



www.psea.org/dispatch

# 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

Winter 2017

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

## Message from your president

### Essential partners in the educational process

It was uplifting to see so many great stories and pictures posted to social media on ESP Day during American Education Week. You are doing exceptional things in your schools and deserve to be recognized.

Education support professionals are often the first and last people to see students each day. You drive students to and from school, help them cross the street, greet them in the office, care for them when they're sick, serve them nutritious meals, and keep their school buildings clean and safe.

It is easy to see why ESPs are essential partners in the educational process. We ensure all students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. A great education is built on a solid foundation of support, and

ESPs provide that solid foundation in our public schools.

Our ESP members were honored and recognized in several local associations across the state. Connellsville ESP members wore ESP shirts and received a letter of appreciation from the officers along with a pack of Extra gum with the message, "Thank you for going the Extra mile for our students."

The Upper Darby ESP officers presented each building with a card that said, "We are not a team because we work together. We are a team because we respect, trust, and care for each other." Each member is also receiving a RESPECT bracelet.

In Pennsbury, the ESP members were treated to a celebration dinner



**Dawn Bandle**  
*ESP Region President*

attended by more than 120 members. During this time, ESPs from different classifications shared their favorite parts of their jobs.

I am proud to be your president, representing more than 30,000 ESP members in PSEA. Thank you for all you do to make our public schools great.

## PA workers deserve a raise

Pennsylvanians who work hard and play by the rules should have every opportunity to succeed. Yet for many working families, that is becoming harder and harder to do.

That's why PSEA is advocating for an increase in the state's minimum wage to at least \$10.10 an hour, along with annual increases to keep up with inflation.

It's been more than a decade since the minimum wage was increased in Pennsylvania. Raising it to \$10.10 an hour would benefit 1.2 million low-wage workers in Pennsylvania and a half million children whose parents would get a raise. Three out of four minimum-wage workers in Pennsylvania are women.

Researchers have found that an increase in the minimum wage does

more to help a local economy than hurt it. That's because it puts more money in the pockets of working families who will spend it at local businesses.

PSEA strongly believes we need to build an economy that works for all Pennsylvanians. An increase in the minimum wage is the first step to realizing that goal.

## ESP Region to elect officers in 2017

**E**lections for officers and committee positions will take place at the ESP House of Delegates in Gettysburg on April 21, 2017.

Members wishing to run for election to any of these positions should complete the Statement of Candidacy form on Page 3. Candidate forms submitted to the Credentials and Elections Committee will be published in the March

issue of *Dispatch*. Candidacy statements are due to the Credentials and Elections Committee by 4 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2017.

The following officer and committee positions will be up for election for the 2017-2019 term:

- **Region Officers:** President, Secretary, and Treasurer
- **Resolutions Committee:** Three committee members and three

alternate members

- **Legislative Committee:** Three committee members and three alternate members
- **Instruction and Professional Development (IPD):** Two committee members and two alternate members
- **PACE Director:** One member

## Election to be held for division officers

**T**he PSEA Central-Western, Midwestern, Northeastern, Northwestern, Southeastern, and Western divisions will hold elections of officers at their spring meetings. Officers will serve three-year terms. Members interested in running for office should contact their respective division president:

- **Central-Western:** Kathy Martz, 724-545-6173 (meets on March 28, 2017)
- **Midwestern:** Dan Paparella, 724-581-7041 (meets on April 5, 2017)
- **Northeastern:** Adam Lanza, 570-937-9199 (meets on April 1, 2017)
- **Northwestern:** Barb Valimont, 814-774-0680 (meets on March 18, 2017)
- **Southeastern:** Denise Kennedy, 610-945-5986 (meets on April 7, 2017)
- **Western:** Karla Lewis, 412-607-7951 (meets on April 26, 2017)

## Vote for ESP representatives to 2017 NEA-RA

**R**emember to take a moment to vote for the ESPs who will represent you at the 2017 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative

Assembly (NEA-RA) in Boston June 30-July 5, 2017. Online voting for delegates opens on Dec. 7, 2016 and closes at 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2017.

Go to [www.nea.org/RA](http://www.nea.org/RA) for more information. Members who request a paper ballot must return it by Feb. 3, 2017.

## Scholarships to attend Summer Leadership Conference

**P**SEA will host the 2017 Summer Leadership Conference in Gettysburg July 23-27, 2017. There are several scholarship opportunities for ESPs interested in attending.

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship to attend ESP Core School, contact your local president and UniServ representative. Specific questions regarding Core School can be sent to Nate Greenawalt at

[ngreenawalt@psea.org](mailto:ngreenawalt@psea.org). Participation in this school is by invitation only.

The PSEA-Retired School will award three scholarships to retired ESP members. If you will be retiring prior to the conference and are interested in being considered for this school, please contact Norb Paunovich at 412-664-3790 or [npauno@comcast.net](mailto:npauno@comcast.net) with "ESP Scholarship" in the subject line.

The PSEA ESP Jack Connolly

Gettysburg Scholarship is awarded annually to an ESP member. This scholarship was established in memory of ESP board member and dedicated advocate Jack Connolly, who passed away in 2014 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Go to [www.psea.org/esp](http://www.psea.org/esp) to view the application form and scholarship guidelines. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on March 3, 2017.

# ESP Region Statement of Candidacy

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category:  Aide  Custodian  Maintenance Personnel  Food Service  Secretarial/Clerical

Bus Driver  Paraprofessional  Confidential Personnel  Other

Local Association/Division \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for Committee/Term \_\_\_\_\_

Association positions held \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Candidacy

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**SUBMITTED CANDIDATE FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER**

**THAN 4:00 PM, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 at:**

ESP REGION CREDENTIALS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

c/o Candace Kuba, Field Assistant

PSEA

P.O. Box 1724

Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724

**Winter 2017**

*Dispatch is a publication for education support professionals of the Pennsylvania State Education Association  
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 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



*Tussey Mountain ESP members prepare to attend a school board meeting in a show of solidarity. The district recently announced plans to explore subcontracting of the cafeteria staff.*

*The Southern Tioga ESP donated supplies for students, including dry erase markers, whiteboards, calculators, musical instruments, and items for the day care students. Pictured from left are Southern Tioga ESP President Sandra Worden and member Norma Martin, who came up with the idea to donate items to district students.*



**Dates to Remember**

NEA-RA voting  
**December 7, 2016 –  
 January 31, 2017**

ESP Local Audit Certificate Due in PSEA Headquarters  
**January 31, 2017**

Deadline for receipt of NEA-RA paper ballots  
**February 3, 2017**

PSEA Minority Leadership and Women's Leadership Training Conference  
**March 17-18, 2017**

ESP Region Leadership Conference and House of Delegates, Gettysburg  
**April 21-22, 2017**