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February 2019



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Lights, Cameras, Action!

Maryland Educators To Take Center Stage

We've watched and supported our fellow members and educators across the country in West Virginia, Arizona, Oklahoma, Kentucky, North Carolina, and California: Now it's our turn!

On Monday, March 11, at the climax of the legislative session, thousands of MSEA members will stream into Annapolis for a well orchestrated show of strength and solidarity for public education in Maryland.

Regardless of the delay in the work of the Kirwin Commission, there are numerous pieces of crucial legislation that will set the stage for improvements in public education in many areas.

Among these are MSEA initiatives to increase wages for our ESP members, which has not been addressed by the Kirwin Commission as it has for teachers. These have been introduced as SB280 / HB166. Another piece of legislation that has already been introduced in the House of Delegates HB87 (Senate hearing

to be conducted this week), would require two teachers and one parent be appointed to the State Board of Education. Currently there are none. To see who are the appointed members of this body, you can find

this information at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/members.aspx>

Be certain to click for their biographical and educational background, and look specifically for public education.

These and many more need our voices and presence in support. I hope to see you on the bus! In solidarity and service,

**“Now
it's
our
turn!”**

#Red For Ed was started by parents and educators in 2011 as a way to stand up for public education. This idea grew and was embraced by locals and states during their struggles last year. At the 2018 NEA Representative Assembly in Minneapolis, the membership officially adopted the idea and selected **each Wednesday** to be designated as **#Red For Ed** day, and encouraged our membership to wear red as a sign of solidarity each Wednesday. For more information, please go to <http://neatoday.org/redford/>

Kim

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ACEA President

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ACEA in Action!

ACEA once again promoted the NEA initiative Educator for a Day, a program designed to provide an opportunity for elected officials to experience being an educator in a school for day. Given the large number of newly elected members of the ACPS Board of Education, each member was sent an invitation to participate. Pictured, at the right, is Mrs. Tammy Fraley during her day at South Penn Elementary, and below, Ms. Deb Frank at Allegany High School.



UniServ Update

ACEA will be engaging in bargaining with ACPS very soon. ACEA members will be receiving Bargaining surveys in your home email this week. The data gathered from these surveys will set the bargaining priorities for ACEA's bargaining teams. This year, we are open to bargain on wages, benefits and one other item per side.

There are many concerns that our members have expressed that touch on issues that are beyond the legal scope of bargaining. Class size is one of the primary examples. Though it may seem to defy common sense, class size was ruled not a working condition and therefore not bargainable by the Maryland State Board of Education some years ago. That does not mean, however, that ACEA can't or won't advocate for smaller class sizes. We did so last year and intend to do so again.

The Board of Education will be setting its budget over the coming weeks and now is the time for our members to make their voices heard on their priorities. Class size reduction and compensation don't have to be mutually exclusive. We can and should advocate for both.

ACEA leaders and staff have already spoken to and sent testimony to the Board to express those very ideas. We believe firmly that our members' working conditions are the same as our students' learning conditions. When our members are compensated fairly and feel they have a manageable workload, conditions for students improve.

So please reach out to the Board members over the coming weeks to let them know that they should put our members and our students first.



**ACEA Members
are Awesome!**

ACEA Calendar >>>

February 8 - New extended deadline for nominations due to school closures

February 11 - BOE Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - Mountain Ridge H.S.

February 14 - ACEA Retirement Seminars 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m.

February 19 - ACEA Board of Directors and Representative Assembly- 4 p.m.

February 21 - Last day to sign-up for the *March for Our Schools!* with ACEA

February 26 - ACEA Lobby Day in Annapolis

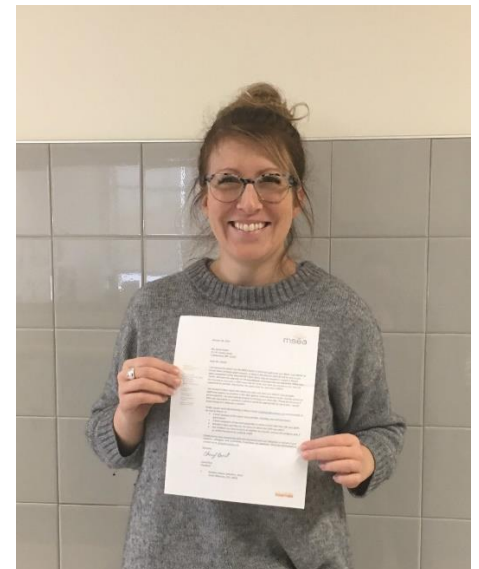
February 26 - BOE Meeting - 6 p.m. - TBD

March 2 - Read Across America 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Country Club Mall

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 11 - *March for Our Schools!* in Annapolis

ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, or in the near future, please feel free to attend one of our informational sessions on Thursday, February 14, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. at the ACEA office.



Sarah Welsh, ELA teacher at Allegany High School, holds a letter from MSEA President, Cheryl Bost, notifying her that the grant proposal she wrote as the advisor of the only Student Chapter of NAACP in Allegany County Public Schools, will be fully funded!