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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 2021



The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Did you know???

- A few of our ACEA Members have recently used their NEA Benefits to purchase new tires, new computers, to book a trip, and rent a car at the best rates! There are so many ways that your membership can save you money. To find out more and save, go to <https://www.neamb.com/>
- Among our current contract benefits is an added Cigna Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which began on July 1. EAP personal advocates will work with you and your household family members to help resolve issues you may be facing, such as mental health, legal assistance, debt counseling, retirement planning, parenting, eldercare, pet care, and identify theft. To access 24hrs/365days call 1-877-622-4327 or visit www.cignabehavioral.com
- For those who also chose Basic Life and/or Long-Term Disability coverage, you also have access to a program by One America. This includes free online will preparation, as well as other legal, financial, and personal aids. Go to <https://www.guidanceresources.com>
ACPS Web ID: ONEAMERICA3

Our Rhapsody in Blue!

A rhapsody is an effusively enthusiastic or ecstatic expression of feeling. Our music educators know that this is often expressed in an extended movement, musical composition, such as George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. If you have never had the opportunity to experience this piece, I encourage you to do so, and have linked it for your easy access in the electronic version of this newsletter found on our website.

This is exactly how we should feel now that the Blueprint is law in Maryland! The Blueprint is an extended movement in education that will be implemented over the 10 years 2021-2031, and will bring much improved access, resources and funding to our schools for both students and educators.

In this early phase, we are already seeing four Community Schools being developed in Allegany County, and more to become eligible over the next few years. These are designed to address the needs of the academic, physical and mental needs of both students and their families. Additionally, and as I shared in a recent email, beginning July 1, 2022, educators who are National Board Certified Teachers will be eligible for state stipends. Increased funding to the districts will also provide opportunity to increase staffing and salaries for all educators.

These initiatives and the several more to come, are being realized because of our commitment to our students and each other as members of the Allegany County Education Association and the Maryland State Education Association- our rhapsody!

Welcome new ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Mary Burke NE
 Michael Lee WA
 Susanne Records WT
 Molly Winner AL

Unit 4

Bob Arbogast MS
 Nicole DeRiso SP
 Lisa Rowan MS
 Jody Wildman JD
 Hogan Moody FO

In solidarity and service,

Kimberly Sloane
ACEA President

ksloane@mseanea.org

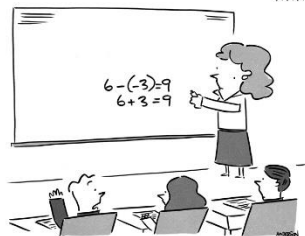
SMILE! 😊



"I've been in there. There's a fridge, a pop machine, two microwaves.... But I think 'lounge' might be overselling it."



"I'm just saying, you put that over a sick beat and I smell another hit musical."



"So in English a double negative is bad, but in math it's a positive?"



"I miss the days when tech support was a new bulb for the overhead."

From the Desk of the Ubiquitous UniServ...

Hello ACEA members:

The association appreciates your dedication to a chosen profession which is working in Public Education. Circumstances in your work environment are ever changing depending on the latest COVID, positive cases in ACPS. The association will always advocate on your behalf to ensure your working conditions follow ACEA collective bargaining agreement.

"To Be or not to Be: That is the question from Hamlet, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or take arms against a sea of troubles." The association realizes at times you are feeling like you are taking slings and arrows. Some arrows like workload, slings like extra duties, and not enough time in your workday to complete all the things you wanted to accomplish. Your professionalism, dedication, and desire to educate and assist students of ACPS is your passion, regardless of the sea of problems that you encounter every day.

You should remember that you may be the radiant light that inspires students to be the next great scientist who cures this awful virus. You may be the inspirational light that encourages students to be the next generation of great writers or social leaders, or you may be the light that inspires one of your students to have the courage to become the first female president of the United States of America.

The association is here to help you to shine your light of knowledge, inspiration, and encouragement to so many. Please let us know how we can assist you with any arrows or slings that are preventing you from shining your light in the most productive way.

Please be aware that we are advocating and in current discussions with ACPS in connection to a number of issues that are challenging our members. We will continue to advocate for your rights and advance issues that are germane to your profession. Thank you for all you do for public education.

John

ACEA Calendar >>>

- October 2 – MSEA Membership Workshop
- October 4 – West COBC Meeting
- October 11 – ACEA Representative Assembly
- October 12 – ACPS BOE Meeting
- October 15 and 16 – MSEA Representative Assembly and Convention
- October 18 - ACPS Policy Committee Meeting
- October 20 – ACEA Retirement Seminars
- October 28 – RHCBC Committee Meeting

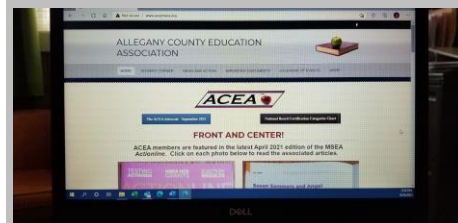
FYI...

Each Thursday at 4 p.m., we are again 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.



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, October 20, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 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.



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 electronic version of our newsletter, PD Opportunities and **NEA Member Benefits** limited-time offers!

Important Documents – This is where you will find our contracts, salary scales, Sick Leave Bank Forms and more.
