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Dispatch

P E N N S Y L V A N I A S T A T E E D U C A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N - E S P

Spring 2021

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

As I am writing, the COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed throughout the state, but the process is challenging and frustrating to say the least. We all hope there will be more vaccines made available to all Pennsylvanians sooner than later. PSEA is making it a top priority for all school staff to have access to the coronavirus vaccine as quickly as possible. PSEA is urging the state to expedite this safety measure to help speed the safe reopening of all schools for in-person instruction. We will not stop fighting for resources our schools need to get through this crisis.

Many of us have spent the past 12 months remaking our schools and everyday life. I hope that we are entering the waning months of this crisis. Our members' commitment to helping their schools and communities has not gone unnoticed. Students are learning in clean and sanitized environments, receiving nourishing

meals, getting safely transported to and from school, and participating in extracurricular activities because of your hard work. I know firsthand that you are doing a great job to make these vital activities happen.

What comes next? Nobody really can answer that question, but we know there is power in numbers and collective action. No matter what the challenge, PSEA members always find a way to make positive changes for our locals, schools, and communities. Please safely communicate with all members on issues impacting our professions, schools, and locals. Keeping PSEA members informed during these challenging times is a priority for all of us.

Please keep in mind that if your local faces challenges such as furloughs or subcontracting, please contact your PSEA UniServ representative immediately. School districts may be making the wrong



Dawn Bandle
ESP Region President

moves without exploring all options. PSEA has resources that you can use to meet those challenges head-on. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any issues or concerns that you may have. Your local is a priority, and PSEA is ready to help.

In closing, I will continue to do my best to keep you up-to-date on all developments impacting our members and schools over the next few months. Please keep a lookout for all updates.

Thank you for all you do.

ESP Region House of Delegates and Training Opportunities

The 2021 ESP Region House of Delegates will be held virtually on April 9. There will be no trainings offered during this year's House of Delegates. However, PSEA will offer you valuable training opportunities during April. These virtual professional development workshops will last on average 1.5 hours and cover multiple topics.

Please visit www.psea.org/espworkshops to view the workshops offered by PSEA. Members can register for just one workshop or all the workshops. Virtual ESP professional development workshop dates:

- April 12-15, 2021
- April 20-22, 2021
- April 28-29, 2021

Candidate Statements

Name: Adam H. Lanza

Membership Category: Custodian

Local Association/Division: Western Wayne ESP/
Northeastern ESP Division

Candidate for the office of: Resolutions Committee

Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: 12 years ESP Region Board of Directors

Statement of Candidacy: I wish to get back on the resolutions committee so I can work on behalf of the ESP Region.

Name: Rudolph Burruss

Membership Category: Paraprofessional

Local Association/Division: State College ESP/ Central Division

Candidate for the office of: Region President

Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: Central Division Vice President, NEA Director

Statement of Candidacy: Twenty years ago, I began a new career as a paraprofessional working with multi-disabled special education students. During these years, I have learned that supporting educators play an important role in schools, playing a major role in student achievement. I also learned quickly that having the protection of my union was necessary as I endeavored to carry out my professional duties in the classroom. Although my initial reason to join the union was for job protection, I quickly learned that the union is also a strong advocate for both my students and my profession at multiple levels. Membership in PSEA, NEA and my local Association has given me many opportunities. As an active member, I was able to develop my professional and personal skills, learning strategies for advocacy, contract negotiations, and contract enforcement. I put these skills to good use as a representative for my fellow members! I have learned how to build relationships that enhance our viability by making us stronger: relationships with legislators, school superintendents, our allies and many members. As a PSEA NEA Director, I attended NEA ESP Board of Directors meetings, building beneficial working relationships with ESP's across this nation.

Educational Support Professionals play a critical role in delivering quality public education to Pennsylvania students. This past year the job has become more challenging than ever. Dealing with the restraints and requirements of the pandemic has added considerable burdens and stressors to our positions. In spite of expanding duties and significant health and safety concerns, we continue to dedicate ourselves to our schools and to meeting the needs of our students.

I want our union to shine a bright spotlight on the selfless dedication, and professionalism that ESP member brings to their profession on a daily basis. I want to see my ESP

colleagues thrive and be shown respect for their commitment to education and students. I want to bring my experience, my energy, and my determined commitment to build relationships that guarantee this process. I want to continue to proudly represent the hardest working people in education. I am Rudolph "Rudy" Burruss and I humbly ask for your vote for PSEA ESP Region President.

Name: Marc A. Howshall

Candidate for Committee/Term: President

Term: 2021-2023

Local Association Positions Held: Local: President, Vice President, Chief Negotiator, Grievance Chair.

Region: ESP Region Vice President and Officer At Large

State: Collective Bargaining Committee, PSEA Policy Committee, ESP Policy Committee Chair, PSEA Audit Committee, PSEA Oversight Committee, NEA-RA New Business Committee also PSEA Interview Committee in DC for NEA Executive Committee Candidates.

Statement Of Candidacy: Presently I'm your ESP Region Vice President and PSEA Board Member. I also serve as a PSEA Mediator for Member to Member Conflicts, and serve on PSEA Audit Committee, PSEA Policy Committee, ESP Policy Committee Chair, and ESP Member of the Year Committee Chair.

