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## President's Message

by Denise King



The National Education Association Representative Assembly was held in Boston, MA this past summer. Many representatives from different locals attended from Monmouth County. There were many attendees who joined us for the first time from our county. We had more people in attendance this past summer than last, which speaks to the growth of interest and involvement in our county organization.

During NJEA Summer Leadership, many new local leaders participated in the trainings offered to help them lead in their locals. In September, the new NJEA Leadership took office with Marie Blisten, President, Sean Spiller, Vice President, and Steve Beatty, Secretary Treasurer. The Monmouth County Education Association thanks Wendell Steinhauer for his service to our members as the past President of the NJEA and wishes the new team well in their endeavors.

The Monmouth County Education Association offered a bus and a hospitality suite for our members at the NJEA Convention. At the end of the convention, the NJEA Delegate Assembly met and voted on items such as updated policies for the Health Benefits Committee. This policy enables staff to work with legislators on various health care options.

The leadership team has been working to offer more opportunities with PD, LAT, Collective Bargaining & Advocacy for all members in Monmouth County. If you have participated in any of the mentioned events, you know the value we place on you as members. There are more trainings and activities available than ever before. If you haven't attended, please take time to come and see what Monmouth County Education Association has to offer.

We are preparing additional trainings in conjunction with Middlesex and Ocean Counties. The Monmouth

County Education Association will be hosting the Overnight with the Middlesex County Education Association. The event will be held at the Ocean Place Hotel in Long Branch on February 23 & 24, 2018. On Saturday, January 13th we will co-host a Health and Safety training with the Ocean County Education Association held at their Brick office.

I would like to congratulate the Neptune Twp. Education Association for winning the prestigious Jim George Collective Bargaining Award for the hard work and community organizing they did to settle their contract. They were able to gain changes to Chapter 78. Congratulations to Pam Kellett, her negotiations team, and Ron Villano, their Field Representative, for an outstanding job and setting the standard for all other Monmouth County locals to strive to achieve.

If I do not have a chance to see you to personally extend good tidings, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Members of the Monmouth County Education Association attended the NEARA Convention in Boston this past summer.

# MCEA Provides PD Workshops

by Tracie Yostpille



The Monmouth County Education Association continues to be a robust provider of professional development for our members. Last year, over 1,400 members attended our workshops. Many were return customers, but our data shows that 500 individual members took advantage and attended at least one of our workshops. Our plan is to continue to grow that number. If you are interested in detailed descriptions and dates of what professional development workshops we have planned, you can look on our MCEA calendar or visit MCEANJ.com and view the PD tab. You will be able to register for workshops using the Eventbrite link under the workshop description right on the website.

On Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th, the Monmouth County Education Association in conjunction with the Middlesex County Education Association will co host our professional development Overnight Conference. The conference will be held at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch. Our schedule of events includes a keynote speaker, a comedian, and a DJ with karaoke on Friday night. Then on Saturday two sessions of professional development will be held. Both advocacy and professional development workshops will be offered. Our workshops will include:

1. Association Representative Training
2. Grievance Procedures
3. Negotiations Training
4. President Forum
5. LAT Roundtable
6. Courageous Conversations on race, gender, equity, and social justice Part 1
7. Succeeding With Challenging Students

We are very happy to announce Google Bootcamp Level 1 will be offered at the Overnight Conference for our members at a discounted rate. The training will lead to our members becoming Google Certified. The price will be an additional \$75 beyond the price of the conference. This training, that results in certification, normally runs upwards of \$300, so MCEA is offering it at an 80% discount if members are interested. So save the dates, February 23rd and February 24th 2018. You can come for both days or one, just plan to come!

As a Monmouth County Education Association member, our trainings at the office are always free of charge to you. You can bet that you will be well trained and well fed any time you decide to join us to improve your knowledge of your profession. We hope to see you in 2018!

# Election Results Please Members

by Dan Rodrick

Thanks in no small part to the efforts of NJEA members like yourself, the New Year is sure to usher in change for teachers and education support professionals here in New Jersey.

As I am sure you are aware, Governor Elect Phil Murphy defeated Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno by 14 percentage points, garnering 282,938 more votes. It was an amazing victory.

In the 12th District, NJEA endorsed Republican Assemblyman Ronald Dancer and Robert Clifton were also successful in their bids for reelection. Unfortunately, our endorsed candidate for State Senate, Democrat David Lande, could not successfully unseat long time Senator Samuel Thompson.

In the 13th District, results were also mixed as was our endorsement. Democratic candidate Sean Byrnes was unsuccessful in his bid for State Senate against our long time foe, Senator Declan O'Scanlon. Results for the two open assembly seats were also mixed. Our endorsed Republican candidate Serena DiMaso was successful in her bid, while our endorsed Democratic candidate Tom Giaimo was not.

