

WCEA Advocate

Volume 6 Number 1 *Affiliated with New Jersey and National Education Associations* Sept/Oct, 2009

Bellisimo's Hosts First '09 Rep Council

The county moved the Rep Council meetings from Architect's to Bellissimo's on Route 519. About forty local leaders were in attendance.

The meeting was called order by

**Mike Kruczek**

President Mike Kruczek at 4:30 and the treasurer's and secretary's reports were accepted as presented.

Pres. Kruczek informed the members that a PD workshop would be held in Parsippany (Oct 23-24) in conjunction with the the Sussex County Ed. Assoc.

Jim Kaulius gave the Delegate Assembly report. His main points were "support Jon Corzine" who supports our pension/health benefits. Apparently, the governor has the executive power to freeze retiree's pensions.

Convention Chair, Sue Burke-

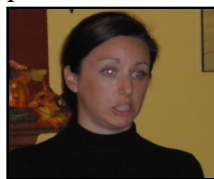
**Sue Burke-Kinsman**

Kinsman reported on the upcoming NJEA Convention. She said it was important that members avoid Bally's and all Trump Casinos since they avoided negoti-

ating with members of the UAW. The UAW has been in contact with the NJEA about this issue.

During Burke-Kinsman's report a request was made and seconded that provided an \$800 donation to the Heart Fund.

Instruction Chair, Susan Dalrymple, said that various state reports are still "in limbo". NJEA is

**Stacie Behme**

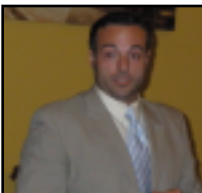
awaiting some resolution.

New Membership Chair, Stacie Behme, reported on the Fall Focus (Bello Giorno, Oct. 7) and the New Member Clambake (Flynn's Sept 30)

WCREA Vice-Pres. Doug Morris reported that at the last WCREA meeting NJREA Pres. Roe Jankowski made an excellent case for supporting Gov. Jon Corzine. She handed out post cards and two addresses for those in attendance to write a personal message. They were then collected and mailed from Trenton.

Pres. Kruczek reviewed items under Old Business and previewed the workshops and meetings under New Business.

Mike Flynn, NJEA Gov. Relations, made the presentation on why all educators, active and re-

**Mike Flynn**

tired must support Gov. Jon Corzine. Corzine has been a tremendous supporter of education and has signed legislation that guarantees our retired medical benefits.

Challenger Christie wants to make major changes that would affect both actives and retirees. For active members, he supports vouchers but he would have rejected the Federal stimulus money, wants eliminate collective bargaining and preschool funding and .

For current and future retirees: replace the current pension system with a 401(k) [would replace defined benefits with defined contributions (when the money runs out, so does your pension)], partial or full payment for medical benefits

For further information on the Rep Council meeting, contact your local president.

First Workshop of the year, "Meet and Greet" at Bello Giorno's

UniServ Rep Pam Niles opened the session with information to local leaders in attendance on why Jon Corzine should be reelected governor.

She reiterated that he has been a friend of educators and retirees since he was elected.

Governor Corzine has provided contributions to the pension fund-- which many previous governors

**Niles**

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



VP Susan Dalrymple discussing issues with members.

never did and increased education funding while all other areas in the current budget were cut. He is supporting collective bargaining while Chris Christie wants to eliminate it, supports preschool education while Christie calls it "Federal baby-sitting", accepted the \$2 billion stimulus money from the federal government while Christie would have refused the money.

Niles also explained that Christie is also a strong supporter of vouchers, while Governor Corzine opposes them, saying they are a detriment to public education.

She continued that Corzine has supported our retirement system, getting legislation passed that guarantees retirees premium free medical benefits, while Christie



This is a great workshop!

wants either full or partial payments.

In addition, Niles stated that Christie wants pensions of all new retirees and possibly old retirees to be switched from the current defined benefits (our current system which continues to pay as long as you live) to a 401(k), defined contribution, which means that when the money runs out, so does the pension.

