedication and service of an individual at the state level.

“Having the top student program and the top organizer in the same year confirms what we already knew – Student PSEA is an outstanding program for our future educators,” said PSEA Vice President Rich Askey. 🟩

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Painting positive messaging

Teachers and education support professionals at Garrettford Elementary School in the Upper Darby School District this summer painted the walls of restrooms with positive messages as part of this year's school theme, "Change Your Words, Change Your Mind." Funding was provided by the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation.



York County teachers support firefighters

The York County Coordinating Council, made up of EAs in York County, raised \$1,000 for the York Professional Fire Fighters Association on behalf of two firefighters who were killed in the line of duty in March. Reagan Bitler, right, council president and a teacher in the Hanover School District, presents a check to Fred DeSantis, fire fighters association president.

I am a member because...



“I’m a PSEA member because **it’s the right thing to do for my students, for my district, for my community, and for my education profession.** PSEA makes the difference.”

Pam Brown, Oxford Area EA

NEA partner aids state school districts



Athletes in the Homer-Center and Uniontown Area school districts have new equipment thanks to separate \$1,500 grants from California Casualty, an NEA member benefits partner. *In photo at left*, from left, are Homer-Center High School Principal Jody Rainey; Bobbi Jo Steffey of California Casualty; Scott Bauer, high school baseball coach; and Lisa Adams, Homer-Center EA president. *In photo at right*, from left, are Douglas Zajac, Uniontown EA president and track coach at Uniontown’s Lafayette Middle School, and Lauren Clemmer, middle school principal.

Welcome back to a new school year

know this is one of the busiest times of the year for PSEA members. You're meeting new students, organizing lesson plans, decorating your school's hallways and classrooms – doing all of the things necessary to give 1.7 million kids a great start to a new year.

While you're doing all of this, I hope you remember that your Association is here to support you as you do this important work.

PSEA is all about fighting for you, speaking out for you, and being there for you when you need help.

Of course, as a PSEA member, you help give your local association the power necessary to get the salaries, benefits, and working conditions you deserve.

And, as a member of the largest and most influential education association in Pennsylvania, your voice is a huge part of securing the pro-public education policies that every public school student should have.

As I look back on the summer months, one of my favorite memories is talking with members like you during the Gettysburg Leadership Conference in July. As I listened to members talk about the positive impact PSEA has on their schools, students, and professional careers, I was struck by the dedication members have to the Association to which they're proud to belong.

Many of those members talked about how the leadership of Gov. Tom Wolf – a friend of PSEA and champion for public education – has made a

difference in their lives. In the pages of this magazine, you'll see what members just like you are saying about the impact he's had.

These are real-life examples, and they're the best possible arguments for why we need to support Gov. Wolf in November, and make sure that he serves another four years in the governor's office.

Again and again, as I talk with members like you and listen to your stories, I am reminded of how powerful your voice



As I talk with members like you and listen to your stories, I am reminded of how powerful your voice is.

is. It's your stories about the impact Gov. Wolf has had on public education, your stories about how important it is to belong to PSEA, your stories about the incredible work that you do in your schools and classrooms, that make the biggest difference.

Of course, we try and tell those stories in this magazine, but I encourage you to share them with your PSEA colleagues, with your friends and families, and with your neighbors in your community.

People respect you. They'll listen

to you. And they'll be persuaded by what you have to say.

Educators and support professionals are among the most respected people in our state. Please don't forget that. And please don't forget that it's you – each and every PSEA member – that makes our Association strong.

So, welcome back. And thank you for everything you do. 🍷

Email Jim Vaughan:
jvaughan@psea.org

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