After years of pushing an anti-teacher agenda for our soon to be former Governor, Jen Beck was finally unseated in the 11th District by NJEA endorsed Democratic candidate Vin Gopal. He defeated incumbent Senator Jen Beck by over 3000 votes. It was an amazing victory.

Also in the 11th District, NJEA endorsed Assemblywoman Joann Downey and Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, successfully defended their seats, and we look forward to continuing our work with them.

Down in South Jersey's 3rd District, members weren't so lucky. Despite the tremendous efforts of our members, NJEA endorsed Republican candidate Fran Grenier could not unseat incumbent Senate Speaker Steve Sweeney.

On behalf of Leadership and our Members, I would like thank everyone who volunteered on this race and other races throughout the state. These victories could not have happened without you and we should all be proud of what was accomplished.



MCEA President, Denise King, celebrates with Vin Gopal after he successfully defeated incumbent Senator Jen Beck in the 11th District.

# New Governor Speaks at NJEA Convention

by Vicki McKeon



The new school year is well underway and we have been busy in the classroom and in our advocacy for public education, our students, and our members. Monmouth County Education Association members, along with NJEA members from around the state, worked tirelessly to get our endorsed candidates elected.

At our Fall Focus event in September and at our LAT meetings, we wrote countless postcards with personal notes to other members, we addressed reminder cards to our members to vote, and we made phone calls. Statewide our members logged over 30,000 phone calls. Throughout the state, 77% of all NJEA endorsed candidates won their elections.

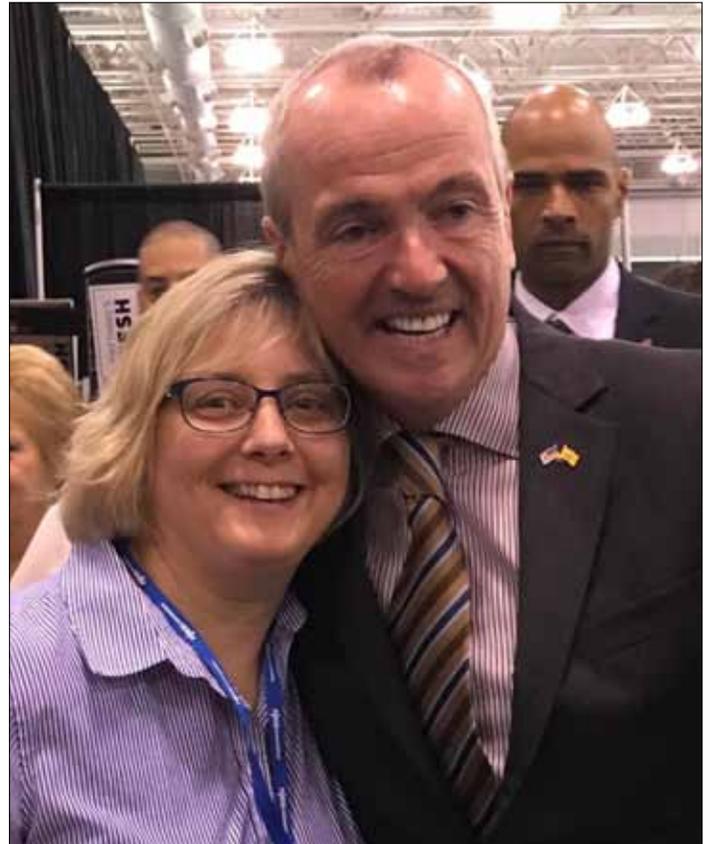
The excitement of the election was apparent as NJEA members from across the state converged on Atlantic City on the Thursday and Friday following Election Day. This year we were celebrating the election of Ambassador Phil Murphy as New Jersey's next governor. As promised at last year's convention, Ambassador Murphy addressed the crowds at convention. He thanked NJEA members for their support and hard work in helping him to get elected. He reaffirmed his commitment to support public education and the full funding of our pensions.

The main reason members attend the convention is to take advantage of the best professional learning available and countless opportunities to connect and collaborate with colleagues. The theme of the 2017 NJEA Convention was social justice, education justice, and student success. This theme was apparent throughout convention and at the plenary sessions. Ilyasah Shabazz, author, activist and educator, participated in a discussion with the three NJEA officers about her family's history of activism and the role educators can play. She also moderated a panel of six students from diverse backgrounds on their suggestions for creating more inclusive, considerate and effective learning environments. Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, urged the audience to consider that "activism is a way everyone should live their lives."

