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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 2024

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

Enjoy the Summer

As an education support professional, I know that the work of advocating for fair pay and better working conditions doesn't take a break just because the school year has ended. But that doesn't mean we can't take a little time for ourselves to relax and enjoy the sunshine. Whether it's camping with the family, barbecues in the park, or a simple evening at home with good company, these moments are essential for our well-being and help us come back to our work with renewed energy and passion.

Over the summer PSEA members will continue advocating for better pay for education support professionals. We will continue urging state legislators to establish a living wage for ESPs of at least \$20 per hour to ensure that dedicated professionals are fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to the education system.

Additionally, are you ready to elevate your leadership skills and make a real difference in

your workplace and community? Look no further than the annual Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference July 21-26.

This transformative event brings together union members from across the state to hear from inspiring speakers and participate in engaging workshops and interactive training sessions.

Are you ready to elevate your leadership skills and make a real difference in your workplace and community? Look no further than the annual Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference.

You'll learn the latest strategies and techniques for effective leadership, communication, advocacy, contract negotiations, grievance procedures, government relations, and professional issues all while networking with fellow union leaders and building lasting connections.

But the benefits of attending the Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference don't stop there. By investing in your own leadership



Rudy Burruss
ESP Region President

development, you're also investing in the future of your union and the members you represent. As a trained and empowered leader, you'll be better equipped to tackle the challenges facing your union and the broader labor movement, from organizing new members to advocating for a living wage.

Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, ask your local president about attending the Gettysburg Summer Leadership Conference because this conference is the perfect opportunity to take your skills to the next level and make a real difference in the lives of working people.

Deadline to register for the conference is June 28. I hope to see you in Gettysburg. Enjoy your summer!

ESP Region Election Results

Elections for ESP Region officers and committees were held during the ESP Region House of Delegates on April 19. The following members were elected by delegates in attendance. These are two-year terms beginning on Sept. 1.

Region Officers

- **Vice President** – Marc Howshall – Bangor ESP
- **Officer-at-Large** – Margaret “Peg” Rockwell – Connellsville ESP

PSEA Committees

Legislative

- Vicki Landis – York City ESP
- Lola Davis-Hinkle – Hazleton ESP

Resolutions

- **Michael Dodaro** – Colonial ESP
- **Angela Pope** – Beaver County Community College ESP

IPD (Council on Instruction and Professional Development)

- **Cindy Brett** – Abington Secretaries ESP

WELCOME TO PSEA

PSEA will now represent paraprofessionals and secretaries in the newly formed Northern Lehigh Education Support Professionals Association and

the paraprofessionals in Norwin Education Support Professionals Association. Both new locals successfully organized this spring, and PSEA is delighted to have them join our union family.

The locals will spend the next few months getting organized and prepare to negotiate their first contracts.

Dates to Remember

NEA Representative Assembly
July 4 – 7 • Philadelphia, PA

PSEA Summer Leadership Conference
July 21 – 26 • Gettysburg College

PSEA Collective Bargaining Conference
Oct. 18 – 19 • Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

ESP Member of the Year Application Deadline
March 21, 2025



2024 ESP of the Year Becky Marszalek (center) with Avonworth ESP members and Western Division President Dee Scales (right).



2024 ESP of the Year Becky Marszalek (center) with the Western Division officers and ESP Region officers.

Nominations for ESP of the Year

PSEA recognizes the hard work, dedication, and community service of education support professionals through the Dolores McCracken PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award.

We have outstanding ESP members who are doing amazing things in their schools and communities. Please consider nominating a deserving member for this award. A nominee must

have been a PSEA member for at least three years as of Sept. 1, 2024. Any PSEA member in good standing can submit a nomination for the award.

PSEA's recipient is then nominated for the National Education Association ESP of the Year Award and will be recognized at the 2025 NEA ESP Conference.

The nomination window will open on Sept. 1, and nominations

must be received by March 21, 2025, by 5 p.m. Nomination forms will be available 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.

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*Dispatch is a publication for
education support professionals of the
Pennsylvania State Education Association
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Peg Rockwell - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



Member Benefits spotlight: Contact Fill contact lenses

PSEA Member Benefits offers members and their families big savings on brand-name contact lenses through Contact Fill.

Program Benefits:

- Dependable service to your home, school, or office
- Free standard shipping and handling on all orders (use promotion code “PSEA”)
- Convenient 24/7 online ordering
- Personable customer service
- No hidden charges



PSEA members must log in to take advantage of this discount program. NVA vision insurance accepted as a form of payment.