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President’s Message

by Denise King



This year has seen many changes within our school communities. We have worked together to support one another throughout this unprecedented year. During this year, your MCEA officers have worked with local, county and state leaders to support you.

Our office has remained open to be there for you with any questions or concerns to help alleviate undue stress. The office staff and leadership team have been able to answer questions or reach out to NJEA on your behalf. MCEA also has seen changes in leadership. Tracie Yostpille, our 2nd Vice President and Freehold Township EA President, has joined the ranks of NJEA UniServ as a Field Representative. As the MCEA Second Vice President, Tracie brought creativity and ingenuity to professional development in Monmouth County. Her dedication to increasing programming to enhance training opportunities for all the members in her local and in her county is admirable. As a county leader, she will be missed.

Donna Clause, our MCEA Recording Secretary and past President of the Little Silver Education Association, recently retired. She has been a leader in Monmouth County for over 20 years. Her enthusiasm and knowledge created stability and continued strength for MCEA. Whenever we had a question, Donna knew the answer. Her unwavering strength in her local and county organizations helped make our organization better. Thank you both for your support, guidance, and dedication to all of us in Monmouth County.

They are not the only people who have worked tirelessly to make MCEA the strong association that we know. I want to thank NJEA County Executives, DA Members, Committee Members, and all our local leaders who have worked hard for you. It has not been

an easy year for anyone, and I appreciate all of you. In order to show our appreciation, we are hosting an Open House. I hope you will join us on June 12, 2021 from 11-1 to see our new location, WESTSIDE PLAZA, 3301 State Route 66, Building A, Suite 103, Neptune, NJ 07753. We will have a food truck there for you to enjoy lunch, so please RSVP. I wish you all a healthy and happy summer.

Scott Wins Community Trailblazer Award



Mary Scott, a teacher at Neptune Township Middle School, was awarded the Community Trailblazer Award from the Vin Gopal Civic Association on March 29. Mary is the MCEA Pride co-chairperson and the chairperson of The Minority and Leadership Recruitment Committee and Youth Services Committee.

MCEA Has New Office

by John Napolitani



Greetings Fellow MCEA Members,

As we finish out an extremely challenging school year, I reflect back on how hard every staff member worked from support staff to professional staff. We have all been true heroes in our profession for being there for our students without hesita-

tion. As we round out the school year, each and every staff member deserves a big pat on the back for being here day in and day out to educate our students.

I am pleased to say that we transitioned out of our old office to our brand new space. I especially thank our office staff, John and Suzanne, for an excellent job assisting with the move and getting us all ready for the next school year. The office space is truly warm and welcoming for our members. We have expanded our space and welcome you to utilize it when needed. The office space is for all the members.

In closing, I know this was a very difficult year for some. It had its ups, downs, challenges, and triumphs. All in all, I think we made it through in a positive way. As we begin to plan for the next school year, we also welcome your input and comments about how we can make things better for our membership. I want to wish everyone a very happy, safe and restful summer break. We look forward to getting back to some sort of norm in the upcoming school year.

MCREA Wins Awards

by Len Sobel

In the recent NJEA Awards for Excellence in Communications, Monmouth County Retired Education Association won the First Place Award for Best Website, Award of Distinction for Best Newsletter, and Award of Distinction for Most Effective Use of Communication Tools to Achieve a Goal. Congratulations to Mary Ellen Connelly, Karen McClellan, Mary Szczepanik and Bill Allen for their hard work.

The MCREA is hoping we can get back to our luncheon/meetings in the fall.

Remember to remind anyone retiring from your active local association to come and join the Monmouth County Retired Education Association. You can contact the MCREA Membership Chairwoman at maryszcz@verizon.net to obtain information and an application.

Elect Pro-Education

Candidates

by Erin Wheeler



The end of this chaotic school year is near, but this summer is sure to be busy with legislative screenings, endorsements and helping pro-education candidates get elected down the ballot. This fall the NJ Governor and the entire 120 seat NJ legislature, Senate, and Assembly are up for election. NJEA has endorsed Phil Murphy in the primary election. Furthermore, Governor Murphy's budget contains the largest pension payment in 25 years! The Monmouth County Education Association will hold Legislative Screenings for LD 11, LD 12, LD 13 and LD 30 at the end of June. Stay posted for more information regarding the screening process.

On the federal level, we have a pro-education, pro-union President who financially and publicly supports public education. Take a look at President Biden's first 100 days. The American Rescue Plan was passed which contains the largest investment in public education. Our new Secretary of Education is Miguel Cardona, a former public school teacher. Lastly, the US Department of Education approved NJ's assessment plan for standardized testing.

We hope you have a great end of the school year and look forward to working with you to elect pro-education candidates.



For the last four years, Governor Phil Murphy has proven himself to be a tremendous ally of educators across New Jersey. This is why the 125 member NJEA PAC Operating Committee voted overwhelmingly to endorse Governor Murphy for re-election in the 2021 Democratic Primary on June 8.

Congratulations to the 2021 MCEA Jean Villapiano Scholarship Winners

Erin Anthony	Old Bridge HS
Benjamin Cooperman	Freehold Township HS
Brianna DeLuca	Colts Neck HS
Andrew Dilloian	Ocean Township HS
John Hayes	Brick Memorial HS
Samantha Jackman	Matawan/Aberdeen HS
Caitlin McClain	Freehold Township HS
Gianna Raciappi	Middletown South HS
Elena Shalom	Rutgers University
Faith Williams	Communications HS

Each recipient will receive \$500. In order to be eligible for this scholarship, a parent or guardian must be a member of the Monmouth County Education Association.

The Jersey BlueClaws Baseball Team and NJEA have partnered on a special program for NJEA members. Purchase your tickets at the special discounted price of \$12. To learn more and to check out the five NJEA nights, visit fevo.com.

Monmouth County Nurse Receives Prestigious Award



Cathy Grano, a school nurse in Middletown Township, is the 2021 New Jersey School Nurse of the Year. For this prestigious acknowledgement, she will receive The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) 2021 Excellence in School Nursing Award this summer at NASN's national conference. Grano was chosen for her extraordinary service to her school community and the New Jersey State School Nurses Association. Even before COVID, Grano displayed admirable leadership skills, but her devotion to ensuring public health safety through educating the public about the pandemic has amplified her impact.

Grano is a seasoned school nurse and a Johnson&Johnson School Health Fellow. She is organized, resourceful, creative, and dedicated to children's health. She implemented the Back Pack food program that provides nutritious, nonperishable, easy-to-prepare food to children to ensure they get enough food on weekends and holidays to avoid hunger. Grano is an exemplary school nurse, a powerful and impactful contributor to the health and well-being of the students, staff, and families she serves.