



# EBEA NEWSLETTER

East Brunswick Education Association

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United in Excellence

November / December 2013

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I think you'll agree that the month of November flew by. Election Day, the NJEA Convention, Veterans Day, American Education Week and Thanksgiving created memorable events and activities that can't be forgotten.

Although the result of the gubernatorial election was very disappointing on November 5, 2013, New Jersey voters chose to elect a strong, pro-public education legislature because our public schools are a top priority. NJEA's annual convention on November 7-8, 2013 drew record numbers with capacity crowd workshops, a busy exhibition hall and plenty of questions about teacher evaluations, new standards and testing for students. On November 11, 2013, our schools and communities remembered our veterans who willingly served and continue to serve our country. NEA's annual American Education Week celebration during November 18-22, 2013 showcased the accomplishments of all public schools nationwide. Our Association received two proclamations – from the Board of Education and from the Mayor and Town Council in observance of this weeklong celebration. Finally, the Thanksgiving holidays on November 28-31, 2013 offered us the opportunity to spend well deserved time with families and friends during this bountiful season.

With the holiday festivities already underway, the Association always prepares a list of wishes. This year the Association wishes:

## SAVE THE DATES



**January 18<sup>th</sup>**  
MCEA Overnight Workshop

**January 27<sup>th</sup>**  
MCEA XYZ's of Retirement

**January 31<sup>st</sup>**  
NJEA ESP Conference

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
NJEA Winter Leadership Conference

- That the Governor and Legislature work collaboratively with the NJEA to ensure a quality education for all children in our state;
- That Legislators continue to examine the benefits and costs of the new Common Core Standards and the on-line testing component of PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) before statewide implementation;
- That the Commissioner of Education and the Department of Education remember the focus of the new teacher evaluation system – one that reflects the professionalism of educators and contributes to the learning outcomes for students;
- That our administration and our teaching staff work together to face the challenges of this first year of the new teacher evaluation plan;
- That all education stakeholders fully understand that the education reform movement is really a corporate reform movement in an attempt to privatize public education;
- That the Board of Education will be successful in its on-going search for a new school superintendent;
- That the services of our Education Support Professionals be respected and viewed as vital in achieving excellence in our public schools;
- That the work related stress for many of our members be reduced;
- That our members who work so diligently to ensure the excellence of our district always remember the importance of taking time for themselves and their families; and finally,
- That each member enjoys a New Year filled with health, happiness and wishes come true.

*Ruth Davitt*

# ATTENTION ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



**"You can't exercise your rights...if you don't know your rights."**

*Terry Livorsi*



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*The right to Recover.*

## ***Retirement Planning For NJEA Members***

Did you know that as an NJEA member you are entitled to a free half-hour pension consultation at our local UniServ office?

Retirement can be a confusing time. With over 50 topics pertaining to retirement, the right decisions need to be made. Questions about monthly pension benefits, health benefits, purchasing service credit are just some of the questions that can be answered by qualified NJEA pension consultants. Trained in all aspects of retirement, they are well equipped to walk you through the process.

With your contractual salary for the highest four years, a copy of your annual pension statement and the birthdates of you and your beneficiary(ies) in hand, your pension consultation will begin. An average pension consultation starts with an estimate of what your monthly pension will be. Consultants will also give you estimates for a multitude of situations ensuring you have the best advice to make informed decisions. The pension consultant will guide you step-by-step through the NJEA Retiree Checklist. You will keep the checklist to reference information and whatever notes the pension consultant has made.

If during the consultation you decide that your retirement will occur within four to six months, the Application for Retirement Allowance will be reviewed with you. As per the September 2012 EBEA Newsletter article "*Division of Pensions and Benefits Implements Changes,*" effective October 1, 2012 an eligible member who wishes to apply for retirement must use the online retirement application accessible through a personal account with the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

The Division of Pensions and Benefits states that this is a fast, secure, efficient method to apply for retirement.

As soon as you are considering retirement call our UniServ Office –Region 12 at **(609) 860-0771** to schedule a pension consultation. The office is conveniently located at 104 Interchange Plaza in Monroe Township, NJ 08831.

Your retirement should be an enjoyable transition, and making an appointment with an NJEA pension consultant is the first step!

***The Association has encouraged active PERS and TPAF members to register for MBOS since the inception of this on-line system in 2008.***

***Registration instructions for the first time user is a two step process.***

***Please visit the Division of Pensions & Benefits website at***

***[www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions)***

***REGISTER TODAY!***

## Wall of Honor

The Wall of Honor in the Board of Education meeting room recognizes individuals who have made a significant and/or extraordinary contribution to the East Brunswick Public Schools. Individuals selected for the Wall of Honor are chosen by the Recognition Committee, composed of representatives from the EBEA, the EBPSA, the Board of Education, and chaired by the Director of Human Resources.