She continued the meeting by highlighting the Family Leave Law which can require one to use up to two weeks vacation time before the leave time actually begins. There



Delicious dinner begins!

will be follow-up information at the next Collective Bargaining Council meeting (October 8th).

She finished with information about the \$1.7 million NJEA has committed to PRIDE and dues for members who work between two districts.



Annual ESP "bake" at Flynn's in P'burg

September 30, 2009 A wonderful time was had by all the Educational



Debbi Siena

Support Professionals that attended the annual ESP clambake that was held on Wednesday, September 30th, at Flynn's on the Hill

restaurant. On the menu were fresh clams, steak, with all the trimmings, and as much as you could eat!!

Attendees spoke to a host of vendors who gave away prizes and information on benefits for public employees. Among those were Phil Lomonico, Associate Director NJEA Member Benefits, Liz McDonough of

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

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

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

Editor: Doug Morris

Tri-Co Credit Union, Amanda Griffiths of Educators Insurance Services, folks from Financial Resources, The Learning Experience Daycare, and Cove Haven Resorts.

McDonough ESP Director Joe Murphy was the guest speaker for the evening and presented information to help Support Professionals in their everyday duties. Included was the important point that ESP's DO NOT HAVE JOBS, THEY HAVE CAREERS! This first of many ESP dinners was a success!!

Special Note:
All Warren County Education Support Professionals are cordially invited to attend the 2nd annual ESP Dinner on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, at BELLO GIORNO's in Belvidere!!

RSVP to Sue at wceatoday@yahoo.com. Sign in starts at 4:00pm and the fun starts soon



after!! There will be lots of door prizes, good food and an entire evening to honor YOU!! Please plan to attend!!

Watch the Warren County web site at warrencoea.org for more ESP information! If you have any questions please email me at debra.siena@hotmail.com

By Debbi Siena



Debbi Siena in discussion with attending vendors.



The meeting ended with a great meal!

First CBC Meeting: Getting Bargaining info!

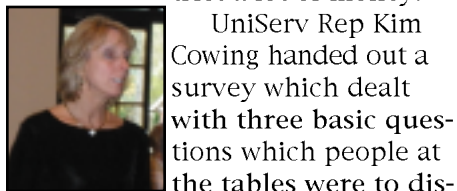
The first Collective Bargaining Council of the year was held at Bello Giorno in Belvidere on October 8.

UniServ Rep Pam Niles opened the session with information on the importance of reelecting Governor Jon Corzine, for both actives and retirees.



Niles

Following was a report on a settlement in Pohatcong Township. The district and association agreed to switch health providers from a private carrier to the State Health Benefits Plan which saved the district a lot of money.



Cowing

UniServ Rep Kim Cowing handed out a survey which dealt with three basic questions which people at the tables were to discuss and report their findings-- 1) concerned protecting health benefits; 2) how does salary construction work and 3) starting salaries to \$50,000 or use money in the guide or for longevity.

Lengthy discussion followed with each table reporting on the various questions.

Niles wrapped up the meeting by discussing educators who were shared with several dis-



Question from an attendee.

tricts, maintaining language for mileage reimbursement, even though there has been a change, so it does not have to be renegotiated and Family Leave Insurance. The Family Leave issue has various areas, so check with your local president or Uniserv rep who has all the information.

Also check with your local president for any additional information that was provided at the meeting.

Cyberbullying: What do you know?

Internet safety for educators

Over forty members attended a workshop at Bello Giorno in Belvidere on October 14. The session was presented by NJEA consultant Peg Novicki from Hawthorne.

Novicki presented an extremely interesting, and at times rather unsettling, scenario of the internet and how it can harm students.



Novicki

She started by explaining what cyberbullying is and why students do it--anonymity (24/7), revenge, just kidding and several other reasons.

