



NEWS & VIEWS

From Your President
Linda Guyer

October 2010

New Member Meeting ● ● ● ●

The MTEA will be holding a New Member Meeting for newly hired staff on October 13, 2010 at Jacques Reception Center. We ask that the veteran members encourage the new hires to become active in the MTEA Association.

Medical Benefits ● ● ● ● ● ●

The Board of Education has changed the medical plan from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield to Cigna. This transition in plans has caused members to take a closer look at statements they receive after visits to their doctors. Many members have been told they have to meet a new deductible, co-pays are now due, certain procedures that have been covered in the past are no longer covered, and doctors are not in the new plan.

If you have met your deductible from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, then that deductible will carry over to Cigna.

If you have questions on your plan, you can contact Maria Salus, Board of Education at 732-671-3850 or Denise Gigantino, the insurance broker for the Board of Education, at 732-602-3791. If you are experiencing any significant problems with Cigna, please email us at mtea@verizon.net and keep us apprised.

The MTEA has requested copies of all the new Cigna plan guidelines from the Board of Education; however, we have been advised that the Board itself has not yet received the guidelines from Cigna. The coverage, according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, must be equal to, or better than, the benefits received under Blue Cross/Blue Shield. As soon as the guidelines are received, NJEA's insurance experts will be comparing the plans to be sure the coverage under Cigna is equal to or better than Blue Cross/ Blue Shield.

NJEA ● ● ●

Kathy Seeto, Uniserv Rep from West Long Branch, came to both our Executive Meeting and our September Rep Council meeting to discuss the Member Action Team. We need at least one person from every school to represent our district. This can be a tenured or a non-tenured person. Meetings will be on an as needed basis. Please let your building rep know if you can help.

UNISERV IN WEST LONG BRANCH
121 State Hwy #36
732 403 8000

NJEA – Fighting for our Pensions/Benefits ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Each building has received a NJEA bulletin board, which should be located in your teachers' room. Urgent updates regarding bills up for votes on pensions, benefits, and changes in tenure and evaluations can be found there. It is important to check this board regularly. You can also stay on top of what is happening in New Jersey by logging onto the NJEA.org website.

As your President, I have been attending meetings with the county's local presidents, NJEA, and holding numerous phone conferences. I will bring back the information to our Association and keep the membership informed; however, it is up to you as members to follow through on phone calls, letter writing, and setting up face to face meetings with our local political representatives.

The Senior Rep in your building has an extremely important role with the Association. He or she will be holding meetings, on an as needed basis, to ask for your help. This is a critical time. The changes that Christie has been proposing will be detrimental to the members of all public employee unions. Your pensions, health benefits, and salaries are all being challenged. We need the help of each of you to get the point across to your legislators. Log in daily to NJEA and follow thru with their recommendations.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● **MTEA Workshops 2010/2011**

The MTEA has been approved for the following workshops, and attendees will be granted 2 hours of Professional Development. Professional Staff will also be granted 2 hours of CEU credit. ESP Staff will be granted 2 hours toward the ESP increment. Staff must be active members of the MTEA to attend the workshops. Flyers will be distributed prior to each workshop.

ESP Staff:
October 20, 2010 (Kaleidoscope)

Professional Staff:
October 14, 2010- Google Documents for Educators
February 9, 2011- Web 2.0 tools for Educators
March 16, 2011- Response to Intervention
April 6, 2011- Autism

Please..... SUPPORT THE GREAT RACE

Chain of Command to Resolve Union Issues ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

It is of utmost importance to be familiar with and understand the Collective Bargaining Agreement (our contract). Many issues can be resolved immediately, as they are spelled out in the contract.

Any problems or issues should be addressed with a senior building representative or the Association building representative first. If the senior building rep does not know the answer, he or she should go to the appropriate executive level representative.

- Executive Level Representatives**
- Secretarial Representative-** Mary Micelli
- Elementary Representative –** MaryEllen Cotter
- Middle School Representative-** MaryEllen Connelly
- High School Representative-** Ray McLoughlin
- At Large Representative-** Pat Pellegrini (Special Ed.)
- At Large Representative-** John Cholette
- 2nd Vice-President-** Debby Mrykalo
- Treasurer-** Gail Ritter
- Secretary-** Gerry Moore

If your Executive Board Representatives are unable to resolve the issue, they will contact **Linda Guyer, President** or **Amy Johnson, 1st Vice-President/ Grievance Chair** ● ● ● ●

Staff Who Wish To Exercise Their Right To Be Absent On Public Holidays

Staff exercising their right to be absent from work on public holidays on which staff workdays are scheduled [Columbus Day, October 11, and/or Election Day, November 2] will have the options of using a Personal Day, agreeing to be docked for the day, or making up the day on June 23 or June 24.

Staff may apply for the public holiday in AESOP as a personal day or public holiday. The public holiday absence code will be available as of October 1st. If you choose the public holiday, you should e-mail Aileen Lang in Personnel and let her know what day you will be coming in as a make up day.

If you decide to take an unpaid day, you will have to e-mail Sue Garofalo and she will enter the absence for you. ● ● ●

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 MTEA Scholarship Recipients.

- Each recipient has been awarded \$1,000.
- Bryan Pinamonti, Parent: Donna Pinamonte
Nut Swamp
- Liam McCabe, Parent: Judy McCabe
New Monmouth



Association Representative Council Meetings

The MTEA holds monthly meetings to keep the Association Representatives apprised of the issues they are being confronted with on a daily basis.

Any member of the MTEA is invited to attend the Representative Council meetings. You do not have to be a building representative; however, only the representatives may vote. The MTEA is always looking for new members to become active in the Association and their schools.

All Representative Council meetings are held at High School North in the Library, unless otherwise noted:

- October 7, 2010
- November 9, 2010
- December 9, 2010 (Jacques)
- January 6, 2011
- February 3, 2011
- March 3, 2011
- April 7, 2011
- May 5, 2011
- June 2, 2011



The GREAT RACE October 23, 2010

Save the date and come out and support **THE 21st ANNUAL GREAT RACE** at High School North. This year the MTEA is the largest sponsor of the Great Race. Debby Mrykalo, 2nd Vice President of the MTEA and the Pride Chair, worked with NJEA to obtain full funding for our sponsorship.



Political Leadership Academy

NJEA can no longer depend on our so-called friends in the legislature to support our public schools and the people who work in them. NJEA members need to get involved, and that is why NJEA created the Political leadership Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to identify NJEA members interested in running for public office and provide them with the training they need to be successful. The Academy will help those members determine their strengths and identify the appropriate office to pursue. Members will learn about government structure, issues advocacy, and campaign strategy. Training sessions will be held monthly, beginning Saturday, October 23, at the Trenton Marriott from 10am to 4pm and will include presentations by a variety of experts. For more information, contact Anna Hanzas of NJEA Government Relations at ahanzes@njea.org or 609-599-4561.