



# PEA Advocate

Volume #8 — Issue #12

June 2002

## The Year in Review

In addition to the usual Association-related activities (ex. Executive Committee meetings, sitting in conferences with members, meetings, answering contractual concerns, more meetings, investigating members' complaints, and then more meetings, ...), our Association has been busy this past school year providing extra services. What follows is a synopsis of these events.

### September - October

The beginning of a new school year is not only exciting and hectic for individuals but also for the Association. Starting with the first teacher meeting where we all gathered together to listen to Gordon espouse the new philosophies and programs that would predominate this year, we also heard from our president, George Chilmonik. George's speech provided counterpoints to much of Gordon's speech and set the tone for the contract negotiations that would continue between the Association and the adminis-

tration throughout most of the school year.

The most important function our Association accomplishes in September is the recruitment of new members. Gail Barbadora, Freeman School teacher and chairperson of the *Membership Committee*, has been in charge of this event for many years and ably handles it. She provides each school's reps. with information and forms so that they may make personal contacts, answer questions, and ultimately enroll new members in the PEA, WCEA, NJEA & NEA. This year the Associations gained approximately 80 new members. If this was your first year in the PEA, welcome aboard. The ride isn't always this smooth but it is always interesting.

The PEA web site became operational in September.

### November

NJEA takes over the month of November with the largest teacher convention in the

A  
Letter  
from our  
President  
*George  
Chilmonik*



As we prepare to finish this school year, it is time to look ahead to next year and the challenges that we face. Our number one goal as a teaching staff has to be the improvement of standardized test scores. They are *not* going away as the public uses this very narrow measuring device to gauge our performance. Whatever it takes, let's do it!

Our second goal will be the settlement of a *historic* new contract that will surely change our working environment. The issues are no secret: time & money.

I would like more of you to get involved in the PEA's activities and I want to thank all of you that make my job easier.

Go home.

Get your batteries recharged.

Come back ready to move forward.

*George*

nea



WCEA



world held right here in our own Atlantic City, New Jersey. For three days, two of which we are off thanks to NJEA lobbying efforts, thousands of teachers enjoy conferences, speeches, special events, etc. as they expand their skills and knowledge.

**December - January**

The holiday months usually bring a break in official Association activities. This year they also saw long-time past PEA President Ed Munley retire in December.

**February**

Another past PEA President, Doug Morris, retired this month. At the time of his retirement, Doug was the editor of *The PEAdvocate*. With Doug's retirement, changes were made not only in the editor's

position but also the format of *The PEAdvocate*: it became an on-line newsletter with the creation of the PEA web site. *The PEAdvocate* can be accessed by anyone with an Internet connection from anywhere in the world.

**March**

The *Social Committee* held their first celebration of the year in honor of St. Patrick at Zio's in Forks Township.

**April**

Another social outing, this time a "Deli Trip to NYC", proved popular among our members.

According to the NJEA, over 400 members live in the Phillipsburg area. An ad hoc committee was formed to contact and encourage them to get out and vote for the local school board budgets. Our first year's efforts saw 50% of the budgets passed.

**May**

In an unusual move, the *Negotiations' Committee* and the administration announced agreement on a tentative teachers' contract after only two meetings. Over 85% of the teachers then voted in favor of the one-year contract.

The last social event of the year was held at Victor's on the Porch in Palmer Twp. while earlier in the month, a trip was taken to NYC to see *42nd St.*

The WCEA web site became operational this month.

**June**

10 retirees were honored at the Annual Retirement Celebration Dinner at Lindy's Silver Dollar in Easton, PA.

**Summer**

R & R is the prescription in preparation for more negotiations.

**Editorial Policy of the PEAdvocate**

The PEAdvocate is the official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association (PEA.)

The PEA is the recognized "... exclusive representative for collective negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment for all certificated personnel, under contract..." — Article I of PEA contract

PEA membership also encompasses the Warren County Education Association (WCEA), New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and the National Education Association (NEA).

Editor . . . . Charles Nowalk, PHS

**— Association Web Sites —**

<http://www.pburgea.org>

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

<http://www.njea.org>

<http://www.nea.org>

**— Association Officers —**

President . . . . . George Chilmonik  
PHS

Vice-President . . . . Barbara Alderfer  
PMS

Treasurer . . . . . Burma Jo Bononno  
PMS

Recording Sec. . . . . Marilyn Shober  
Barber Elementary

Corresponding Sec. . . . Debbie Carty  
Freeman Elementary

**— Association Reps —**

Andover-Morris Elementary  
Michelle Thatcher

Barber Elementary  
Marilyn Shober

Custodians  
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Freeman Elementary  
Gail Barbadora

Green Street Elementary  
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