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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

### Essentially...Excellent!

Several ACEA members are to be congratulated on their recent accomplishments. First, Nick Amick, ELA teacher at Allegany, and the 2021-2022 ACPS Teacher of the Year, was featured in the [October 2022 MSEA Action Line](#) and as the keynote speaker at the MSEA Early Career Educators Conference held recently in October.



Next, both Cresta Kowalski and Tyler Clayton were each selected as **two of ten educators nationwide** to receive the *State Farm* sponsored [National Liberty Museum's Teacher As Hero Award](#). This is presented to exceptional educators who leverage their excellence in teaching to make a difference in the lives of their students. Congratulations to all!



Cresta Kowalski, SLE  
Teacher at South Penn



Tyler Clayton, ELA  
Teacher at Braddock

## Toys For Happiness 2022!



Photo: West Side Elementary Teachers Tonya Hensel, Erika Dicken, and Christa Porter.

*In another amazing display of compassion and care, staff at Allegany County Public School facilities donated **128 toys**, as well as **\$2,615.00** during the recent 18<sup>th</sup> Denim Day for Toys For Happiness, held on Tuesday, November 29. A special thank you to all the representatives and coordinators at each facility who helped collect, organize, and work with ACEA to get the many donations to our offices in time for the grand presentation to Chuck Koelker and his elves from the Toys For Happiness organization. We also appreciate the continued cooperation of Mr. Blank and the members of the ACPS Board of Education for their support of this annual ACEA event which benefits children in our region. Thank you!!!*



## 2023 Nominations and Elections Committee Timeline For Election of ACEA Executive Board Members At-Large, and MSEA and NEA Delegates

- **November 14** - Present timeline to Board of Directors for board approval
- **January 4** - send *Notice of Nominations and Elections* Postcards for ACEA Executive Board Members At-Large, and MSEA and NEA Delegates to membership via U.S.P.S.
- **January 9-27** - Nomination forms available on our website at [www.aceamsea.org](http://www.aceamsea.org)
- **January 27** - nominations due to the NEC committee in the ACEA office by 4:30 p.m.
- **February 1-3** - NEC Committee meets to review nominations and prepare form to present nominees to the RA (Representative Assembly).
- **February 13** - NEC presents list of nominees already received to the RA and accepts nominations from the floor. Moves to close nominations.
- **February 14** - request biographical information from nominees for the March newsletter; and/or give notice to nominees to speak at the March 13 RA.
- **February 21-24** - NEC Committee meets to review nominations and prepare ballots for *Election Buddy*.
- **March** - Publish list and/or biographical information of nominees in March Newsletter.
- **March 13** - Nominees permitted to speak at the March RA
- **March 20** – Electronic voting starts through Election Buddy. Voting will take place from 6:30 a.m. on March 20, 2023, through 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2023, when voting closes.
- **April 11-14** - NEC meets to verify election results.
- **April 17** - NEC reports the results of the election to the RA.

## Did You Know? *Health Insurance*

Health insurance premiums are paid over 10-months for all ACPS employees who are eligible for this benefit. The employee pays 20% of the monthly premium, deducted twice per month, while ACPS assumes 80% of the healthcare premium cost for employees. In months with three pays, you have one pay without optional deductions taken out. Each year that happens twice: one was in August, the other will be in March. So, when you see the deduction for health on your check detail, multiply that by four to determine the amount that ACPS is paying on your behalf each time.

Additionally, as part of our last negotiations, ACEA negotiated no change to health care premiums or costs for the two years of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

However, when taking an extended leave for personal illness, maternity/paternity, sabbatical, or FMLA, you will have to consider the impact it will have on your insurance. Once you have no sick days to redeem, in most cases, you will have to assume the full or partial premium for your insurance depending on your particular circumstance.

It has long been advised that you choose to take optional long-term disability insurance, join the Sick Leave Bank when enrollment is open between July 1 and October 1, and accumulate 80 sick days to get you to the window for long-term disability benefits which comes into play at the six month point.

As always, should you have any questions about your health insurance, various leaves, workers compensation, the Sick Leave Bank, or any other topic, reach out to ACEA at 301-729-8280 and we will be happy to assist you.



# Happy Holidays!



"For the last time, parents, no more pictures!  
Please take your seats so we can finish the concert!  
Don't make me get out the recorders!"



"You can get these in bulk at the dollar store,  
but I like to support the local economy."



"When I said to show your work, I didn't mean to  
livestream it."