

# AEA FOCUS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! April is behind us and the warm weather of May and June is just ahead. We've been teased by a few gorgeous days in April already. Hopefully the Presidential primary election in Pennsylvania has kindled your optimism of the possible positive changes in the country's leadership. I know we all took advantage of the opportunity of letting our voices be heard through the voting process. Now that the path to the White House is defined with John McCain on the Republican slate and Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama with similar but varied political views on the Democratic side, the stage is set for this major historic event. Let us turn our focus on issues that will have as much an impact on our professional lives as the Presidential election. A few of the political battles we must focus our attention on is the enactment of House Bill 1841, Statewide Health Care. Let us add to the momentum generated by the 2007 Costing – Out study on Pennsylvania's inequitable, inadequate school funding system. The Legislators need to enact a permanent and equitable school funding formula this spring. After my last two Focuses you may be wondering if politics are the only thing that occupy my thoughts; the answer is no however it does play an important role in all of our professional lives and hence it is important that we as a local remain active and as current as possible. Looking at the big picture, most of the negative professional day-to-day concerns in one way or another originate and are entrenched in the lack of adequate school funding. For us personally, the largest drain facing our families is healthcare expenses. So the only way to settle most of the issues we face on the educational front is by political awareness and activism. Know the issues and act on them.

**AEA and PSEA need our help and we need to help ourselves. Let the Legislators know where we stand on these issues when the call to action is sounded!**

## ASD Board Highlights

Deb Brobst an Allen HS AP History Teacher was recognized for her dedication to students for providing support, mentoring, and motivation to the many students involved in The National Youth Leadership Conference.

Frank DiSimoni, Dieruff's band director, with members of the band were recognized for their recent performance at Carnegie Hall, New York.

The Board's minutes recognized the efforts of the professional staff on the occasion of Teacher Appreciation week and asked me personally to thank you. Also members of the board believe that if new programs or instructional strategies are to be introduced teachers should have an opportunity to review them before implementation, and to also be part of the evaluation process of the program or instructional strategies during its implementation.

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FOCUS IS A PUBLICATION OF.....

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## AEA Calendar

MAY 21 ---- Faculty Rep Meeting at South Mountain  
MAY 23 --- AEA Social @ Fearless Fire Company  
JUNE 2 ---- AEA Picnic @ South Mountain Reservoir  
JUNE 4 ---- General Membership Meeting @ South Mountain

### HEADS UP...

#### Local, State, Federal issues and things that you need to know

- **DO NOT GO INTO A DISCIPLINARY MEETING WITHOUT UNION REPRESENTATION!** According to Weingarten Rights, you have the right to ask if any meeting with an administrator is disciplinary in nature. If you find out that it is, according to the State Supreme Court, you have the right to request the union rep of your choice (this would include Melvin Riddick) if he is reasonably available. Therefore a meeting could be rescheduled up to 3 weeks later. If you are told that the meeting is not disciplinary in nature, but it evolves into a disciplinary meeting, you have the right to ask that the meeting be stopped or postponed until you are able to get the union representative of your choice. If you are refused representation, do not leave the meeting. Though you are not required to speak or answer any questions at this time, it is advisable that you take detailed notes. Contact Melvin IMMEDIATELY after the end of the meeting for further advisement.
- If you are currently a building rep and find yourself in need of representation, Melvin Riddick will be your designated rep. (Do not take another building rep with you.)
- If you get any questionable medical bills, that are different from previous histories contact Faye Dannenhower (484-765-4017) and then follow up with Melvin
- If you have an issue with your paycheck, contact Joan Roxberry (484-7654020).
- If you have an issue with your sick or personal days, contact Human Resources (484-765-4126).
- PSEA has campaign "40K, Right Away" which is a goal to have starting teacher salaries at \$40,000. AEA's new agreement achieves this goal! We were presented a trophy at the Eastern Region House of Delegates.

If you have any Issues or concerns that you feel should be addressed in this column email Carolyn and please put "Heads Up" in the subject line.

## SPACE CADET

Okay, by now everyone knows that I forgot to mention the name of the teacher that is attending the space academy. So I am the one that is the space cadet/airhead/on, and on.

Did I keep you guessing or wondering? Let's all congratulate Tim Kearney at Cleveland. He is the teacher that is going to be in the week long Space Academy training.