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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

Fall 2023

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

## Message from your president

# A fresh start and new opportunities

I hope you all had some rest and relaxation this summer. It's hard to believe summer is gone, but fall is a season of new beginnings; the leaves change, temperatures drop, and days become shorter. But as one thing fades away, another comes to take its place. This autumn brings the opportunity for fresh starts and exciting new opportunities.

PSEA's legislative priorities can be those fresh starts. House Bill 141 – "Grow Your Own" – will create a program to help paraprofessionals and other school support staff go back to college to earn their teaching credentials. The program would equip aspiring educators with the support necessary to become certified educators. House Bill 141 was approved by the state House on May 1 but still needs to pass the state Senate and be delivered to the governor for his signature. We'll need member support to get this legislation to the finish line.

Additionally, PSEA's plan to set the minimum wage for education support professionals

at \$20 per hour is another priority because it means increasing pay for 34,167 support professionals across the state. This legislation has the potential

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***"We need to get our legislators to act on these legislative priorities to bring about meaningful change for many workers."***

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to change the lives of support professionals in profound ways. If enacted, hardworking support staff may find themselves able to put more food on their tables, providing not only sustenance, but also a sense of security for their families. By alleviating some of the financial strain faced by these individuals, a \$20 per hour minimum wage could be an essential step toward achieving a better work-life balance.

We need to get lawmakers to act on these legislative priorities



**Rudy Burruss**  
*ESP Region President*

to bring about meaningful change for many workers. Sharing our legislative priorities should be an ongoing conversation with our members, not a one-time event. Encourage your colleagues to openly talk to and listen to one another, particularly when it involves legislators. Continuous dialogue ensures that our concerns are heard and addressed, thus elevating our collective voice in the political arena.

May you have a fantastic school year. I hope to see some of you at this year's Collective Bargaining/Local Presidents' Conference at the Hershey Lodge on Oct. 20-21.

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# Welcome to PSEA

**W**e're absolutely thrilled to announce the newest addition to our PSEA family — the Eastern York ESP Association! This enthusiastic local group dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort throughout the 2022-23 membership year, working diligently behind the scenes to lay a strong foundation. Their steadfast

determination culminated in a successful election held in April 2023, under the watchful eye of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board. With their union now officially recognized, they've taken strides toward continued success.

Eastern York ESP Association's members have already crossed several vital milestones on their

journey. This includes the recent approval of their constitution & bylaws, which will appropriately guide and govern their operations.

In another notable accomplishment, they held elections to select their dedicated officers who will steer the local in the right direction to negotiate their first contract.



*Attendees of the 2023 Gettysburg Summer Leadership ESP Core School and ESP officers.*

## Update Membership Information

**T**he 2023-24 membership year commenced on Sept. 1. Local presidents and membership chairs should audit their local rosters and make sure those who retired or resigned are removed and new members

are added. Most of these changes may be made by the local president or membership chair in the Local Leader Tools section of the PSEA website. Membership cards will be mailed after the local roster is

renewed by the president.

All members should log in to their accounts on the PSEA website and check their personal information. Make sure your mailing address, phone number, and email are correct.



*The ESP Leadership Development Committee takes a break for a photo during the ESP social at Gettysburg. This year's theme was country western.*

### **\*\*\* SURVEY ALERT – 2023 WAGE SURVEY \*\*\***



In early October, PSEA is emailing a brief wage survey (approximately six minutes) to all Education Support Professionals.

PSEA will use the survey results to advocate for increasing ESP members' wages in the Legislature and at the bargaining table.

Please check your email to complete this very important survey in October. It will only take about six minutes.

Thank you for your support!

## **Restaurants, travel, insurance, shopping, and more**

**T**here are a lot of benefits to being a PSEA member, and one of them is that your membership saves you money through ACCESS. You can find thousands of discounts

and saving opportunities on restaurants, hotels, travel, shopping, and more.

“I’m so glad that I purchased car insurance through PSEA Member Benefits. The sign-up

process was simple, and now I’m saving money on great car insurance.”

*Denise Kennedy, Upper Darby Education Support Professionals Association.*

**Fall 2023**

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400 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1724  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

**Aaron F. Chapin** - PSEA President  
**Jeffrey D. Ney** - PSEA Vice President  
**Rachael M. West** - PSEA Treasurer  
**James G. Vaughan** - PSEA Executive Director

**Rudy Burruss** - PSEA ESP Region President  
**Marc Howshall** - PSEA ESP Region Vice President  
**Deneen Dry** - PSEA ESP Region Secretary  
**Adam Lanza** - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer  
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## Dates to Remember

- **Local Association Presidents/Collective Bargaining Conference**  
Oct. 20-21  
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA
- **Election Day** – Nov. 7
- **American Education Week** – Nov. 13-17
- **Education Support Professionals Day**  
Nov. 15
- **PSEA House of Delegates** – Dec. 1-2  
Wyndham Grand, Pittsburgh, PA.