



WCEA Advocate

Welcome back and have a great year!!!



ESP's =Extra Special People!

You know who you are; those excellent secretaries that not only answer the phones, but keep the school running through efficient and organizational finesse. Those fabulous Paraeducators, (usually called aides, because it makes it easier to say than Paraeducators) that clean up messes, reinforce concepts, keep children safe on the play ground and about fifty more jobs that haven't been put in their job description. Those wonderful bus drivers who not only take precious children to school safely, but keep peace on a moving vehicle while negotiating rush hour traffic. Those cunning custodians that can keep boilers pumping and schools immaculate, while landscaping the entire school yard. Those hard working cafeteria people that constantly work magic to feed students healthy and balanced meals. Those



Debbi Siena

brave security guards who are always putting themselves in harm's way to keep students safe and the schools secure. Those special clerks in the offices, and those expert assistants in the nurse's office. Yes, you are all very important to the educational system, and very EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE! You are the "everyday heroes" that help keep the schools at their highest quality.

Watch for ESP information in this newsletter that will help you in your everyday duties that will make you even more EXTRAORDINARY!! Any questions? Please feel free to call me at 908-850-5699 or e-mail me: debra.siena@hotmail.com, and I will be happy to assist you.

Remember, there are over 50,000 ESP members in New Jersey and we all make a difference!!

THE RALLY!!!!!!

On June 19th, over 50 members from WCEA and WCREA attended the rally in Trenton to support Governor Corzine's budget which included a 1% increase in the sales tax to provide money for the pension fund. The rally was attended by the state police, fire fighters, communication

workers, local police and members of the education community.

WCEA/WCREA members worked very hard over the summer to protect the benefits of all members throughout the state. It is imperative that the young and old participate to ensure pension benefits!



Tony Horvath(WCREA), Donald and Gail Barbadora (P'burg EA) on June 19th.



Mike Kruczek (WCEA Pres.), Diane (WCREA) and John Borgeson (WCEA VP), Carol and Clayton Mertz (WCREA)

President:

Michael Kruczek
Phillipsburg

Vice-President:

John Borgeson
Hackettstown

OFFICERS:

Treasurer:

James Kaulius
Phillipsburg

Recording Secretary:

Kenneth Kobler
Greenwich Twsp.

Executive Committee:

Michael Kruczek
Phillipsburg



Ann Caroprese and Pam Chase (Alpha) listening to NJEA VP Barbara Keshishian

On October 4, over 100 members attended the annual Fall Focus meeting at Harker's Hollow Golf Course.

The main focus of the meeting was the need for political activity to protect our rights, pension and retirement health benefits. The primary effort is to protect current and potential retiree's benefits.

Presentations were made by NEA Director Ron Burd, UniServ Director Vince Giordano and NJEA Vice-President Barbara Keshishian.

WCEA GR Chair Ken Kobler added to the information concerning the upcoming election to protect rights and benefits by reminding the audience about how important it was to sign up for the "1000" to get legislators elected to help members of the educational community.



Members listening to reports at the county meeting.

Why You Need The NJREA

NJREA is the retiree's negotiations committee. Pension threat tolerance erodes quality. We confront. We support a superb NJEA as NJREA advocates. Our membership numbers affect legislation.

WCEA President nominated to State Board of Examiners

In September, Mike Kruczek was nominated by Acting Commissioner Lucille E. Davy to serve on the State Board of Examiners. The nomination was for one year to fill an unexpired two-year term of office.

The Commissioner forwarded his name to the State Board of Examiners to approve the nomination. The vote will take place on October 4th.

This was a great achievement for Kruczek and Warren County.

WCEA Meeting: September 20, 2006

The County held it's first meeting on September 20th at Harker's Hollow Golf Club.

Reports were given, but the most important came from Gov't Relations Chair, Ken Kobler.

He outlined the four committees set up by Governor Corzine to reduce property taxes in New Jersey. Of the four, the one that would affect us most is the Public Employee Benefits Reform. Although pension benefits are secure, the committee is looking at changes in N/55 (dual calculation on present and future coverage). Regarding medical benefits, a 10% premium share is being considered.

Being politically active is imperative. Sitting back and saying "I'm only one person, so not doing anything won't have any effect on what is happening" is poor reasoning. It certainly will. Loss of benefits can be directly assigned to those who sit back and don't do anything!

Why The NJREA Needs You

All educational retirees are constituents. Most have left protection to the few. Major benefits take many years to achieve but can be decimated in days. Our public school pensions are the best in the nation. Legislators, like school boards, don't like first place. You are the "grassroots" legislators refer to. They check membership vs potential.

WITH LOW HOURLY WAGES, ESPs STRUGGLE TO SUBSIST

In many parts of the country, Education Support Professionals (ESPs) make less than what is considered a "living wage"—the minimum amount of take-home pay needed to subsist in America.

Sussex County, Virginia	
Living Wage	\$12.59
Custodian	\$8.76
Paraprofessional (teacher's aid)	\$11.34
Secretary	\$12.10

Searsport, Maine	
Living Wage	\$13.28
Custodian	\$10.86
Secretary	\$10.86
Bus Driver	\$12.40

Committee Chairs:
Delegate Assembly:
 John Borgeson, Hackettstown
Delegate Assembly Alt:
 Kenneth Kobler, Greenwich
 Vacancy
Convention:
 Sue Burke-Kinnsman, Greenwich
Elections/Nominations:
 Becky McDermott, Lopatcong Twsp
ESP Representative:
 Debbie Slena, Hackettstown
Instruction:
 Vacancy
Media:
 Carly Hilsenbaek, Phillipsburg
Membership:
 John Borgeson, Hackettstown
UniServ:
 Susan Brooks, Phillipsburg
Urban Education:
 Rick Thompson, Phillipsburg
Gov't Relations:
 Kenneth Kobler, Greenwich
Congress Contact:
 Sue Burke-Kinnsman, Greenwich
Worksite Health & Safety:
 Marci Horan, Phillipsburg
Exceptional Child:
 Vacancy

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

Editor: Doug Morris



NJEA Newsletter Program/2006-'07 Participant

Assertive Discipline Workshop for the Active Professionals

Wednesday, October 11 saw over 70 members attend a workshop done by NJEA consultant Janet Tisdale at Harker's Hollow Golf Club.

This was the first of many Professional Development workshops being presented by your county organization during the 2006-2007 school year.

Tisdale started out by stressing the effect of positive reinforcement by supporting good behavior and not blowing poor behavior out of proportion. Controlling the situation calmly and quietly is important because it can prevent a situation from getting out of hand.

Several of the roadblocks to being assertive that she pointed out were being non-tenured, not realizing that most students will behave and not having a positive attitude toward student behavior.

Tisdale went on to state teachers should not be required to be judge and jury in discipline situations. Make sure all rules are clear and enforced with fairness--every situation is different and discipline must be dispensed based on the particular occurrence.

Again, Tisdale stated that the rules must be stressed and reinforced during the course of the year. A key point that was stressed continually was that everyone was not equal, treatment must be appropriate for all kids based on the situation.



Above: at the Assertive Discipline Workshop listening to Tisdale's presentation.
Left: Tisdale making a point on motivating behavior