

WARREN COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

WCEAdvocate

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Happy Holidays!

Clambake draws new members!

Over fifty members attended the New Members Clambake at "Flynn's on the Hill", October 28th, in Phillipsburg.

The meeting started with an introduction from President Mike Kruczek and was followed by WCEA ESP Chair Debbi Siena. She invited all ESP members and the people they work with to the Nov. 17

ESP Celebration at Bello Giorno in Belvidere. She requested donations for door prizes. Siena noted that those who attended last year had a wonderful time.

Next, Tod Theise, WCEA endorsed candidate for Warren County Freeholder spoke to the members and explained his position on education, which he

strongly supports.

Phil Lomonico, NJEA Member Benefits Associate Director, introduced each one of the ten vendors who were in attendance. Some of those were "The Buyers's Edge", NEA Member Benefits, "Mechanics on Duty", "The Learning Experience" and others.

After the introduction, attendees visited the tables to see what the



various participants could provide to members.

Before dinner was served, Lomonico held the drawing for those who had submitted their names for the various prizes. After the prizes had been awarded, the clambake started.



You missed the Convention and Hospitality Suite!

It was great! Should have been there!

The annual hospitality suite hosted by the county drew nearly eighty members. It was held on Thursday, November 5 at the Tropicana Hotel/Casino from 3:00 to 6:00.

The suite was set up by John Borgeson (past WCEA VP) and food was provided by King's Deli in Atlantic City.

There were many new attendees and members who had been there in the past. All those in attendance had a wonderful time and left with a full stomach and an appreciation for what the county had provided.



WCEAdvocate Editor Doug Morris at the NJEA Convention Newsletter display.



OFFICERS:

President:	Vice-President:	Treasurer:	Recording Secretary:	Executive Committee:
Michael Kruczek	Susan Dalrymple	James Kaulius	Valerie Gary	Michael Kruczek
Phillipsburg	Phillipsburg	Phillipsburg	Greenwich Twsp.	Phillipsburg



Members had a great time at the WCEA Hospitality Suite at the Tropicana in Atlantic City during the NJEA Convention



JOIN WCREA/NJREA TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Why The NJREA Needs You

If retirees assume invulnerability, they forget change is a few votes away. An association's importance is measured by the number of members. NJREA informs you when action is necessary. Protecting your pension protects ours.

Why You Need The NJREA

We are the only organization with the sole purpose to protect retirees' benefits. We tell you what is developing. You don't have the time to speak to legislators. We do! List the key benefits of your pension benefits. We did it!



NJEA Newsletter Display 2009-'10 Participant

Committee Chairs:

Delegate Assembly:

Susan Dalrymple, Phillipsburg
James Kaulius, Phillipsburg

Delegate Assembly Alt:

Vacancy
Vacancy

Convention:

Sue Burke-Kinnsman, Greenwich

Elections/Nominations:

Becky McDermott, Lopatcong Twsp

ESP Representative:

Debra Siena, Hackettstown

Instruction:

Susan Dalrymple, Phillipsburg

Membership:

Stacie Behme, Lopatcong

UniServ:

Mark Wells, Pohatcong

Urban Education:

Barbara English, Phillipsburg

Gov't Relations:

Cylvia Ultz, Hackettstown

Congress Contact:

Jenn Larsen, Lopatcong

Worksite Health & Safety:

Mike Burd, Washington Boro

Exceptional Child:

Ed Yarusinsky, Warren Vo-Tech

Vo-Tech Careers

Ed Yarusinsky, Warren Vo-Tech

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

Editor: Doug Morris



ESP Eve Honor Celebration!

On Thursday, November 17th



the 2nd annual Educational Support Professional (ESP) dinner was held and was a huge success with over 100 members in attendance.

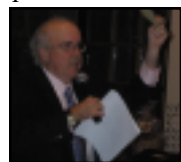
Debbi Siena The dinner was held at Bello Giorno's in Belvidere, and ESP NJEA director Joe Murphy was our presenter for the evening.

