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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 2017

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

Let's seize every opportunity

Many opportunities and challenges lie ahead for unions and public education.

It is true that the attacks against us keep on coming. They include bills to make it illegal for dues to be deducted from PSEA members' paychecks, the elimination of fair share, efforts to make tentative bargaining agreements public, pension changes, and schemes to take away employee leave.

I am sure you are feeling worried, overwhelmed, discouraged, and fearful. While I have these same feelings, I am confident we will overcome these obstacles and successfully defend our professions. We must stay united and engaged in the work we do for our students, public education, and the union.

We will have opportunities in the upcoming weeks and months to make our voices heard.

Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$12 per hour. Increasing

Pennsylvania's minimum wage is a recognition that hardworking Pennsylvanians should be able to support themselves and their families. This plan will have a positive impact on our members by putting more money in their pockets and helping the local economy. PSEA will continue to give this plan our strongest possible support. Please join me in supporting this proposal and urging legislators to do the same.

PSEA is also working on proposed legislation to address the threats and realities of subcontracting that our ESP members face. We are working on securing legislative sponsors for the proposed legislation. The plan includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A transparent process that keeps employees and taxpayers informed;
- Bargaining in accordance with applicable law;
- A detailed cost comparison and three years of cost projections;
- Competitive bidding;



Dawn Bandle
ESP Region President

- Public review and discussions of proposals; and
- At least one public hearing on the issue.

As a PSEA member, you can help us succeed by recruiting new members and engaging current ones. A large, active membership can be very powerful. Let's seize every opportunity and convince our colleagues, families, friends, and neighbors that we do great things for public education and that unions give all workers opportunities.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "If we do not hang together, we shall surely hang separately." Let's stand together and make our voices heard.

No transportation subcontracting in budget

As part of his FY 2017-18 budget proposal, Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed a new formula to reimburse school districts for their student transportation costs. However, Gov. Wolf is not encouraging more school districts to subcontract their school transportation services.

PSEA staff have reached out to the governor's office to clarify this, and we have been assured that the governor has no intention of encouraging school districts to subcontract transportation services or the PSEA members who work so hard to keep our students safe on buses to

and from school.

As the budget process continues, PSEA will keep you up-to-date on this issue and ensure that PSEA members' jobs are protected from subcontracting.

Candidate Statements

President • Term: 2017-2019
Dawn L. Bandle

Membership Category: Secretary

Local Association/Division: Lehigh Career & Technical Institute ESPA/Eastern Division

Association Positions held: President, Chief Negotiator, Grievance Chair. Division: Eastern Division President. Region: Executive Committee Member, Vice President, President. Committees: PSEA Personnel, Staff Negotiations, Health and Welfare, Professional Development, Charter Schools, Membership, and Affiliates Concerns, Organizing, ESP Portfolio Workgroup, ESP Small Local Merger Committee, ESP Special Issues Workgroup, PSEA Document Retention Committee, PSEA Referendum Implementation Strategies Group.

Statement of Candidacy: Serving as your president has afforded me the opportunity to represent each of you and to ensure that you have the necessary resources to be successful in your professional lives. I have always believed that if you provide a member with the right tools, they can be a successful leader.

As we look to the future of PSEA, we will be faced with many challenges. We are being challenged both internally and externally; internally to meet growing needs with diminishing resources, and externally by the forces that aim to undermine us.

It is my desire to continue to represent each of you within PSEA and NEA; to work diligently to have your issues and concerns addressed, and, most importantly, to make sure ESP is an integral part of the PSEA and the education process.

Together, we can make a difference for public education and our careers. I respectfully ask your continued assistance by supporting me for re-election as ESP Region President.

Secretary • Term: 2017-2019
Mindy Anderson

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: Neshaminy ESP/ESP Mideastern Division

Association Positions held: Local: Recording Secretary, Vice President, President, Negotiations Team; Division: ESP Mideastern Division President for past 15 years; ACE training; Health Care Consortium Committee; Region: Currently serving the PSEA Board of Directors as ESP Region Secretary, past ESP Region Officer-at-Large; ESP Region Credentials and Elections Chairperson; PSEA/ESP Region Constitution and Bylaws Committee member, Conflict Resolutions Training

Statement of Candidacy: I am presently your ESP Region Secretary working with your other Region Officers on all issues support staff are enduring. Becoming strong leaders within our locals and building a strong sense of community is a viable tool to combat some of our biggest challenges. If we work together to obtain the knowledge, then we will have the power to withstand and conquer our issues.

At the local level, I have battled 2 contracts with the threats of subcontracting and a third on the way. With the knowledge and the members behind us we can hold steady and this may help other locals to stay on tract. I would like to continue to be on your team learning with you, representing, and assisting you on the ESP Region Board.