Friday's session by Mike Kuczala, the Director of Instruction for the Regional Training Center, and educational consulting firm based in Randolph, and president of Kuczala Consulting, had participants on their feet, working with partners and actively trying to keep a balloon in the air at one point. His classroom-friendly techniques engage students' minds and bodies. "Learn-

ing doesn't just happen from the brain up, it happens from the feet up," Kuczala said. He pointed out that physically fit students do better academically and he shared statistics about the health crisis that is building in the United States and the rise in diabetes among all children, but impacting the lives of African-American and Latino children the most. If you are looking to implement movement into your classroom, pick up the book *The Kinesthetic Classroom: Teaching and Learning Through Movement and Training In Motion: How to Use Movement to Create Engaging and Effective Learning*. Mike Kuczala is the coauthor of the book.

Attending the convention and electing Ambassador Murphy were definitely highlights of the fall, but I am sure that I'm not the only one counting the days until winter break. I hope everyone has the opportunity to relax, recharge, and refocus. I'm looking forward to the New Year and the next four years when we will have a Governor who supports us, our families, and public education. Happy New Year everyone!



Denise King, MCEA President, congratulates the Governor-elect of New Jersey, Phil Murphy, at the NJEA Convention in November.

# Association Continues to Improve

by John Napolitani, Sr.

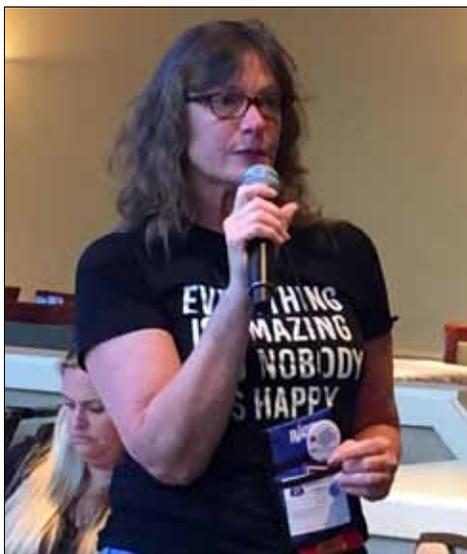


The MCEA Executive Team has continued the hard work for all the membership. With increased numbers of workshops in our office, as well as increasing the accessibility for the membership, we have seen a drastic increase in participation within the association. The president council meetings have been well attended, as have the collective bargaining council meetings. We look forward to increasing that participation over the next several months as we start the new year.

I am also happy to state that we have increased the amount of Optical Academy sessions in our office to four times this year. Our next Optical Academy is in January. Remember that this is open to all your friends and family. They have incredible prices for our membership.

In closing, I want to take the time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

## NTEA Wins Award



The Neptune Township Education Association won the 2017 NJEA Jim George Collective Bargaining Award at the Collective Bargaining Summit held in Somerset on Oct. 27. The local association in Monmouth County was recognized for member, community and political organizing, and a strong settlement that puts a cap on Chapter 78 health care contributions. Congratulations to Pam Kellett, President of the NTEA, and her team of dedicated educators.

## MCEA Pride

Diane Vistein

MCEA PRIDE has been busy hosting and planning events. Monmouth County members came out to volunteer for the First Annual Trunk or Treat event held at Erickson School in Freehold Township, and its predecessor event held at a shopping mall in Howell. Volunteers decorated vehicles and provided community members with safety flashlights, personal reflectors, and lots of candy.

A good time was had by all.

PRIDE events currently under construction are Read Across America being held at IPlay America. Pay special attention to the date this year as the event will not be held on Dr. Seuss' Birthday, but the evening before. Volunteers are welcome!!!

Please stay tuned for information and applications pertaining to the Friends of Education Awards Banquet. The banquet is one of MCEA's biggest events and requires nominees from all of you.

For PRIDE information, please contact Diane Vistein, PRIDE Chair, at the MCEA office.

Happy Winter!

## Upcoming MCEA Events

Optical Academy: January 9, MCEA Office

MCEA Rep. Council: January 24, Jumping Brook Country Club

MCEA Overnight: February 23-24, Ocean Place Hotel

Read Across America: March 1, IPlay America

St. Patrick's Day Parade: March 4, Asbury Park



**Make the Choice. Go Paperless.  
Vote Online @ [njea.org](http://njea.org)**

*The NJEA Elections Committee encourages members to register and vote online for the 2018 association elections. The option of online voting is easy and convenient. Go to [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org) and register. Balloting opens on April 2 and concludes at noon on Monday, April 16. The online voting initiative is designed to improve member participation in the democratic process, while reducing the cost of conducting annual elections.*