

# AEA FOCUS

Volume VIII, Issue 1

OCTOBER 2007

## President's Message

Wow! Sept has come and gone and we are back at one of the things in our lives that are so rewarding and worthwhile. Only those that have either worked in this profession or around it can understand and appreciate what drives us. We are truly special people that carry the tremendous burden of educating one of the greatest treasures of this community, the extra ordinary students of Allentown.

We do this job each and every day without a concern for all the things that are going on around us and stacked up against us. Like reauthorization of (ESEA) Elementary Secondary Education Act (NCLB) and the uneasiness of starting this school year without a fair and equitable agreement. In some of the buildings there have been disruptions in the start of this year's routine because of the District renovations and still we push on.

Remember it is the union's duty to address issues that violate the Bargaining Unit Agreement, it is your duty to report these violations to the AEA. It is our responsibility to work together to bring about a positive result in both of these critical life issues NCLB and negotiations. What can you do? In the aspect of NCLB get on the phone or email **today** and tell our Legislators to do the right thing for our students make the needed and necessary changes to this Law. As for the ongoing negotiations, let us stand together united for what is fair and equitable. Public Education and the students deserve fair treatment and so do we.

Melvin

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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.

## **AEA Office Move**

Many of you are already aware that we have moved. The move went fairly smooth. For those of you that aren't aware of the move our new address is; 2200 W Hamilton Street L – 8, Allentown, PA 18104. The phone & Fax numbers remain the same. If you are in the area stop by and see us.

## **WELCOME NEW TEACHERS**

There are over 200 new teachers in the District this year. Chances are you have a few in your building. If there are some in your building seek them out and welcome them to the ASD. If you are a Faculty Rep talk to them about joining the union and fairshare. Make sure they have a copy of the bargaining agreement so they are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

If they are already a member see if they would like to become involved in any way. If they are interested in becoming involved please have them call us.

## **AEA Calendar**

**Oct 9 – Start of Melvin's School Lunch Visits**

**Oct 10 –Faculty Rep Meeting/Training**

**Oct 15 –Strike Authorization Vote**

**Oct 24 – New Educator Dinner**

**Oct 25 – ASD School Board Meeting**

## **SICK BANK**

If you donated days last school year you are still a member. You can donate more days if you would like to but it is not required. Open Enrollment is basically for people who did not join last year and would like to this year and for new people in the District.

If you are not sure if you are a member of the sick bank please call us (610-432-7329) and we can let you know.

What discounts does your PSEA/NEA membership card entitle you to?

Visit the website at [www.PSEA.org/access](http://www.PSEA.org/access).

The best educator is the one who **NEVER** forgets what it is like to be a student.

The best administrator is one who **NEVER** forgets what it is like to be a teacher.