The following guidelines have been provided for you in order to nominate individuals for the Wall of Honor:

- The eligibility time period for retired or deceased employees and Board members begins one and one half years following the June 30th of the retirement year and ends three and one half years later.
- Individuals nominated should have made a significant and/or extraordinary contribution to the East Brunswick Public Schools.
- The Recognition Committee will meet to review all recommendations and utilize the established selection procedure.
- Nominations should be well documented and lengthy enough to give the Recognition Committee a well-rounded view of the individual being nominated.
- All nominations will be kept confidential by the Recognition Committee. The list of those individuals who are eligible this period will soon be provided by the Human Resources Department. Nominations will then be due in Human Resources sometime in early January. Retirees interested in nominating individuals for the Wall of Honor are encouraged to call the EBEA office at (732) 390-6600 for the list of eligible candidates. Inquiries can also be directed to The Human Resources Department at (732) 613-6710.

**“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”**

**~Calvin Coolidge ~**

# Cheers and Tears

## Congratulations to:

**Dee Conteras**, EBHS secretary, on the marriage of her son (in October)

**Nicole Kenney and Christopher Kenney**, EBHS social studies and special ed. teachers (respectively) on the birth of their son (in October)

**Kathleen Parkinson**, Memorial special ed. teacher, on the birth of her grandson James Robert (in October)

**Monica Moreira**, Lawrence Brook teacher, on the birth of her son Enzo

Nestor (in October)

**Lynne Prevete**, Lawrence Brook instructional aide, on the birth of her grandson Anthony Joseph (in October)

**Stephanie Niemis**, CJHS teacher, on the birth of her daughter Charlotte Natalie (in October)

**Kathy Suleski**, EBHS Family and Consumer Science teacher, on the marriage of her daughter (in October)

**Liz Soder and Eric Soder**, EBHS English teachers, on the birth of their son James Patrick (in November)

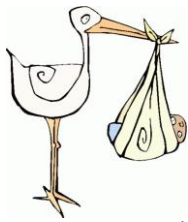
**James Borden**, CJHS teacher, on the birth of his grandson Andrew James (in November)

**Cathy Kraus**, retiree, on the birth of her granddaughter Daniela Catherine (in November)

**Kerry Wybraniec**, Central teacher, on the birth of her son Grayson Edward (in November)

**Jill O'Hare**, CJHS psychologist, on the birth of her son Declan Patrick (in November)

**Arthur Reinertsen**, CJHS custodian, on the birth of his granddaughter Nina Elisabeth (in November)



## Condolences to:

The family of **Hera Kwiatkowski**, retiree, on her death (in September)

**Vickie Albert**, Frost reading specialist, on the death of her father (in October)

**Megan Manetta**, DC English, on the death of her brother-in-law (in October)

**Joy Ward**, retiree, on the death of her daughter (in October)

**Susan Iovino**, Lawrence Brook teacher, on the death of her sister-in-law (in October)

**Nancy Santiago**, Admin/Transportation driver, on the death of her mother (in October)

**Patricia LaDuca**, Supervisor Language Arts, on the death of her mother-in-law (in November)

**Jack Blalock**, EBHS math teacher, on the death of his father (in November)

**Danielle Blalock**, Supervisor Student Services, on the death of her father-in-law (in November)

The family of **Joanne Whalen**, retiree, on her death (in November)

**Christine Christensen**, retiree, on the death of her husband (in November)

**Sharon Harrington**, Memorial teacher, on the death of her father (in November)

**Linda Caputo**, Admin secretary, on the death of her sister (in November)

**Laura Chabok-Trembly**, Irwin speech specialist, on the death of her mother (in November)

**Kathleen McCarthy**, Central aide, on the death of her father (in December)

**Katherine Frey**, Central instructional assistant, on the death of her brother (in December)

*With Sympathy*

## Get Well Wishes to:

**Mike Zielinski**, EBHS special ed. teacher

**Jean Martin**, EBHS aide

**MaryAnn Mastrogiamaco**, Bowne-Munro aide

**Ilene Berlin Fireman**, HMS Child Study Team

**Elizabeth Caracciolo**, Lawrence Brook aide



**Geraldine Napoli**, Admin secretary

**Laurie Smith**, Admin driver

**Anna Braun**, CJHS teacher

**Thomas Keith**, EBHS aide

**Elaine Swoboda**, EBHS bookkeeper



# East Brunswick Education Association

**We are an all-inclusive local NJEA/NEA affiliate representing approximately 1,400 members in East Brunswick, New Jersey.**



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