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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

Summer 2023

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

This summer talk to non-members about joining our union

As the school year comes to an end, I want to wish you all a restful and safe summer. I know that for many of you there are still plenty of responsibilities over the summer: taking care of parents and children, part-time jobs, etc. That makes it even harder to find time to relax. Additionally, summer is a good time to talk to non-members about joining our union. I know striking up a conversation with someone you may not know isn't easy. But if we want a strong union, we need to reach out to non-members to have meaningful dialogues about joining PSEA.

Whether it's in the grocery store, at a barbecue, or on the beach, share your union story

and why you think people should join. Make sure they understand all the benefits that come with being part of PSEA. Remember that building a union is not the same as selling a product or service. If you ever feel like you're trying to convince someone to join, stop right there and reassess. Genuine interest in others is the foundation for a successful conversation. It's about people helping people when they need it. Recruiting and engaging non-members is our goal.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference. There is no better opportunity for PSEA members to come together to level up



Rudy Burruss
ESP Region President

their leadership skills. The member trainings are fantastic, and you can learn about contract negotiations, grievances, leadership, engagement organizing, communications, government relations, and professional issues.

I hope to see you in Gettysburg. Enjoy your summer and take time to recharge for the next school year.

Dates to Remember



July 3-6
NEA Representative Assembly
Orlando, FL

July 23-27
PSEA Summer Leadership Conference
Gettysburg College

Sept. 13
ESP Member of the Year Application
Deadline

Oct. 20 - 21
PSEA Collective Bargaining Conference
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

ESP Region Election Results

Elections for ESP Region officers and committees were held during the ESP Region House of Delegates on April 28. The following members were elected by acclamation:

Region Officers

President - Rudy Burruss –
State College ESP

Secretary*

Treasurer*

*** The results of the secretary and treasurer elections were not available at the time of publication.**

PSEA Committees

Legislative

Ann Monaghan – *Wallenpaupack ESP*

Joyce Gombeda – *Hazleton ESP*

Sharon Smith –

Montour Transportation ESP

Resolutions

Delores Scales – *Woodland Hills ESP*

Adam Lanza – *Western Wayne ESP*

Joanne Ruse – *Lower Merion ESP*

Resolutions Alternate

Marcia Scott – *Woodland Hills ESP*

Becky Marszalek – *Avonworth ESP*

IPD (Council on Instruction and Professional Development)

Marissa Cervone-Gilson – *Crawford Central ESP*

IPD Alternate

Cindy Brett – *Abington Secretaries ESP*

PACE Director

Dawn Evans – *Abington Secretaries ESP*

Nominations for ESP of the year

PSEA is proud to honor the exceptional dedication and community service exhibited by education support professionals through the prestigious Dolores McCracken PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award.

Nominations are being accepted for this esteemed award, which is presented annually to a distinguished ESP member who exemplifies the outstanding contributions that education support

professionals make to public education and the community at large.

Please take time to consider all the outstanding ESPs you know. A nominee must have been a PSEA member for at least three years as of September 2023. Any PSEA member in good standing, any PSEA local, or the ESP Executive Board can make a nomination for the award. The award winner is then nominated for the National Education Association ESP of

the Year Award.

Nomination forms are located at www.psea.org/espoftheyear or can be obtained by calling your region office.

If you have questions regarding the nomination process or need assistance, please contact Nate Greenawalt in PSEA Headquarters at ngreenawalt@psea.org or 717-255-7104.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. on Sept. 13.

“Grow Your Own” programs help ESPs become teachers

Across the nation, states and school districts are creating “Grow Your Own” programs to help paraprofessionals and school support staff earn their teaching credentials and address school staff shortages that have reached crisis levels.

Enacting a statewide “Grow Your Own” program is one of PSEA’s top legislative priorities. PSEA has been encouraging lawmakers to pass “Grow Your Own” legislation, and they have responded. In May, the state House of Representatives approved HB 141, and we are now encouraging state senators to move the bill.

Just as important, several school districts, like Reading, East Stroudsburg, and York City, have created

their own local “Grow Your Own” initiatives.

The Reading and East Stroudsburg ESP associations have bargained contract language with their school districts to assist support staff in obtaining their teaching certifications. In Reading, ESP members who take advantage of the program will have health benefits while they complete their student teaching requirements and must then agree to work in the district for one year after they attain their certifications.

In East Stroudsburg, the school district will reimburse ESP members who already have undergraduate degrees and want to enter an education program for up to 27 college credits, as well as fees and the cost of books.

The members must commit to teaching in the district for four years after attaining their certifications.

York City ESP has established a remarkable avenue for support staff who aspire to obtain their teaching certification. Eight dedicated ESP members have already taken advantage of the program, and they will start teaching in the fall.

It is clear that “Grow Your Own” programs can help address the school staff shortage and offer opportunities for support professionals who want to become teachers. PSEA will continue to advocate for these programs and the members who want to access them.



Welcome to PSEA

PSEA will now represent paraprofessionals and secretaries in the newly formed Eastern York Education Support Professionals Association. The local union will now spend time establishing themselves, ratifying their constitution and bylaws, while preparing to negotiate their first contract.

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Cindy Lawn - PSEA ESP Region Secretary
Holly Harrington - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer
Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



A Clear Choice for Your Vision Insurance Needs

Highlights include:

- Choice of 12-month or 24-month benefit frequency coverage
- Dependent coverage to age 26
- \$300 retail frame allowance
- Discounts on eyeglass lens options and Lasik
- Affordable premiums

Coverage Tier Level	Monthly Premium	
	12 Month Benefit Frequency Plan	24 Month Benefit Frequency Plan
Single	\$12.00	\$8.00
Two Party	\$24.00	\$16.00
Family	\$35.00	\$23.00



For more information, please visit
www.pseahwf.org/voluntary_vision/
 or call 800-944-7732 ext. 7024