

In this issue >>>

Welcome New ACEA Member!
ACEA Retirement Seminar
ACEA 2024 Election Timeline
Innovation Grants for Teachers
ACEA Scholarship Recipients
Calling all ACEA Members!

Allegany County Education Association

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

October 2023



The



Advocate

🦇 🍁 A “Wicked Good” Season 🍁 🕸

**Welcome New
ACEA Member!**

Unit 4

Stella Wang MR

ACEA Retirement Seminar



If you are an ACEA member considering retirement this year, in the near future, or in a few years, please plan to attend one of our virtual informational sessions on Wednesday, October 11, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseanea.org for the Zoom link and associated documents.

My name is Cresta Kowalski and I am the new UniServ Director for Allegany and Garrett Counties in beautiful Mountain Maryland. It is an honor to serve my fellow professionals in this position, and I look forward to a positive future for education in Allegany County!



I am a native of Allegany County, growing up and attending school in this system before going away to college. I received my Elementary Education degree from Towson

University with an additional certification in Special Education. Right away I was hired in Baltimore County Public Schools, where I taught for five years before moving back to Allegany County where I was hired by Mineral County Schools to design Special Education programming at Frankfort Middle School for students with low incidence disabilities. Then I received two master's degrees, one from WVU in Special Education with a specialization in Autism and one from Wheeling Jesuit University in Educational Leadership. I taught in Mineral County for ten years before the opportunity to be hired in ACPS became available and I took it. I had the pleasure of teaching in the special education departments of Cash Valley and South Penn with skilled, talented colleagues for six years before accepting the job as UD for our area.

As I embark on this new journey, know that you are an important piece to the success of the students in your classroom. Even on the hardest days, your work is vital to their social, emotional well-being and hope for their future. I am here to support you and hear your concerns you take on this essential work. Reach out when you need and know that each day you are making an impact on the lives of those around you!



2024 Nominations and Elections Committee Timeline
For Election of ACEA Officers, and MSEA and NEA Delegates

- **September 11** - Present timeline to Board of Directors for approval
- **September 28** - send *Notice of Nominations and Elections* Postcards for ACEA Officers, MSEA and NEA Delegates to membership via U.S.P.S.
- **October 2** - Nomination forms available on our website at www.aceamsea.org and through MSEA's website at marylandeducators.org.
- **November 13** - NEC presents report of nominees received to date to the RA, and accept nominations from the floor.
- **November 17** - nominations due to the NEC committee in the ACEA office or postmarked by 5:00 p.m.
- **December 4** - NEC Committee meets to review nominations and prepares notifications to nominees to submit bios and photos to MSEA for publication, as well as for *The ACEA Advocate*, and invites each nominee to address the January 8, 2024, ACEA RA. In addition, the NEC will prepare the ballot in accordance with MSEA instructions.
- **December 15** - Deadline for nominees to submit bios and photos to MSEA and ACEA for publication.
- **January 2024**- Publish list and/or biographical information of nominees in the January Newsletter.
- **January 8** - NEC presents the final report of nominees received to the RA; nominees are invited to address the members of the ACEA RA.
- **January 12** - Deadline for ALL candidate bios and photos to be posted on MSEA website. Final spreadsheet for both MSEA and local affiliates must be provided for submission to the election services vendor with all information, including candidate bios.
- **January 29 -February 16** - Electronic voting window. Voting will take place from 9:00 a.m. on January 29, 2024, through 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2024, when voting closes.
- **February 21** - The MSEA NEC meets to verify election results and notify ACEA.
- **March 11** - The ACEA NEC reports the results of the election to the RA.
- **April** - The results are shared with the membership through email, newsletter and/or the website.

**INNOVATION GRANTS
FOR EDUCATORS**

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Alpha Delta Kappa, an International Honorary Organization for Women Educators provides **35 Innovation Grants** in the amount of \$300.00 each for **teachers with no more than ten years of teaching experience, who are not members of the organization.**

The purpose of this grant is to assist creative, innovative educators with the cost of supplies or services to enhance lessons. **The deadline to apply is November 15.**

More info can be found on the Alpha Delta Kappa website alphadeltakappa.org, under the tab "FOUNDATION", and then under "Awards, Grants, & Scholarships".

*Information concerning the local Alpha Delta Kappa group email jmhall@atlanticbb.net



My name is Payton Sharpless, and I am from Cresaptown, Maryland. I am an Elementary Education Major at Frostburg State University, concentrating in Social Science and Civics. In December, I will graduate with my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. I graduated from Fort Hill High School in 2019 and Allegany College

of Maryland in 2021. During my academic career, I was named a member of the All-Maryland Academic Team and recipient of the Teaching Fellows for the Maryland Scholarship. After graduation, I plan to reside in the area and hope to obtain a teaching position in Allegany County.

I want to thank the Allegany County Education Association, its supporting members, and those in the education field in our local community who make this scholarship opportunity possible. Your generosity and support enable future generations of educators to continue to inspire and educate the future of our world.

My name is Sophia Shively. I am from Cumberland, MD, and graduated from Allegany High School. I am in my last semester at Frostburg State University, pursuing my degree in Elementary/Middle school education with a focus in language and literacy. I have completed internships and substituted grades Pre-K through 8th!



I love what I do and cannot wait to (hopefully) have my own classroom here in Allegany County and positively impact each of my students' lives! Thank you for helping me fund my education. I greatly appreciate it!

Calling all ACEA members!

Interested in knowing your contract, the art and laws of negotiations? Join us at the ACEA Office on Thursday, November 2 from 4:30-6 pm when we will be reviewing contracts from across the state as we educate and prepare for our next fully open negotiations. Email Kim at ksloane@mseane.org with your interest and for more details.

