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

January 2024



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Happy Know Year!



ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, in the near future, or in a few years, please feel free to attend one of our virtual informational sessions on Wednesday, January 17, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseanea.org who will register you and send the Zoom invite to you a day before the seminar.

ESP Get-Together

At our November 15th ESP Day gathering, our members requested more time to socialize and talk specifically about ESP concerns. To this end, we invite our ESP members to join us at the ACEA office on Thursday, January 18 from 4-5 pm for refreshments and conversation.

Yes, we do want to wish you a Happy *NEW* Year, but this is about more than that. As we begin the new year, we have made a resolution too, and that is to equip our members with the knowledge of their contract rights and other important information that we hope will make your year the best yet.

First, please know your contracted workday hours. This can be found on p. 9 of the Unit 1 Certificated contract and p. 8 of the Unit 4 Non-Certificated contract. Both contracts can be found on the ACPS website under the [Human Resources Department page](#), or which are also linked on our website under [Important Documents](#). Except for a rare emergency situation – not a daily need - you are NOT required to work beyond those hours nor work through your duty-free lunch or breaks unless YOU choose to do so. While it is not okay to infer that the requestor can “Take This Job and Shove It,” as that would likely be considered insubordination, it is okay to respectfully say “no.”

Another piece of timely advice involves keeping hard copies of your important documents. It is undeniable that we have become very accustomed to and dependent upon technology and electronic storage of most of our important documents. However, there is still a need for some nostalgia in regard to keeping a paper copy of your paystubs including your earned and used sick leave account information. Doing so is vital to recovering accurate details in the case of any potential ransom ware attack, such a was experienced a few years ago by Baltimore County Public Schools. Some of our colleagues from Baltimore recently shared that many who did not have this information are still trying to accurately recover this information – three years later! Alternatively, those who had this printed information had it restored immediately. So, be sure to do this with every payday or at least monthly to save massive headaches should this situation arise.

Finally, do not hesitate to reach out to the ACEA staff with any questions, a need for information or advice, or assistance with anything work related. We would also love for you to join our Contract Action Team (CAT) to learn more about our current contracts and prepare for our next negotiations.

In solidarity and service,

Kim

ACEA President

ksloane@mseanea.org

2024 ACEA *and* MSEA Elections are now **CONCURRENT!**

This year, for the first time, ACEA has joined the MSEA Election cycle so that both ballots will come to you at the same time from MSEA, instead of two separate elections. It is our hope that more members will exercise their membership right to vote and we wanted to simplify this process as much as possible. Candidates for MSEA offices will be highlighted in the next edition of MSEA's *The Action Line* and will be available on their website at <https://marylandeducators.org/elections-nominations>. We will be hearing from candidates for MSEA Offices at our January 8 ACEA RA, and will consider any recommendations for the membership at that RA meeting.

As for the ACEA portion of the election, ACEA holds an election every year. During even numbered years, the elections are conducted for the ACEA Officers. During odd numbered years, the elections are conducted for ACEA Executive Board members. However, ACEA elects members every year to serve as NEA Delegates and MSEA Delegates as allotted. Nominees must both accept the nomination AND meet the requirements of our [ACEA Bylaws](#) to be considered viable candidates by the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC). The nominees for ACEA officers and delegates this year are:

**Nominee for
ACEA President and
NEA and MSEA Delegate:**

Kimberly Sloane



I am in my sixth year as the current ACEA President finishing out my third term. It has been a learning curve coming from a secondary social studies classroom to managing an association, but I think I might be getting the hang of it now. 😊 My job as I see it is to assist my fellow members in any way possible, manage our local's fiscal and human resources, represent our local in various roles at the local, state and national levels, and to educate and empower our members. As a result, I would be honored to continue as your president for another two-year term and would appreciate your vote..."*Bubbles Up!*"

**Nominee for ACEA
First Vice-President and MSEA
Delegate:**

Michelle Saville



Michelle Saville is a kindergarten teacher at Beall Elementary School where she serves as PBIS Chair and member of the School Improvement Team. In addition, she serves as one of the ACPS KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) trainers and is currently pursuing National Board Certification. Michelle has served as a member of the ACEA Board of Directors for over 15 years in multiple capacities that include secretary and regional director, and currently as first vice-president. If re-elected as first vice-president, she looks forward to continuing to represent the needs and interests of fellow ACEA members.

**Nominee for ACEA
Non-Certificated
Vice-President
and MSEA Delegate:**

Stewart Monroe, Jr.



Stewart has been a Special Education Instructional Assistant for 28 years, working at Washington, Fort Hill and the CCTE. He has been an active member for 22 years during which time he has served as an MSEA Delegate for over a decade, served on the negotiations team for Unit 4, represents ACEA on the Retirees Health Care Benefits Committee, Chairs the Minority & Human Rights Committee, and has served on the ACEA Budget Committee as an elected officer. In addition, he has represented our local and state at the National Education Support Professionals Conference.

**Nominee for
ACEA Treasurer and
MSEA Delegate:**

Debra Weisenmiller



My name is Debbie Weisenmiller, and I have been involved with ACEA (previously ACTA) for over twenty years and am currently serving as treasurer. I first became a representative in 2002 and served in that capacity for four years. In 2006, I was elected secretary and held the position until 2010 when I became treasurer. I have participated in numerous MSEA/NEA conferences and workshops and have attended the MSEA Fall Convention regularly. Thank you for all you do for the children and please know there are many people at the local, state, and national level working to make your jobs and lives better.

**Nominee for
ACEA Secretary and NEA and
MSEA Delegate:**

Kelly Griffin



I am seeking your vote to continue my service as the ACEA Secretary for 2024-2026 and to be a first-time delegate to the NEA Convention in July 2024. I am a special education teacher at South Penn Elementary School. For over 20 years, I have been active in ACEA and have attended the MSEA Conventions as your voice for more than a decade. With your vote of confidence, I am looking forward to participating in the workings of the association at the national level by attending the NEA Convention. I appreciate your support!

**Nominee for
MSEA Delegate:**

Jason Huber



**Nominee for
NEA Delegate:**

Amy Duncan



WORKSITE VOTING GROUPS
Each worksite will be considered a single voting group EXCEPT for the following groups:
GROUP 1: Central Office, Maintenance, and Operations
GROUP 2: Mt. Ridge and ReStart
GROUP 3: CCTE and Transportation
GROUP 4: Fort Hill and CBTP

PLEASE VOTE!

This is a crucial election year, especially at the MSEA level, as we will be electing a new state President and Vice-President and your vote will most definitely matter! Your ACEA leadership and building representatives will be ready and willing to help you accomplish this should you need any assistance.

*In addition, the ACEA RA voted that the **worksite voting group** which has the highest percentage of members who vote in this election will receive a sponsored visit from...Steeple City Coffee! This will be scheduled for the March 4 Parent Conference Day to maximize opportunity for all. Again, your vote will be crucial – **please vote!***

Welcome New ACEA Members!

Unit 1
Brienne Perez FO
Unit 4
Gina Thomas WA