The program for the dinner was "ESP Everyday Heroes" and concentrated on all the value and hard work that support professionals do every day!

Murphy presented a power point program highlighting the importance of ESP's and



"Murph" with the introduction!



Joe Murphy

there were handouts for those in attendance including CDs, ESP bags and several other items.

Black ESP shirts were displayed with a unique logo. "WCEA" was horizontal with "ESP" coming vertically from the "E" in "WCEA". Shirts can be or-



WCEA ESP Committee members: Justin Phillips, Marilyn Shober, Chairperson Debbi Siena, Stephanie Stewart, Darla Waters and Michael Burd.

dered from any member of the ESP committee.

A "BIG" thank you goes out to the following persons and districts who donated a gift or basket for our ESP door prizes; Belvidere EA, Deb



Justin Phillips introducing Warren County ESP of the Year, Judy Levermore of Lopatcong EA.

Siena, Doug Morris, Enzo's Pasta Grill, Greenwich EA, Hackettstown

EA, Lopatcong EA, WCEA, Phillipsburg EA, Warren Hills EA, Washington Boro EA, Washington Twp. EA, Warren County EA, and White Twp EA.

A special congratulation goes to Judy Levermore of Lopatcong. Judy is Warren County's ESP of the year, and will go to the state conference to be honored and she will compete for the state ESP of the year.

My commendations go out to the county ESP committee for all of their hard work and commitment in helping put on a wonderful ESP dinner. Those individuals are; Mike Burd, Justin Phillips, Marilyn Shober, Darla Waters, and Stefanie Stewart. Thank you for all

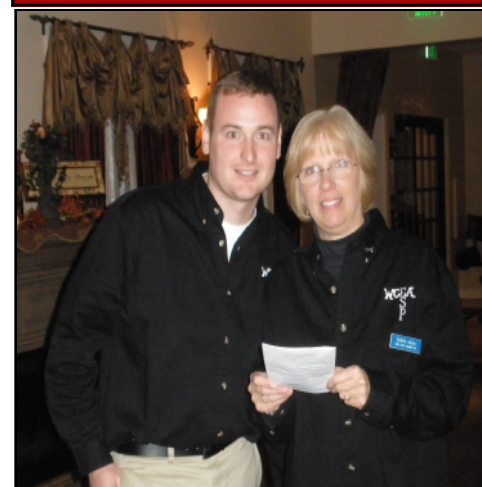


you do!!

Our next ESP workshop will be December 2nd at Bello Giorno's starting with a 4:00pm sign in. For more information on this workshop and other upcoming workshops, you can now go to the WCEA website at warrencoea.org and click the ESP link. All RSVP's must be made to the wceatoday@yahoo.com.

Any other questions can be directed to me, Deb Siena, at dssiena.stars@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays!



Above: Committee member Justine Phillips with Chairperson Debbi Siena

Below: Members enjoying the session.



More ESP! Your Health and Safety workshop

At the December 2 workshop at Bello Giorno--health and safety concerns of our members were the focus of the discussions and information sharing portions of the meeting.

Debbie Sienna and John Ropars

Participants brainstormed ideas and asked questions about a variety of topics, which were fielded by John Ropars, the Region 28 UniServ representative. Along with moderating the question and answer session, he provided pamphlets about Health and Safety Committees, teachers, food service, paraeducators, bus drivers, bloodborne hazards, renovation projects, school violence, asbestos and how to use PEOSHA.



Members listening to Ropars

Ropars informed the attendees about their rights and responsibilities when it comes to the health and safety of both students and staff.

He recommended that every



WCEA Pres Mike Kruczek and Treasurer Jim Kaulius

employee become familiar with the districts' policies in regards

to these issues. He also advocated that each local should create a health and safety committee to address concerns on a district level. In addition, every member can access the NJEA Health and Safety Manual on the internet for guidelines when dealing with these issues. Health and safety are of prime importance to all of us. If anyone is interested in working with this on the county level, please contact Michael Burd, Burdmd45@aol.com to indicate your willingness to participate.



