



# REP COUNCIL UPDATE

January 10, 2017

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## Hot Topics from the President...

In June, the verdict of the Janus vs. AFSCME case is expected to be announced. This could have a major impact on unions across the state and nation. It is important to remember the union you belong to protects the rights and jobs of members, facilitates collective bargaining, aids in student achievement, provides career and professional development resources, keeps staff and students safe, provides liability insurance and legal representation, aids in advocacy efforts, fights against privatization, and educates and informs our membership. Being a part of strong union makes a difference.

“Agency fees are outlawed by “right-to-work” legislation, thereby weakening the union, silencing the collective voice of employees, and extinguishing their ability to negotiate for better learning and working conditions. Unless there is a strong local association made up of active members, the fate of educators is left to the whim of administrators and school boards—and their often politically motivated decisions on everything from curriculum to salaries.”

– Cindy Long, NEA Today **UNIONS MATTER!**

Currently, leaders in the Federal government are working with corporate giants such as Koch Brothers to break unions around the county. Unions influence education policy and advocate for effective change. In the coming months, EBEA leaders will be engaging our members in conversations about the importance and POWER of our Association. I hope you will take the time to participate in the conversations, ask questions, raise concerns and become ENGAGED! UNION IS STRENGTH!

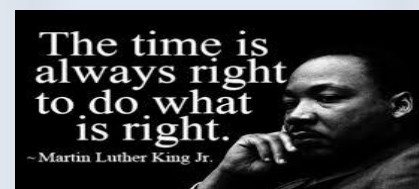
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jop2I5u2F3U>

February 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for modifying SGOs. If you believe you may need a modification, contact your supervisor now!

## Upcoming Events



- January 24 – MCEA Workshop “Runaway Inequity” 5-7pm
- January 27 – MCEA PRIDE Fair at the EB Square Mall, 11am-1pm
- February 2-4 -ESP Conference at EB Hilton
- February 9- EBEA “Bowl-A-Rama” at Bowlero, No. Brunswick from 4-7pm
- February 17 – NJEA “Walter J. O’Brien Legislative and Political Action Conference”, 9am-2pm.
- February 23-24 – MCEA Joint Overnight Conference – Ocean Place, Long Branch
- March 1 – MCEA Workshop XYZs of Retirement – The Grand Marquis 4:30pm
- March 22 – How to Write a SGO workshop 1:00-4:30pm, Pierre’s in Monmouth Junction
- March 27 -EBEF Annual Partner In Excellence Dinner – Pines Manor, Edison
- March 28- EBEA Social “Inside/Outside Golf at Topgolf in Edison 4-7pm
- April 19 – How to Write a SGO workshop 4-7pm, Pierre’s in Monmouth Junction
- April 21 – NJEA Exceptional Children Conference – Ocean Place, Long Branch
- May 15 – MCEA Workshop XYZs of Retirement – The Grand Marquis 4:30pm



(all information can be found on our website at [www.my-ebea.org](http://www.my-ebea.org))

## What You Need to Know...

- Congratulations to our East Brunswick Governor’s Teachers of the Year! For the first time, East Brunswick is participating in the award process for the County Teacher of the Year. Each EB Governor’s Award winner will have the opportunity to apply for the County Teacher of the Year. After that, the County Teacher of the Year can apply for the State and then National Teacher of the Year. EBEA is hopeful our winners will take the time to make application to the county for this prestigious award! How wonderful would it be to have an EB teacher as the County Teacher of the Year?
- The Education Support Staff of the Year nominations will be coming out soon! Please be on the look-out and take the time to nominate one of our very deserving ESPs! Both the Teacher and Support Staff of the Year ceremony will take place in May 2018 at the Board of Education Meeting. Once again, EBEA Pride Committee will be sponsoring a dessert reception in honor of our award recipients.
- The EBEA **Member/Health Benefits Committee** would like to remind our members about the NJEA Member Assistance Referral Program. This program is for our members and our members’ families who may require confidential employee assistance in dealing with drug and alcohol dependency, DUI advocacy, stress related conditions, sleeplessness, explosive anger, concentration difficulties, adolescent problems, family problems, relationship problems etc. You may call Rutgers Behavioral Health at (732) 235-5930 and the 24-hour hotline at (866) 327-8242.
- The Association has received inquiries from school aides regarding their job descriptions. Please review the job descriptions under “Human Resources” on [www.ebnet.org](http://www.ebnet.org) If you have questions regarding the job you are performing and how it compares to the job description, please reach out to your building representative or call the office at 732-390-6600.
- Please see your building principal if you need your ID Keycard time changed because you are working the ASK program or some other after school duty.

## Actions You Need to Take...

1. The “Bear Necessities Clothing Den” (EBEA office) anticipates our “Grand Opening” in January/February 2018. We are collecting school aged clothing (Pre-K thru Grade 12), new undergarments, footwear, seasonal clothing, book bags, semi-formal, and formal wear. Please drop off your donations to the EBEA office.
2. Sign up for the “How to Write Your SGOs” Workshops held from 1:00-4:30pm on March 22, 2018 and on April 19, 2018 from 4:00-7:00pm; both at Pierre’s in Monmouth Junction. Mike Ritzius, NJEA Associate Director of Professional Development will be presenting. *Fliers will in mailboxes soon!*
3. Sign up for the EBEA Social "Bowl-A-Rama" on February 8, 2018 at <http://tiny.cc/EBEA-Bowl-A-Rama>. We start at 4:00pm with appetizers in the lounge (cash bar) and then head over to our reserved alleys for pizza and bowling at 5:00pm.
4. Ask your member of Congress to support Net Neutrality by “taking action” <https://actioncenter.njea.org/ask-member-congress-support-net-neutrality/>
5. Traveling teachers – if you are having issues with “timing of classes/lunch” when going from school to school, this can be corrected by emailing your building principal.