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# Allegany County Education Association

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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

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## The Advocate

President's Message >>>

### Welcome New ACEA Members!

#### Unit 1

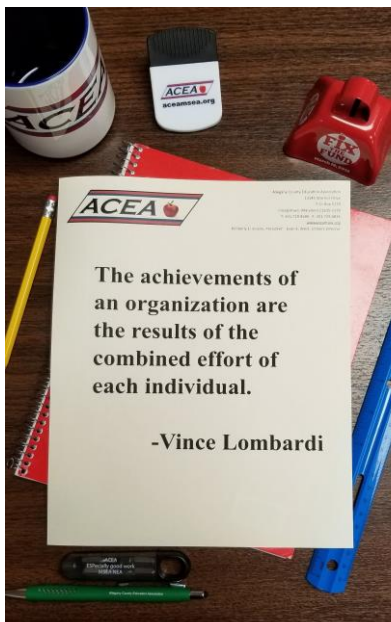
Julie Brown Cash Valley

#### Unit 4

Amy Slonaker Mt. Savage

"Solidarity is based on the principle that we are willing to put ourselves at risk to protect each other."

- Starhawk



The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.

-Vince Lombardi

March may have come in like a lamb, but as we all know, it soon turned into a lion's den!

As a result, ACEA members were asked to join the ACEA leadership in the arena to assist in the good fight – and many did. Not only did we fill the seats in the meeting room, but our brothers and sisters of AFSCME filled the hallway. We can't thank our fellow ACEA members and union colleagues for understanding the importance of this moment, showing up, and stepping up to speak truth to power.

However, the fight is not yet over, and we need you to consider how you can join with your fellow ACEA members to seek the respect we deserve in all ways. In solidarity and service,

*Kim*

### Awesome ACEA Educators!



David Buskirk  
2024 ACPS Teacher of the Year

It is always exciting when the Teacher of the Year and ESP of the Year are revealed! In case you missed them, it is our very own ACEA colleagues, David Buskirk and Stewart Monroe, Jr.

David is a kindergarten teacher at Beall Elementary with 15 years of experience, and a native of Frostburg. Stewart has accrued 28 years of experience in various schools in Allegany County, as well as given years of service as a leader of the former ACESC and now ACEA, where he will be soon starting his third term as Non-Certificated Vice President.

Congratulations to both Dave and Stewart on your well-deserved recognition as outstanding educators!



Stewart Monroe, Jr.  
2024 ACEA ESP of the Year

# Contemplations by Cresta

Cresta Kowalski, UniServ Director

I pride myself on being a person that is independent and able to do heavy lifting in my life. Yet when it comes to moving the heavy couch in my living room, I am dependent on the help of another person for sure! We need other people to get through situations in our daily lives-both the easy tasks and those jobs that can seem to be insurmountable. I have been reminded of that in our union work lately.

For instance, when a huge busload of MSEA representatives from the West went to Annapolis and lobbied our state legislators to support bills that benefit education. Alone this job is tough, but when a group from five different counties walk into State Senators' and Delegates' offices and hold confident conversations about what our school's need it feels less stressful and builds unity.

Unity and solidarity were shown locally when the ACEA membership joined together to express their disappointment in the elected BOE's actions at their March meeting. Members wore black on April 2nd, attended the BOE meeting in full force joined by our AFSME brothers and sisters, and spoke bravely about how their viewpoints on teachers are misguided. The results were almost instantaneous and again highlighted the power of belonging to the union.

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I encourage you to join in the work and don't try to be a lone wolf. If you have a need, reach out. If you want to see our schools become a better place to work and learn, join in. If you feel like you are trying to move a heavy couch on your own, don't do it. ACEA and MSEA are here as a partner to do the "heavy lifting" with you, and we are only a call or email away.



## in Action

### **Wednesday, 4/24 Joint ACEA, APSASAC, and AFSCME Health Insurance Meeting via Zoom OR in-person at the ACEA Office at 3:30, 5:00 or 6:30 pm**

All ACEA members are encouraged to attend to get the update on health insurance changes for next fiscal year. Registration information will be sent to personal emails of members. Call ACEA for additional information or assistance with registration.

### **Tuesday, 5/07 ACEA Teacher Appreciation Week Social and Member Meeting on Tentative Agreement on Career Ladders 3:30-5:00 pm**

All ACEA members are encouraged to attend either Tuesday or Thursday to get the update on Career Ladders negotiations. Registration information will be sent to personal emails of members. Call ACEA for additional information or assistance with registration.

### **Thursday, 5/09 ACEA Teacher Appreciation Week Social and Member Meeting on Tentative Agreement on Career Ladders 4:30-6:00 pm**

All ACEA members are encouraged to attend either Tuesday or Thursday to get the update on Career Ladders negotiations. Registration information will be sent to personal emails of members. Call ACEA for additional information or assistance.

### **Monday, 5/13 ACEA Representative Assembly at the ACEA Office 4:15 pm**

Each ACEA worksite is allowed one representative for every ten members in a building. Elections for additional building representatives will be conducted from April 22 – April 26 via Election Buddy.

### **Thursday, 5/23 ACEA Recognition Dinner at the Cumberland Country Club 6 pm**

Any ACEA member who is retiring during or at the end of the 2023-2024 year, as well as members who earned doctoral degrees, Teacher of the Year and ESP of the Year, along with ACEA leadership and active representatives will receive invitations.