

Special Edition >>>

# Allegany County Education Association

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

ACEA Members are AWESOME!

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April 2021

# The ACEA Advocate



**WE are ACEA.** Despite what has undoubtedly been the challenge of our life and profession, **WE** have stood strong and have advocated for our students, colleagues, profession and community. Together **WE** have *Fixed the Fund*, got *The Blueprint* passed into law, and helped secure federal relief funding that will come directly to the district. **WE** supported *The Western Maryland Food Bank* and *Toys For Happiness*, as well as other community events and local businesses. During this pandemic, **WE** have demonstrated why **WE** are among the most highly qualified educators in the state, as **WE** did everything in our power to help our students succeed and keep them safe. Please know that your work does not go unnoticed, and it means the world to so many. **Together WE are AWESOME!**



## UniServ Minute

### The Next New Normal- Part 2

(I wrote this for the September 2020 Newsletter and almost every word still applies with modifications in bold italics)

If you've been in education long enough, you come to realize at some point that "normal" changes all the time. Educators are masters of adaptation. ~~But the start of the 2020-21 school year is unlike anything any of us have seen before.~~ **The move to five full days of concurrent instruction is unlike anything we've seen before.** Adaptation just doesn't adequately describe what you're being asked to do. You're being asked to invent a new way of teaching and learning. **For the 6<sup>th</sup> (?) time.**

Invention requires trial and error and the first few months of this school year are bound to have plenty of each. As your staff representative, I want to offer some points of advice:

1. "To err is human, to forgive divine."- Alexander Pope. Let yourself off the hook if you get something not 100% right. Your students will be ok. You can reteach it if you have to. Forgive yourself and move on. **But don't forgive violations of the Negotiated Agreement- grieve them.**
2. Recognize that you don't have to get it all done. One thing that isn't different right now is that the work doesn't end. So, give yourself a schedule and stick to it. You probably don't work a 7.5 hour day, but anything that goes beyond that is at your discretion. Take breaks and recognize the work will still be there when you're able to do it. **Remember that you can't be directed to do things beyond the contract day.**
3. Yes, even if you're a Special Educator. Special Educators do not hold sole liability for meeting the requirements of an IEP. If the system isn't giving you what you need to get the job done, it is your right to point it out and do what you are able to in a reasonable amount of time.
4. Reach out to ACEA. We've been working since the start of the pandemic to get our members information and to provide feedback from you to the system. We've also been fighting to make sure your rights are protected. We are going to keep doing that, but we need you to let us know where and how we can help. **!!!!Even more important now!!!!**

Our members are consummate professionals that have dealt with the most extreme of circumstances. Please know that I personally appreciate your dedication to your professions. ACEA will keep advocating to make it possible for you to do your jobs. Thank you for all you do. **"Thank you" are not adequate enough words.**

## ACEA Calendar >>>

April 7 – Nominations and Elections Committee 4 p.m.

April 7 – ESP of the Year Judges Meeting 10 a.m.

April 7 – Bargaining Teams Meeting 4:30 p.m.

April 12 – ACEA Representative Assembly 4 p.m.

April 15 – ACEA Board of Directors 5 p.m.

April 19 – Deadline for completing the

NEA Leadership Development 101 course

April 20 – ACPS BOE Meeting

April 30 and May 1 – MSEA Local Officers Advance



What should the caption be?

## Leadership Development and Wellness Retreat

While our ACEA Executive Board and Representatives volunteer a great deal of their time to guide our association, they are also asked to meet regular training expectations that are aligned on all levels of our organization. Since we have just elected new regional executive directors (results to be verified and reported in the May edition), this is the year that we plan for this bi-annual training. To this end, and given the traumatic year that we have all experienced, we are planning a combined Leadership Development and Wellness Retreat\* on Tuesday, June 15 at Rocky Gap. While it will be open to all current ACEA leaders and representatives, it will also be open to any ACEA members who are interested in serving as a building representative or on an ACEA Committee, as well as to our Early Educators (those who have been educators for three years or less). The current agenda is as follows:

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ACEA Board of Directors lunch and training by MSEA General Counsel

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Wellness activity by ACM

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ACEA Representatives and Potential Representatives Training

3:00-4:00 p.m. Presentation on ACEA Committees

4:00-5:00 p.m. Wellness activity by ACM

5:00-6:00 p.m. Wellness activity by ACM

5:00-6:00 p.m. Early Educators Event

If desired, overnight accommodations at Rocky Gap will also be secured for those members who fulfill the grant requirements as follow:

1. Choose either the Representative Training, Presentation on Committees, or Early Educators Event, to attend;
2. Optional: Choose a wellness session to attend by time.
3. Email [ksloane@mseanea.org](mailto:ksloane@mseanea.org) with these choices as a pre-reservation and for additional details;
4. Complete the 60 minute online course [NEA Leadership Development 101: A Foundational Course for Activists and Leaders](#) and forward confirmation to [ksloane@mseanea.org](mailto:ksloane@mseanea.org) BEFORE April 19, 2021.
5. If you desire overnight accommodations, you must also forward a check in the amount of \$76.83, payable to ACEA, to guarantee your double-room reservation. This will be returned to you *unprocessed* upon completion of all of the grant requirements that day. All others will be processed to meet the obligations made.
6. Due to capacity and social distancing limits of 74, rooms and events will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis once the deposit check has been received.

\*This event is being funded primarily through MSEA Grants.