It usually starts around age 9 and ends around

14. A large percentage of children are victimized by cyber-bullying with ef-



Attendees listen

fects such as trouble sleeping, depression, mood swings, poor grades and other symptoms.

Besides direct attacks, it can also come from social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook, Xanga and Bebo.

Novicki provided several videos dealing with the problems of cyberbullying which are available on-line.

She then went into the legal issues such as freedom of speech, legislation and some harmful online speech/activities which can violate criminal laws.

Novicki wrapped up the workshop by explaining what schools can do by providing many avenues that can be



Novicki has their attention

pursued, ending with contacting local law enforcement agencies.

Also check with your local president or colleague who attended for any additional information that was provided at the meeting.

LAT Meets:

Corzine, Theise, DiMaio highlight meeting.

Bellissimo's was the site of the first meeting of the WCEA Legislative Action Team on Oct 22. Over thirty members attended to hear NJEA Associate Director of Gov't Relations Mike Flynn provide an update on the upcoming election.

Freeholder candi-



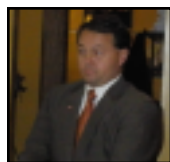
date Tod Theise presented his credentials and position on why he should be elected. He

Theise also spoke on the travesty at Warren Vo-Tech relating to Joe Dilesky shameful treatment.

It was noted that a press release concerning the WCEA endorsement of Theise was sent to the Express-Times and they refused to print the release.

WCEA GR Chair, Sylvia Ultz gave an update on what was being done for the campaigns in the county. She said over 600 phone calls had been made to NJEA members urging their support for Gov. Corzine. Ultz said there were follow-up calls to those who were undecided.

The meeting ended with WCEA /NJEA endorsed Assembly candidate John DiMaio who provided his position on education issues to the group.



DiMaio

For further information, contact your president or GR Chair.



**Above: Members listen to Mike Flynn.
Below: Dinner is served.**



Where the Gubernatorial Candidates Stand on Education Issues:

School Funding:

Governor Corzine increased school funding by \$1.8 billion in his first term, including a \$300 million increase this year despite cutting state spending by \$7 billion.

Chris Christie wants to cut revenue streams that are the lifeblood of public education, which would reduce funding for schools, leading to layoffs and cuts in benefits and programs.

Health Benefits:

Gov. Corzine worked with NJEA to create the new School Employees Health Benefits Plan so that active and retired educators would have more control over their health care. He also honored the promise of premium-free benefits in retirement.

Chris Christie wants to require all new and retired state employees to contribute to their health insurance costs. He would seek to eliminate benefits for part-time employees.

Pensions:

Gov. Corzine has contributed \$3

billion over three years to public employee pension systems to guarantee their solvency – more than all NJ governors contributed in the previous 15 years.

Chris Christie wants to replace the current system, which guarantees school employees a monthly pension, with a 401(k)-style contribution plan where retirement savings are at the mercy of the stock market.

Preschool:

Gov. Corzine expanded preschool to include an additional 30,000 students, helping NJ to lead the nation in closing the achievement gap among 4th graders.

Chris Christie opposes state funding for preschool, which he describes as government funded "baby sitting."

Collective Bargaining:

Governor Corzine fully supports collective bargaining for school employees.

Chris Christie wants to eliminate laws protecting collective bargaining agreements.

Investing in New Jersey:

Governor Corzine was the first governor to pass an economic recovery plan to cut property taxes and create jobs. He worked with President Obama to put \$2 billion in federal stimulus funds into New Jersey's public schools, preventing massive layoffs and program cuts.

Chris Christie opposed President Obama's economic recovery package, saying he would not have accepted \$2 billion in federal funds for New Jersey's public schools.

Vouchers:

Governor Corzine opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits, and urban scholarship schemes, which would strip resources from public schools.

Chris Christie supports taxpayer-funded vouchers to subsidize private and religious schools.

From njea.org

