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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.*

November 2020



The



# Advocate

**President's Message >>>**

## Welcome new ACEA Members!

### Unit 1

Melissa Shank WA

### Unit 4

Amy Burch SP  
Owen Lancaster FO



# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 2020

## November 16-20

November 16 – Kickoff Day

November 17 – Parents Day

**November 18 – ESP Day**

November 19 – Educator For A Day

November 20 – Substitute Educators Day

# Happy Thanksgiving!

## An **ES**pecially Important Time of Year

The holiday season is approaching, but before all of those begin, there is another very important day to celebrate: National Educational Support Professionals (ESP) Day on November 18, 2020.

Since 1987, when the NEA Representative Assembly (the Association's decision-making body of nearly 8,000 member delegates) called on the organization to honor the contributions of all school support staff, National ESP Day has been observed on Wednesday of American Education Week.

And since the merging of ACTA and ACESC into ACEA in 2015, ACEA has committed to honoring our ESPs each year with a token of our appreciation. In addition, we have developed an ACEA ESP of the Year program in conjunction with MSEA and NEA. Each spring we ask for nominations from our members and have some awesome nominees submitted.

This year, Linda L. Lewis, a special education teacher, nominated Ann M. Abe, an Instructional Assistant who works closely with her at Cash Valley Elementary School, sharing "The scale does not go high enough to record her effort finding resources, her rapport with



staff and students, and her excellent organization...Ann epitomizes the ESP that any teacher would want to work alongside in a classroom."

We congratulate Ann for her selection as the ACEA ESP of the Year, and thank her for her dedication to her students and colleagues.

Be sure to take time to thank the ESPs in your building. They truly are ESpecially important educators.

## 2020 Virtual MSEA CONVENTION and RA



It wasn't Ocean City, but eight ACEA elected delegates faithfully attended the 2020 MSEA Convention and Representative Assembly right here in Allegany County on October 16 and 17. While the virtual nature of the meeting did not allow for consideration of New Business Items, nor Resolutions, several important items of business were addressed during the annual meeting. Among them were the budgets for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, as well as two MSEA bylaw amendments. After essential debate, each of these items were approved by the nearly 600 delegates who attended. If you would like to attend the 2021 MSEA Convention and RA as an ACEA delegate, **you must be nominated and elected** during our 2021 election cycle which will commence in January. If interested, please contact the ACEA office for more information. Pictured L to R, are Keith Mikula (FO), Nick Amick (AL), and Stewart Monroe, Jr. (CCTE).

### TOYS FOR HAPPINESS 2020

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*What do you mean  
NO TOYS this year???????*



Don't worry Santa, we just have to do things differently this year because of the pandemic! We want to keep everyone as safe as possible, especially the children. Since 2005, ACEA (formerly ACTA), in conjunction with ACPS, has hosted an annual *Denim Day for Toys for Happiness* collection to support this local charity and help spread the spirit of giving. While we usually collect both toys and monetary donations, **we will only be accepting monetary donations this year** to help reduce the risk of transmission, yet still fulfill this important tradition by our association. This year we have agreed to make **Tuesday, December 1** the *Denim Day for Toys for Happiness*. Donations in the form of cash or checks will be accepted at each work location that day. Last year, we collected and donated an astounding 282 toys and \$2,289.25 in monetary donations! So, don't let the COVID-19 Scrooge steal the happiness this year, and plan to make a monetary donation. Checks can be made out directly to *Toys For Happiness* and given to your building representative on December 1. ACEA will then collect, count and present them on our behalf.

**Is it Thursday yet???????**

If so, join us for the virtual



**Get Happy Hour!**

Each Thursday starting at 4 p.m.

Simply click on the Zoom link at the bottom of the home page at [aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org).

## UniServ Minute

Evan West

As we head for colder weather and the Holidays, I want to stop and take a minute to tell all of you how thankful I am to work for you. The educators that make up ACEA never cease to amaze me with your level of dedication, determination, and professionalism. We may not all agree on what are the best next steps for the school system, our community or the country, but we all agree that we want what's best for your students and your professions.

As I write this, election day has not yet happened and the outcome is far from certain. My sincere hope is that, no matter the results, we all re-dedicate ourselves to making our community caring and inclusive. I hope that we can see in the faces of those students the reason we want our community and country to be great. I hope we see in each other that we are human siblings all united behind the same purpose - to give our students the best public education we can.

I am forever grateful to help support that work with you. Thank you, now more than ever, for everything you do.

Don't forget to use your NEA Member Benefits for your holiday shopping. In addition to member only deals, they have launched the NEA Discount Marketplace with Cash Back powered by Rakuten. Shop deals from over 2,500 top retailers, online stores, restaurants and more - all in one place! at...

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