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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.

October 2020



The



Advocate

Welcome new
ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Saydi Tasker	BL
Chelsea Carr	WT
Johnny Morris	WA
Madison Rhoads	SP

Unit 4

Kathryn Nicol	SP
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BOO! It's a very scary season...

It isn't hard for anyone to relate to this title as 2020 has had a number of unnerving events, and it isn't over yet. As we all know, the 2020 Election is fast approaching with early voting having started in some states such as Virginia. There is so much at stake in this upcoming election beyond the general rhetoric that I am compelled to share as your union president. While we may choose to vote in a number of ways, such as straight-party or faith-based, I urge you to consider voting for your profession and the future of public education in this election. There is a double-edged sword working against public education: lack of funding, and attacks on unions - and ours is no exception. I would be remiss if I didn't share that there is at least one significant case in the pipeline to the U.S. Supreme Court that seeks to take away your right to even join a union! Can you imagine our collective voices being taken from the bargaining table where we advocate for salary and benefits, legislation that directs such things as standardized testing and special programs for our students, educator evaluations, and so much more? As I said, it's very scary. But you still have the right to vote and I trust that you will use that special power with these things in mind. If you aren't registered to vote, please [Make A Plan to Vote!](#) (see the link on our website), or use the direct links below. There is still time to have your vote count. The future of your job may depend on it. In solidarity and service,

Kim

ACEA President

ksloane@mseanea.org

State	Registration/ Update Deadline	Direct Website
Maryland	October 13	https://elections.maryland.gov/
Pennsylvania	October 19	https://www.votespa.com/Pages/default.aspx
West Virginia	October 13	https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx



Congratulations Stacey!

We want to give a special shout-out to our colleague and fellow ACEA member, Stacey Bradley, who teaches at South Penn Elementary. Stacey was selected as the 2020 ACPS Teacher of the Year in March, just as the shutdown of schools commenced, and without all of the pomp and circumstances that she deserved. We are proud that she is representing our county educators in The 2020-2021 Maryland Teacher of the Year program. The Maryland Teacher of the Year will be announced on October 8, 2020 at 8 p.m., which can be streamed at video.mpt.tv in the days following the broadcast. The winner will receive an impressive array of awards and will go on to compete for the esteemed National Teacher of the Year.

ACPS Teacher of the Year 2020

UniServ Minute by Evan West Candidate Recommendation Process and Political Action

We are coming up on what will likely be the most important and unusual election of any of our lifetimes and many members have reached out to ask how NEA/MSEA/ACEA make the recommendations we do for political office and how we then participate in political action around elections. I'll start with our local association first.

This election cycle ACEA's Government Relations Committee opted not to make any recommendations for local elections. Typically, that committee seeks answers from candidates on questions related solely to public education. Given the wide range of opinions our members have expressed on local elections and candidates, the GR Committee simply felt there was no way to adequately capture a consensus recommendation. The GR committee encourages our members to vote for what they feel is best for public schools in Allegany County.

MSEA also has a member driven process for its recommendations that is similar to ACEA's. Because there are no state-wide elections locally that would affect district 1 (our state election district) there are no state level recommendations.

NEA also has a very similar structure where its national committee of members makes a recommendation as to who to support for the Presidential race to the elected delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. The NEA RA, comprised of nearly 8,000 rank and file members from every state and county in the country, votes to either confirm or reject the recommendation of the committee. To be clear, **candidates are only ever asked questions related to public education.**

Once the NEA RA votes to support a candidate for President, NEA can take political action on that candidate's behalf. To be clear, **NEA/MSEA/ACEA cannot and do not donate dues money to any political candidate. Any money donated to a candidate comes from members' voluntary contributions to The Fund for Children and Public Education also known as PAC.**

To learn more about NEA's recommendations for the Presidential election visit www.nea.org.

FYI...

Each Thursday at 4 p.m., we will again be hosting an ACEA "Get Happy Hour" for members. Join us for the latest information, to ask question or share concerns. Find a link at the bottom of the HOME page of our website at aceamsea.org.

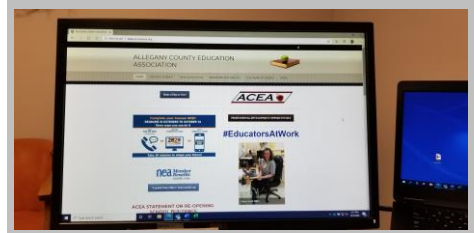
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ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, or in the near future, please feel free to attend our virtual informational session on Wednesday, October 28, at 4:00 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseanea.org and she will send the Zoom invite to you the day before the seminar.

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Don't forget to frequent our website at aceamsea.org and find:
Home – This page is constantly updated with the latest information and various quick links, such as to the latest, **NEA Member Benefits limited-time offers!**
Important Documents – This is where you will find our new multi-year contract, salary scale, Sick Leave Bank Forms and more.
News and Action - Professional Development opportunities, Newsletters, and other related items.
