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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 2023

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

Building a winning team

My condolences to all the Philadelphia Eagles fans. It appears the team looks to be in a strong position to win again next season, and they can take comfort in knowing that they've still got their fans cheering them on. Sure, it's not the same as holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy up high ... but hey, there's always next year!

Being on a good team can provide many benefits — including improved productivity, better collaboration, and stronger relationships. But let's not forget the most important benefit: bragging rights! With a great team behind you, there's no limit to what you can accomplish.

Education support professionals play critically important roles in our public schools and having a strong union team in place helps everyone. One of the

most overlooked, but critical team players within a local is the membership chairperson. Many locals have the treasurer perform the membership chair duties, but this responsibility should be completed by another member. The membership chair is responsible for making sure new employees receive all the necessary membership materials and for tracking membership.

Tracking membership is essential because it involves knowing who resigns or retires so they can be removed from the local and PSEA rosters. It would be helpful to your association if you tracked the newly hired employees at board meetings. Another good practice is working with your school district to have them provide your local with a list of current employees, hires and departures each month. This information will help you target



Rudy Burruss
ESP Region President

new hires to have a conversation about our union. Additionally, a good member list will help you to talk to non-members about joining the union.

Your ESP Region officers, PSEA UniServ representatives, Region Advocacy Coordinators, and PSEA financial management staff are great resources to help you make sure your local is compliant. Please do not hesitate to utilize these services for the benefit of your local to build a winning team.

Thank you for all you do each day on behalf of PSEA, your local association, and our students.

Dates to Remember



April 21-22
Special Education Conference
Penn Stater, State College

April 28-29
ESP Region Leadership Conference
and House of Delegates
Penn Stater, State College

May 19-20
PSEA House of Delegates
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown,
Philadelphia

July 23-27
PSEA Summer Leadership Conference
Gettysburg College

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Name: Rudolph Burruss

Membership Category: Paraprofessional

Local Association/Division: State College ESP/Central Division

Candidate for the office of: Region President

Term: 2023-2025

Association positions held: Division VP, NEA Director, DEI Taskforce, Region President

Statement of Candidacy:

Two years ago, I asked for your support for ESP Region President, and I'm asking for that support again. I am honored and humbled to represent all 26,000 ESP members from this commonwealth. Serving as your president has allowed me to ensure that every ESP member has the resources needed to succeed in their profession.

The last two years have been anything but "back to normal". Every day has been a learning experience.

Today, we are faced with the challenges of extra workloads, membership loss, and harmful work environments - challenges we must and will survive! I am working daily to ensure that your contracts and rights are protected because of the extra burdens that school districts have put upon all support staff. I've told leaders that there needs to be an investment made by school districts to keep their support staff. I desire that we face these challenges together.

Every support staff job classification has been consumed with additional duties/roles for the same rate, yet you continue to be a constant professional. I want to continue representing our unity and pride in discussing ESP issues and concerns, whether in the PSEA board room or when speaking with legislators or policymakers. I am determined to have our voice heard throughout this association, Harrisburg, and locally in your district.

I look forward to continuing to stand up for every ESP member across this state.

As it was two years ago, I wanted to be your region president, and I still want to be your ESP Region president. I energetically look forward to bringing your issues and concerns to PSEA, NEA, our state decision-makers, and your school districts. I want to make a difference for our members

Name: Ann Monaghan

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: Wallenpaupack Area ESP/Northeastern Region

Candidate for the office of: Legislative Committee

Term: 2023-2025

Association positions held: Local President 14 years; NER ESP Division VP 11 years; Legislative Committee 10 years; PSER Board 1 year.

Statement of Candidacy:

Serving on Legislative committee has been a very rewarding part of my career and involvement with PSEA. This committee helps to serve as a conduit between local membership and PA Legislators. The committee helps bring the opinion of our membership to the legislators. I have been proud to be able to represent ESP on this committee and hope to be able to continue in this role.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Name: Holly Harrington

Membership Category: Secretarial/Clerical

Local Association/Division: Bangor ESP/Eastern

Candidate for the office of: ESP Region Treasurer

Term: 2023-2025

Association positions held: Local: Past President; Current Treasurer and Membership Chair

Division: Current Eastern Division ESP Secretary; Past Eastern Division ESP President, Vice President, and Treasurer

Statement of Candidacy:

The last few years have been difficult for all Educational Support Professionals across the Commonwealth. It has not only impacted you, our members, but also the operations of the Region. As your treasurer, I believe my most important responsibility is to be a good custodian of the Region's money and to make the hard decisions so that our Region will continue to be strong and remain an integral part of PSEA/NEA. I hope that through my actions, I have proven to be a person of integrity and someone that you can trust to continue to do this work. I respectfully ask for your vote for re-election as your ESP Region Treasurer.

Thank you.

Name: Joyce Gombeda

Membership Category: Food Service

Local Association/Division: Hazleton Area ESP/Northeastern Region

Candidate for the office of: Legislative Committee

Term: 2023-2025

Association positions held: Local Vice President – 3 years, Legislative Committee – 1 year

Statement of Candidacy:

Serving on the Legislative Committee has been a wonderful experience for me. As a reasonably new union officer, it has given me great insight to the true value and importance of a union. I feel that the information and my co-committee members help me become a better and more effective leader. I am proud to be an ESP representative, and would love to continue in this role. Thank you

Name: Sharon Smith

Membership Category: Bus Driver

Local Association/Division: Montour Transportation

Candidate for the office of: Legislative Committee

Term: 2023-2025

Association positions held: Local Treasurer

Statement of Candidacy:

As a bus driver for 21 years as well as a state certified trainer for CDL's over the last 18 years. I'm dedicated to my colleagues and my school district. I served as my local treasure for 14 years as well as the Division Treasure. Rudy Burruss entrusted me to the PSEA Legislative Committee for which I served on this past year. Please continue to support me in this 2 yr. position.

Spring 2023

*Dispatch is a publication for
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Pennsylvania State Education Association
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

Richard W. Askey - PSEA President
Aaron F. Chapin - PSEA Vice President
Jeffrey D. Ney - PSEA Treasurer
James G. Vaughan - PSEA Executive Director

Rudy Burruss - 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



Survey Alert

Your OPINION COUNTS! PSEA is currently surveying support staff members to better understand the issues you face.

If you're contacted, please be sure to participate. The information you provide will be helpful in improving PSEA's efforts to support members like you. If you have already been contacted about the survey and participated, thank you for your time

Phone calls will be made by the company Dynata on behalf of PSEA, and the survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. Thank you for your support.

