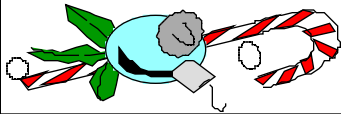


# Have a Happy Holiday and a Great New Year!



## Warren County ESP of the Year!

### Edna Seifert of P'burg High School

Edna Seifert was selected as the NJEA Educational Support Personnel 2001 Person of the Year by committee from the Warren County Education Association.

Seifert has been an employee of the Phillipsburg School District since April of 1966 and has been an active member of the association during this time. Her positions have included working in the Guidance Office as a secretary, in the student office handling discipline problems and in the main office as a clerk for the principal. She is currently the Database

administrator along with organizing the grading, scheduling and production of reports.

She has been responsible for all facets of the computer system since it was installed in the high school and is constantly changing with the addition of new hardware and software.

To maintain her skills, Seifert has enrolled in courses to learn computer applications and stay abreast of the latest technology.

Edna Seifert has been a



The biggest news involving pensions during 1999 was the continued excellent return on investments of the state's public employee pension funds. During the 1998-99 evaluation year the annual return on investment was slightly above 16%

#### Legislation sought: Improved Pension Formula

This legislation would change the basic pension formula for Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) members from number of years of service

over 60 (N/60) to number of years of service over 50 (N/50).

#### Graduated Cost-of-Living Pension Adjustment

NJEA seeks to increase the current cost-of-living pension adjustment of graduated scale to 100% for all public employees. This bill would permanently increase the percentage of adjustment for retirees subject to the Pension Adjustment Act by an amount of 2% of the percentage of change in the Consumer Price Index per year. Once the annual adjustment reaches 100%, the retirees would receive a 100% annual cost-of-living adjustment.

This bill also applies to all present retirees, who would receive an annual adjustment of 2% above the present adjustment until they reach an annual adjustment of 100%.

#### CLASSROOM CLOSEUP!

1/22 at 6:30pm, 12/23 and 1/27 at 7am (check channel local listings)

#### Gift of a Lifetime – This

entire show is devoted to the NJEA Convention, which is largest education gathering in the world. The theme of this year's convention was "Education: The Gift of a Lifetime," which reflects the dedication of school employees to the children of New Jersey, from student displays to the latest in educational

#### OFFICERS:

<b>President:</b> John Pokrivchak Middle School	<b>Vice-President:</b> Doug Morris High School	<b>Treasurer:</b> Barbara Alderfer Middle School	<b>Recording Secretary:</b> Debbie Carty Freeman School	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b> Linda Snyder Andover-Morris
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# President's Letter

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to thank everyone who donated to our PEA Food Fund, including many non-members. Once again we put smiles on the faces of the Norwescap staff with our donation of \$1,650.

Just as we joined together to help those in need, we need to remain united throughout the coming new year. As an association, we have a number of ongoing issues that will be facing us in January.

At the high school, we are facing the problems generated with the implementation of "block scheduling". At this time, we still have teachers facing increased pupil contact time, larger classes and students being dumped into electives they didn't choose, simply because there are no study halls.

At the middle school, we are now facing the very real possibility of losing some of our elective courses. This is a possibility, now that foreign language is being state mandated in middle schools.

At the elementary and early childhood level, teachers are still facing increasing enrollments and a lack of classroom space for all of their teachers and students.

The PEA will probably not find the solutions to these problems under our Christmas tree. It is

## Holiday Party a Success!!!!

Over fifty PEA members celebrated not only the coming holidays but their friendship at a party held at the Brass Rail on

day, December the 6th!!! A wonderful time was had by all who attended. It is always so nice to get together with each other. Some members even decided to "shake a leg" on the dance floor!!!

The next PEA Social will be on St. Patrick's Day. We only hope that more members will attend!



## Worker's Compensation

The following is information that is important to all workers in the Phillipsburg School District. If an employee is injured on the job, here are some things to be aware of:

One is eligible for workers compensation benefits "where personal injury has caused an employee by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment" (N.J.S.A. 34:15-1)

Injuries occurring off the employer's premises while going to work from home and going home from work are not covered by worker's compensation.

Injuries occurring while traveling from one work site to another on assigned duty (e. g., school directly to workshop) are covered by workers' compensation.

Injuries occurring during the performance of certain union functions are compensable. Coverage in this area will be determined by the specifics of the incident.

In the case of traumatic injury, the statute of limitations for filing a claim under the workers' compensation law is within two years of the date injury or if medical treatment is provided by

treatment paid for by the employer or last issuance to the employee of workers' compensation monetary benefits, whichever occurs last. In the case of an occupational exposure (asbestos, silica, etc.), the statute of limitations is two years from the date the employee first became aware of the nature of the disability and its relation to employment.

## MONEY MATTERS

Just a reminder for those who enjoy a periodic raise in their paychecks. If you were hired any time after the beginning of the school year, you must request being moved to the appropriate longevity step. Even if you started your employment on September 1, contact the board office to let them know about the movement. Jane Scheetz is the person to notify at Extension 2603.

Remember, the first longevity step is when you begin your sixteenth year of continuous service

### Association Reps:

#### Andover-Morris:

Michelle Thatcher

#### Barber School:

Marilyn Shober

#### Custodians:

Robin Schofield

#### Freeman School:

Gail Barbadora

#### Green Street:

Linda Exley

Lili Mortimer

Victoria Trexler

#### High School:

Sue Brooks

George Chilmonik

C. Brad Howard

George Pavlinsky

Elaine Strahle

#### Middle School:

Jennifer DiBiase

Rick Rissmiller

Roseann Rohm

Mary Louise Sharpe

#### Secretaries:

Marguerite Scannell

#### Paraprofessionals:

Dolores Streader

#### Special Services:

S. Alexander/D. Hatch