Treasurer • Term: 2017-2019
Holly Harrington

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: Bangor ESP/Eastern

Association Positions held: Local: Current President, Past Treasurer, and Membership Chair; Division: Past Eastern Division ESP President, Vice President, and Treasurer;

Statement of Candidacy: I would like to continue to represent all Education Support Professionals as part of the ESP Region Executive Committee and Board of Directors. As Treasurer, it gives me the opportunity to be part of the process that institutes changes as we continue to face the daily challenges of being an Education Support Professional. I ask for your vote to allow me to continue on this journey for the next two years.

Thank you.

Legislative Committee • Term: 2017-2019
Ann Monaghan

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: Wallenpaupack ESP/
Northeast Region

Association Positions held: Local: Local Secretary,
President; Division: Region Vice President

Statement of Candidacy: I am seeking my third term on the legislative committee. I find the work of the committee to be very rewarding. Being a member of the committee allows me to be a more effective local leader. I hope to be able to continue serving ESP and my local as a member of the legislative committee.

Legislative Committee • Term: 2017-2019
Karen L. Witman

Membership Category: Paraprofessional

Local Association/Division: Lancaster-Lebanon IU13
ESPA/Southern

Association Positions held: Local: Representative for
Lebanon County on the Executive Council

Statement of Candidacy: I enjoy advocating for our children on items before the Legislative House and Senate.

Legislative Committee • Term: 2017-2019
Pat Petruska

Membership Category: Paraprofessional

Local Association/Division: Member-at-Large/Southern

Association Positions held: Division: Division President
- LCEC - ACE

Statement of Candidacy: I have been on the legislative committee for 10 years. I look forward to serving again.

Alternative for Legislative Committee • Term:
2017-2019
Mary Brookshaw

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: New Hope-Solebury ESP/
Mideastern Division

Association Positions held: President, Vice President,
Grievance Chair

Statement of Candidacy: I have been involved with my local from the beginning of our association becoming a bargaining unit with PSEA. I have a passion for our members being treated fairly and with respect. I also have a passion for politics and how politics affect our members. I would like to give back to PSEA what has been given to me, respect, a good living, a voice in my future. I would be honored to serve as an alternate on the Legislative Committee.

Resolutions Committee • Term: 2017-2019
Ruth Ann Mlakar

Membership Category: Aide/Paraprofessional

Local Association/Division: Hermitage (HESPA)/
Midwestern

Association Positions held: I have been President and Secretary at the local level.

Statement of Candidacy: I would like to continue representing ESP on the Resolutions Committee. I am currently holding a position on Resolutions for the past 5 years and I am holding a position on NEA Resolutions for 2 more years.

Nominees sought for ESP of the Year Award

Did you know that we have not had an ESP member nominated for the PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award in several years? This year is your opportunity to change that.

There are many members in your locals who are doing wonderful things within their job classification, for their union, and in the community. Please consider

nominating one of these great members for the PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award.

A nominee must have been a PSEA member for at least three years as of Sept. 1, 2017. Any PSEA member in good standing, a PSEA local, or the ESP Executive Board may make a nomination for the award.

Nominations should be submitted

by Sept. 15 to Candace Kuba at ckuba@psea.org or mailed to her attention at PSEA, 400 North Third St., P.O. Box 1724, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724. If you have any questions about the process, contact Nate Greenawalt at ngreenawalt@psea.org or 1-800-944-7732.

For nomination forms, go to www.psea.org/espoftheyear.

Spring 2017

*Dispatch is a publication for
 education support professionals of the
 Pennsylvania State Education Association
 400 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1724
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

W. Gerard Oleksiak - PSEA President
Dolores M. McCracken - PSEA Vice President
Richard W. Askey - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

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



The Brookville Education Support Professionals Association presented a sweet donation to the Brookville Food Pantry on Valentine's Day. The ESP members raised more than \$400 to benefit the food pantry through a district-wide jeans day. Pictured (from left to right) are: PSEA UniServ Julie Smith, Food Pantry board member Steve Rowan, Brookville Area Ministerial Association President Rev. Nathan Royster, and Brookville ESP members Darla Quick and Mary Beth Dougherty.

<h2>Dates to Remember</h2>
<p><u>ESP Region Leadership Conference and House of Delegates, Gettysburg</u> April 21-22, 2017</p>
<p><u>PSEA House of Delegates, Pittsburgh</u> May 12-13, 2017</p>
<p><u>PSEA Summer Leadership Conference, Gettysburg</u> July 23-28, 2017</p>