



REP COUNCIL UPDATE

February 7, 2018

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Hot Topics from the President...

The Association has begun a campaign called "EBEA Strong". This campaign is designed to highlight member awareness about the importance of being a part of a union. Public education is currently under attack from the Federal government with the support of large public interest millionaires such as the Koch Brothers. Together, under the leadership of Education Secretary DeVos, they are working against public education and supporting vouchers and charters. The impending Janus case will be held in the Supreme Court on February 28, 2018 and a decision is expected in June. It is not expected to be in favor of unions as the deciding vote will likely come from Justice Neil Gorsuch. This is a full blown attack on unions! We need to unite and stay "EBEA Strong".

EBEA leaders will begin to network with members in each building to create an understanding. We are also asking for members to complete the survey "My EBEA Success Story" which highlights how your association has helped you.

- **Numbers = Power**
- **Membership = Respect**
- **Collective Voice = Strength**

<http://tiny.cc/MyEBEAStrongSuccessStory>

Without a strong union, management retains the power to make ALL decisions: benefits, salary, healthcare, vacations, holidays, personal/death days, no defined "start of end" of work day, requirements for before/after school activities, extra work with no pay no recourse for employees – when your rights are violated no opportunity to file a grievance, no legal representation for school related issues – you bare the expenses of an attorney, no right to representation...you simply lose your collective voice!

Upcoming Events



- 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 3 – MCEA NJ Devils vs NY Rangers Hockey game –bus departs at 5pm
- April 19 – How to Write a SGO workshop 4-7pm, Pierre's in Monmouth Junction
- April 20 – MCEA Black Tie Gala at the Renaissance Hotel, Woodbridge
- April 21 – NJEA Exceptional Children Conference – Ocean Place, Long Branch
- April 25 – EBEA Spring Social at the Ria Mar from 4-7pm
- May 15 – MCEA Workshop XYZs of Retirement – The Grand Marquis 4:30pm
- June 3 – EBEA Day at Monmouth Park Horse Track
- June 6 – District Retirement Celebration



(all information can be found on our website at www.my-ebea.org)

What You Need to Know...

- Negotiations - We have met three times with the Board of Education (BOE) to discuss non-financial proposals and have made some nice progress. In fact, the BOE agreed to expand the list of staff members eligible for cell phone reimbursement as per Policy 7562 to include the Information Technology Specialists and members of the Maintenance/Grounds Department starting February 1, 2018. The EBEA team is very grateful for this collaboration and progress. Grand sum totals for the scattergrams have been signed off. EBEA is currently working with NJEA Division of Research and Economic Services to analyze salary guide design. We will begin discussing financial proposals with the BOE at our next meeting on March 5, 2018. Please continue to look for the purple **EBEA Negotiations Update** for more information.
- 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, the **EBEA PRIDE Committee** will be sponsoring a dessert reception in honor of our award recipients.
- **MCC dual credit courses** at EBHS – The stipend received from MCC is set by the college. Dr. Valeski agrees the stipend amount of \$100 is not enough. He has guaranteed the Association he will continue to press MCC for more money and explore other options with the EBBOE. It is important that we provide and encourage capable students in the dual MCC courses to participate in earning college credits.
- The EBEA would like to extend our appreciation to **Carpets and More** on Route 18 for donating 127 square yards of carpet for the “Bear Necessities Clothing Den”. Also, **Swift Electric** in East Brunswick has donated \$500 worth of electrical lighting in order to “brighten” our Den! A huge thank you to EBEA member, **Steve Sadowski**, who has volunteered his evening in helping us out! We could not do this without the endless hours of volunteered time from our EBEA members. Thank you for sorting, washing, folding, labeling, and organizing our donations. *Doors Will Be Opening Soon!*

Actions You Need to Take...

1. The **Bear Necessities Clothing Den** (EBEA office) anticipates our **Grand Opening** in March 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 have been distributed!*
3. Sign up for the EBEA Social **Inside/Outside Golf** at TOPGOLF in Edison on March 28, 2018 at <http://my-ebea.org/community/events/> Registration begins at 4:15pm and golf bays are open from 4:30-6:30pm. A buffet dinner of chicken tenders, pulled pork, fruit, chips, cookies and soft drinks begins at 5:00pm. A cash bar is also available.
4. Ask your member of Congress to support **Net Neutrality** by “taking action” <https://actioncenter.njea.org/ask-member-congress-support-net-neutrality/>
5. Are you interested in running for public office? NJEA is willing to train and help fund you through a campaign called **Ready to Run**. Please go to www.njea.org/readytorun for more information.