I have been an ESP Member for 24 years, during these years serving in leadership positions at the Local and State levels as well as serving on Local Committee's, PSEA and ESP State Committee's have been very gratifying. As a Mediator for PSEA I was very successful with Local Member to Member Conflicts and traveling to Local's to help get them refocused to have a positive future. It's important that our Members are doing well so in turn the children we care so much about will be given the best opportunities to succeed. ESP Members have continued to demonstrate their resilience and dedication to children and their communities in troubled times. ESP Members never give up and I will not also. As your ESP region President my dedication, resilience and years of knowledge and experience will continue to bring strong leadership to our ESP Region to serve hard working Members like you.

As President, I will give all Members the continued opportunity to have a Voice and be heard, I will continue the fight for the RESPECT that ESP Members deserve. WE need to be United, and we are United as your State Officers and a Great Board of Directors to continue to fight back the challenges we face every day. As your President I will make some tough decisions along with your officers and board, with always keeping in mind what is best for our ESP Region and the Members we serve. WE need to continue to increase Membership, Member involvement and Community involvement to insure a viable and bright future for our Members.

Candidate Statements (cont. from Page 2)

It would be a privilege and an honor to continue to be a part of our great ESP Leadership Team as your ESP Region President and to continue to represent you, the members of the ESP Region.

Thank You
Marc C. Howshall
“Strength In Numbers”

Name: Joanne Ruse
Membership Category: Other/Library Aide
Local Association/Division: Mideast Division, Lower Merion ESP
Candidate for the office of: Resolutions Committee
Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: Resolutions, ACE
Statement of Candidacy: It would be an honor to continue to serve as a member of our Resolutions team. Having spent the last six years with Resolutions, I understand the hardwork, dedication, and love for our PSEA.

The work we do is admirable. It makes me proud to be among such strong professionals who’s intent is to provide the best education for our students. It would be a privilege to continue to be a part of PSEA Resolutions for the next term. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Joanne Ruse

Name: Karen L. Witman
Membership Category: Paraprofessional
Local Association/Division: Lancaster/Lebanon IU 13 ESPA
Candidate for the office of: Legislative Committee
Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: Former Membership Co-chair and Executive Council and Site Coordinator
Statement of Candidacy: I have served on the Legislative Committee for the last 10 years. I believe as an ESP member we should have a voice on the Legislative Committee to keep us informed of what our representatives in Harrisburg are proposing for education so we can have some input.

Name: Holly Harrington
Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical
Local Association/Division: Bangor ESP/Eastern
Candidate for the office of: ESP Region Treasurer
Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: Local: Current President; Past Treasurer and Membership Chair
Division: Current Eastern Division ESP Secretary; Past Eastern Division ESP President, Vice President, and Treasurer
Statement of Candidacy: I have held this position since my appointment in 2015 and would like to continue to represent you as your ESP Region Treasurer. As your ESP Region

Treasurer, I will be a member of the PSEA Budget Committee and a PSEA Board of Director, representing the ESP Region. Please allow me to continue to represent and advocate for you, the members, for the next two years.

Thank you.

Name: Cindy Lawn
Membership Category: Paraprofessional
Local Association/Division: Council Rock ESPA/Mideast Division
Candidate for the office of: PSEA-ESP Region Secretary
Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: PSEA-ESP Region Secretary, PSEA-PACE Board of Directors Secretary, Legislative Committee

Statement of Candidacy: The prime responsibilities of the PSEA ESP Region Secretary are to review all of the locals’ constitutions and bylaws throughout the state and to provide support to the Executive Committee and the ESP Board of Directors. I am asking for your vote, to continue keeping our region of PSEA an active and engaged participant in our members’ work lives. So often, the only voice of respect and acknowledgement of our daily work is through PSEA and our Region Associations. I want to continue to be part of building the respect for our work throughout the Association and our communities.

Name: Karen Hennessy-Craig
Membership Category: Para Educator
Local Association/Division: Holland Elementary School
Candidate for the office of: PACE Director

Association positions held: Holland Elementary Building Rep/Vice President of CRESPA, Grievance Committee Chair
Statement of Candidacy: Throughout the state, ESPs need a strong voice on the legislative and political initiatives that impact all of us and I want to be that advocate. PACE plays a key role in deciding which initiatives PSEA addresses with our state legislators. It also assists those legislators who understand the importance of keeping public education strong. As a PACE representative, I will strive to ensure that PSEA continues to focus on ESP wages and working conditions and that the political action committee supports those initiatives as well.

Name: Pat Petruska
Membership Category: Paraprofessional
Candidate for the office of: Legislative Committee
Term: 2021-2023

Association positions held: Southern Division President
Statement of Candidacy: I look forward to being on the Legislative again. I have been on this committee for years.

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*Dispatch is a publication for
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Aaron F. Chapin - PSEA Vice President
Jeffrey D. Ney - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

Dawn Bandle - PSEA ESP Region President
Marc Howshall - PSEA ESP Region Vice President
Cindy Lawn - PSEA ESP Region Secretary
Holly Harrington - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer
Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



Dates to Remember

**NEA Read Across America Day
March 2, 2021**

**Virtual ESP Region House of Delegates
April 9, 2021**

**Virtual PSEA House of Delegates
May 14-15, 2021**