Member asking a question during Ropars presentation

RC #2

The second Representative Council meeting of the year was held on November 18 at Bellissimo in Lopatcong Township. Nearly thirty local leaders attended the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Pres. Mike Kruczek and later taken over by Treasurer Jim Kaulius. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Gov't Relations Chair Cylvia Ultz reported that there were 38 members manning the phone banks. They made calls in support of Gov. Corzine and Freeholder candidate Theise. She also reminded attendees of the Walter O'Brien Legislative Conference on Feb. 20 and the WCEA/HCEA Legislative dinner on April 13. Ultz wrapped up her report with the results of the election stating the NJEA had a 96% success rate.

Jen Larsen, Congressional Contact, reported that there is still discussion on the public option and the competition with private companies under the federal plan.



Members listening to information presented by Treasurer Jim Kaulius

Ed Yarusinky, Vocational Career and Technical Committee, reported on graduation requirements. Based on regulations, half time students could be affected, but nothing has been done at this point.

WCREA Vice-President, Doug Morris reported on a pension session at the NJREA Convention. Bill Clark, Division of Pensions, said the major problem is the lack of funding from the state. The TPAF is paying out \$4 billion more than it's receiving. School employees have been making their contributions, but the state has not. Although the fund has had a loss, since the end of the last fiscal year, the assets have increased from just over \$57 to \$68 billion as of September 30. This was a result of changing investments in the portfolio.

Old Business dealt with previous workshops.

New Business items highlighted upcoming workshops which can be found on the WCEA web site under "Calendar".

For additional information, contact your local president who was in attendance.



Cyberbullying: Middle School Focus

The second Cyberbullying workshop was held on December 16 at Bello Giorno's in Belvidere. The session was presented by NJEA Consultant Ginger Latham.



Presenter Ginger Latham

Latham started out by explaining what electronic bullying is: when one person or a group try to hurt another person repeatedly to gain power over them.

She then asked ten questions that were to be answered by the groups at the tables. Answers varied, but generated discussion about the questions and answers.

Latham then explained why students cyberbully: anonymity,



Members pondering Latham's questions

anger or revenge or too many toys. The rational was that "I was just kidding...", Everyone does it... and it's free speech.

She explained that cyberbullying usually starts between the ages of nine and fourteen, but becomes

sexual harassment due to the ages of the perpetrators.

The effects on the victim include having trouble sleeping, nightmares depression, showing mood swings and others.

Direct attacks were instant through text messaging, blogs, webs sites and several others.

Latham went on to explain that many social networking sites are open to cyberbullying since students tend to be more open on their accounts which invites cyberbullying.

She then handed out the story of "Sarah's Secrets" (she provided too much information on her website) and then provided four questions on how each group would have handled the situation. Again, an informative discussion followed.

Latham then explained the legal issues for cyberbullying. Although there is the freedom of speech issue, cyberbullying activities can come under criminal law which could lead to prosecution of those who were involved in cyberbullying.

A major concern was what the school district must do to alleviate or coerce the situation. They can eliminate the use of the district internet system, cell phones or

other electronic devices, educate the staff and students of the harmful effects, make it part of the school policy, suspension, assemblies, parent notification and many other ideas.

Latham wrapped up the session with an activity where the attendees came up with their own plan for the district. The ideas that came out of the group were very creative, but the bottom line was that a comprehensive internet policy had to come from the staff and administration. The final act: contact the local law enforcement agency if there are threats of vidence, extortion, obscene call text messages, cyber stalking, bias crimes, child pornography or the threat of physical harm.

For additional information, contact your local president or representative who will provide you with the necessary information.



Dinner is served and enjoyed!



Ginger Latham is holding the attendees attention.