

In this issue >>>

- President's Message
- Welcome New ACEA Members!
- ACEA Retirement Seminar
- Back to the Future?
- ESP of the Year Nominations
- NEA Member Benefits
- Coat, Hat & Glove Drive

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

February 2021



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Welcome new ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Janet Wilson FO

Unit 4

Ashley Daniels WM
 Kimberly Albright WT
 Cindy Harrison BE

Valentines & Vaccinations

Ne'er did we think that these two words would be a part of an alliterative phrase, but we have learned that those words uttered by Fievel in "An American Tail" so many years ago ring truer than ever: "never say never."

While we usually love our profession, and are generally loved in return (as evidenced by all of those valentines that elementary educators get at this time of the year), these past eleven months have caused us to question the depth of this love. With challenges great and small and a sustained uncertain tomorrow, we have had to do some soul searching.

And even in the midst of what I believe will be the most challenging era in the history of public education, you remain committed and true to your students and your profession, regardless of the unwarranted assaults from others in both high and low places. Educators have been true examples of collaboration, integrity, problem-solving, self-sacrifice and remain the reason that our students still have access to a free and appropriate public education.

So, please accept this "valentine" as a token of our love and pride for all of our ACEA members. It is an honor to serve such a loyal and dedicated group of educators.

In solidarity and service,

Kim

ksloane@mseanea.org



ACEA member and colleague from Mountain Ridge HS, Jen Bonsell shares her new vaccination record as she waits in the monitoring area after receiving her first dose of the Moderna vaccine along with many of our fellow educators in late January.



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 Wednesday, February 10, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. To register and get the zoom link and handouts, email ksloane@mseanea.org in advance.

Back to the Future?

As we were in and out of buildings during the pandemic, ACEA often did not produce monthly newsletters since they could not be distributed to our members during such times. With the latest return to virtual, ACEA began to reconsider how our newsletters are best distributed now that we are all more accustomed to operating in the digital world. As a result, it was decided that (1.) we would make black and white hard copies to be distributed to members in the building; (2.) we will email a full-color .pdf version to each member's personal email on record; and (3.) we will continue to post the full-color file to our website aceamsea.org as well. We believe this will not only provide multiple means of access for our members, but will also help reduce this budget cost.

ESP of the YEAR Nominations

For the last four years, ACEA has participated in the MSEA/NEA program honoring our Education Support Professionals. In 2017, Debbie Belfoure was selected as the first recipient of the ACEA ESP of the Year. Her successor in 2018 was Mary "Syd" Sibley, now a certificated member. In 2019, Christine Rephann, a 29-year experienced Instructional Assistant at the CCTE was selected. Last year, Ann Abe from Cash Valley Elementary earned this honor. Now it is time to honor another ESP/ACEA member who has supported our students, classroom, schools, and association. Our ESPs include most secretaries, instructional assistants, and IT technicians. To nominate one of your ESP colleagues in this manner, complete the nomination form and return it to ACEA by February 28. The nomination forms can be found and printed on our website at aceamsea.org by clicking on the button link with the title "ESP of the Year" from the HOME page, or by contacting ACEA by email (derickson@mseanea.org) or calling 301-729-8280.

Join us for the virtual



Get Happy Hour!

each Thursday starting at 4 p.m.

Simply click on the Zoom link found on the home page of aceamsea.org.

COAT, HAT & GLOVE DRIVE

An annual drive was started in memory of John Reuschlein to collect *NEW* coats, hats, and gloves for those in need. Many of these items are on clearance now. Donations will be accepted at the ACEA office until February 28, or call to schedule a pick-up if needed.

Check out all of these
NEA Member Benefits

at

<https://www.neamb.com/>

Everyday Savings

NEW! NEA Discount Marketplace
Shop Now, Pay Later
Office & Classroom Supplies
Flowers & Gourmet Gifts
Warehouse Club Membership
Cell Phone Service
Magazine Subscriptions
Hearing Aid Program

Insurance

Life & Accidental Death
Auto & Home
Dental & Vision
Medicare Supplement
Hospital, Disability & Long-Term Care
Sport & Leisure Vehicles
Pet Health
Renters

Banking & Lending

Credit Cards
Personal Loan
Savings CD & Money Market Accounts
Home Loans
Student Loans
Student Loan Forgiveness & Refinancing
Retirement Accounts

Travel & Leisure

NEA Travel
Car Rental
Hotels
Airfare
Resorts
Cruises
Guided Tours

Home & Auto

Appliance Discount
Auto Buying