

AEA FOCUS

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February 2008

President's Message

Greetings, what a winter so far pretty messy to say the least, I hope Phil the groundhog was right only six more week of winter. On a positive note we are about half way through that six week period and spring is just around the corner. Don't condemn me for wishful thinking. I know to some of you I seem to serious, you're right. I'm working on loosening up and letting my light hearted side evolve. Save that disdain for something important. How is my attempt at humor so far?

I know many of you have been following and feeling the excitement of the historical implications in the political arena. As an educator and community leader politics is one thing we should be knowledgeable about and involved in. The political domain from the President of the United States to local School Board elections has a direct impact on our lives. Here are examples of a few positive things that will or possibly will have a lasting impact for us seasoned educators; 2.5 multiplier; pending Statewide Health Coverage which is finally out of the committee of the political process. Examples of not so positive legislature ESEA (No Child Left Behind), inequitable funding of the 501 public school systems, and the snow day makeup policy are all things we must work on which can only be solved by an active political effort. I'm not here pushing either political agenda be it Republican or Democrat the only agenda from my position as president of AEA is my interest in pushing for pro public education and well informed voters. We all need to know the position of the leading candidates on educational relevant issues and vote accordingly. Our views may differ, so be it, but we must exercise the right to vote and try to bring about what ever changes you seek. If we don't vote we have given up the right to complain about our circumstances. We can be a part of building the foundation for a stronger community and nation by this seemingly simple act. I'm fired up and ready for our next elected officials to have a positive affect on the lives of my personal and union family.

I'm going to close with this quote which I hold to be true for every aspect of ones life as a responsible adult. "If you are not actively involved in working toward a solution then you are part of the problem".

Think about that.

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FOCUS IS A PUBLICATION OF.....

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This publication is an official publication of Allentown Education Association and is affiliated with Pennsylvania State Education Association and the National Education Association.

HEADS UP...

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

- Please be advised that PSEA has reminded us that **NO ONE** should sign an IEP if they do not attend the meeting
- Due to our Bargaining Agreement, walkthroughs cannot be a part of our formal evaluation
- We want to report that the grievance that we filed about orthotics was won and you currently have the ability to purchase them under our current collective bargaining agreement
- You can still fill 90 day prescriptions at the pharmacy
- To date, the district has not yet provided us with a copy of our new collective bargaining agreement
- Statewide healthcare bill 1841 has recently come out of committee with an unanimous vote to study a possible statewide healthcare program
- Gettysburg: For those interested in learning more about the union, getting involved, and earning possible ACT 48 credits mark your calendar for July 20 – 24...more info to follow!
- Discounts!!! AEA/PSEA/NEA membership gets you discounts. Go to www.psea.org...member benefits...access - type in your zip code and see what's available! (see your PSEA card)
- Conference of Urban Locals will be held on May 9-10 in State College – there are still some slots available - contact AEA if interested

Needed Information

Dues for Taxes - -If you need the amount of dues you paid in 2007 please either look at your December 27, 2007 pay stub or call AEA. We have a list of what each person paid for the 2007 calendar year.

Contacting Capital Blue Cross;

If you need to look up prescription information, participating providers, etc. go to their website - - www.capbluecross.com
You can also contact them by calling 1-866-802-4761.

If you would like to talk to someone face to face you can go to the local office at 12th & Hamilton Streets in Allentown.

AEA Calendar

Mar 5 – Executive Comm Mtg

Mar 11 – M & D Meeting

**Mar 12 – Faculty Rep Meeting @
Trexler**

Mar 20-21-24 SPRING HOLIDAY

April 2 – Executive Comm Mtg

**April 9 – Faculty Rep Meeting @
Dieruff**

AEA Deadlines

Outstanding Teacher Awards Nomination Forms Due by - - - MARCH 7

Election Nomination Forms Due by - - - MARCH 11