

# AEA FOCUS

Volume VII, Issue 5

FEBRUARY 2006

## The President's Message

**It's a new day! It's a new semester!**

**We are officially over half-way through the school year.**

Some schedules have changed; some staff members have been moved; an almost equal number of students have been dropped from attendance rosters as will be added to attendance rosters.

But the most important event this time of year is not what happens in our teaching environment but what happens to our spirit. There are so many distractions that pull kids' attention away from learning. There is so much pressure to get kids ready for the next level. There is so much more to teach to get kids through the tests. There is bone-deep weariness as we face gray days and even grayer apathy

How to survive and press on?

Every day remind yourself of this statistic from a recent NEA Today magazine: 95% of all high school students surveyed report that a teacher made a positive difference in their lives! 95%! A teacher! Like you!

Despite the pressures to meet higher, almost impossible standards, despite horrendous class sizes and inadequate supplies and equipment, despite facing students who are often strangers to self-discipline and immune to hope, teachers like you make a positive difference in the lives of students everyday in every classroom in Allentown.

Be proud of yourself and your profession. You have the ability to change children's lives for the better forever.

Keep on keeping on!

Melvin

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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.

## ALLENTOWN TEACHERS GOLF LEAGUE

Wedgewood Golf Course  
Begins Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>  
Every Tuesday until June 6<sup>th</sup> (10 weeks)  
Format - Match Play  
Flights determined by handicap  
Tee times 3:36 - 4:14

Anyone interested contact Jon Csensits @ 610-966-5072

### NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

We could use more volunteers for the committee to plan for upcoming negotiations. If you would like to volunteer please call or email Carolyn of your interest at [aeaschafer@aol.com](mailto:aeaschafer@aol.com) OR 610-432-7329.

Meeting dates have not been determined as of this date.

A negotiations survey for AEA members regarding negotiations issues, concerns, etc. will be forthcoming.

### AEA Calendar

**March 3 - Deadline for OTA  
Nominations**

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Nominations**

**March 6 - AEA Faculty Rep Mtg**

**Mar 10 - AEA Social @ Rittersville  
Fire Co. (Hanover Ave)**

**Mar 23 - ASD Board Mtg**

**April 13 - 17 - Spring Holiday**

### PSEA Information

1. **PSEA WEBSITE:** [www.psea.org](http://www.psea.org) coming March 1st, supposedly more user friendly, new, etc. the goal is to have 90% of the info needed no more than 2 clicks away. Also, moving a lot of 'members only' info to all access (less password protected areas)

2. **SURVEYS:** 2 surveys you might be getting in the mail. One on how you feel about education issues, the other is how you use assessment. Both surveys are PSEA endorsed, so if you get one, you are encouraged to fill them out.

3. **PHILADELPHIA, 2007:** will be hosting the national education association meeting for about 10,000 teachers. It's over fourth of July week. Volunteers will be needed. NEA will subsidize and reimburse volunteers for transportation and meals (but not lodging). Volunteers can not be delegates. If interested email: [chuckendlich@aol.com](mailto:chuckendlich@aol.com)

4. **NURSE PSEA MEMBERS WHO NEED HELP:**

Brownsville hospital went bankrupt and shut its doors without warning leaving 42 PSEA nurses out of work, benefits, and income with no notice. Anyone wishing to make a (non tax deductible) donation by march 24th make checks payable to PSEA, but with 'Brownsville nurse donation' written in the memo line and mail to:

PSEA  
c/o Jim Steiber  
PO Box 1724  
Harrisburg PA 17105-1724