

## Northfield Contributes to Help A Child

Northfield Elementary School recently conducted a Math-A-Thon and raised \$8388.32 for the Help A Child fund. According to Rep Rita McMullin, the event is co-chaired by Karen Geissler and Nancy Holmwood. Students find donors to pledge a certain amount for each correct problem they solve in a given period of time. Members of the PTA are also involved serving on the committee, checking problems and counting the proceeds.

Money has been raised in the past for Cystic Fibrosis, the Red Cross on behalf of Tsunami victims and Brock Elementary School in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Math-A-Thon is held every other year, alternating with a Jump Rope for Heart. "We feel that it has been a very successful endeavor and are delighted that the children at Northfield are exposed to the problems of other children in the world and are able to help these children who are so needy," said Rita McMullin. This year HCEA is pleased that Help A Child is the recipient of the generosity of everyone at Northfield Elementary!



Northfield Elementary Rep Tom Gearin reports to the RA on the schools successful Math A Thon that benefitted Help A Child.

## MSTA Summer Training Series

Register soon for MST A's annual training retreats this summer in beautiful Rocky Gap, scenic St. Michaels or bustling Towson! You can hone your skills as a teacher or support professional at the Professional Development Institute or the Leadership & Organizational Development Institute or find inspiration and confidence as an Association activist at the popular Emerging Leaders Academy.

The schedule of classes is listed below:

Emerging Leaders Academy	Burkshire Marriott, Towson	July 8 – 10
Leadership & Organizational Development	Harbourtowne Resort, St. Michael's	July 16 – 17
Teaching & Learning	Rocky Gap Lodge, Cumberland	July 22 – 24

If you are interested in participating, contact HCEA at 410-997-3440 for registration ASAP!

## Member Appreciation!!!

Kick back and relax and join your HCEA colleagues for hors d'oeuvres and a drink on June 11, 2008 at Houlihan's Restaurant. For additional information contact the HCEA office. Space is limited and your RSVP is required. Call Denise Palmisano at 410-997-3440 to let us know you'll be there!!

## Savings for Summer!

Before you nail down your plans for your summer vacation, make sure to see what discounts are available through your MST A Access card by clicking on the Access icon on the MST A web page, [www.mstanea.org](http://www.mstanea.org). There you will find savings on hotels, restaurants, bowling, movies, theme parks and more. Let your membership pay for itself by taking full advantage of the discounts available. MST A membership – it pays!!

## Getting Married or Moving?

If you are getting married and changing your name this summer or if you are moving and changing your address and phone number or if you are changing your school assignment, please remember to call Denise Palmisano at HCEA at 410-997-3440. We need your help to keep our records updated and accurate! Have a great summer!

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# The View from Here

by Ann De Lacy,  
HCEA President

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*“Howard County Public Schools continue to be an outstanding success because of the work you do and we thank you for your service.”*

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Another school year is ending. Good job! Many of you will be spending the next two months taking classes, working part-time jobs, spending time with family, vacationing, or just kicking back and relaxing. Those of you who work eleven or twelve-month positions will be able to relax a little more when schools are closed.

Howard County Public Schools continue to be an outstanding success because of the work you do and we thank you for your service. Work in public education, although highly rewarding, can be difficult, demanding, and thankless. As demographics change and more fragile children with greater needs enter our classrooms, many expect our schools to fill in where traditional support systems fall short or are non-existent. When the demands of “No Child Left Behind” (The Elementary Secondary Education Act), TIENET, endless assessments, and other workload issues exacerbate an already difficult situation, it is not surprising that the recently released HCPSS Separation Report was filled with teachers in their first three years of the profession. On the positive side, the retention of paraprofessionals is higher.

Let’s look at a few of our successes:

- Our Contracts will be funded without drama!!! In meetings with my counterparts from other counties in Maryland and for other states, it must be noted that we are one of the few systems without major funding concerns. We owe that in large part to the mutual respect and collaborative relationship HCEA has established with the community, the County Council and County Executive, and the Board of Education and Superintendent. Our contracts were honored and the cuts to education were not draconian.
- Fair Share went into affect on December 1, 2007. Individuals hired on or after that date, who choose not to join HCEA, will have to pay a representation fee.
- Membership is up by nearly 400 members.
- HCEA’s Legislative Breakfast had the best attendance yet.
- HCEA and HCPSS held it first Community Meeting.
- The Annual HCEA Crab Feast was completely sold out.
- The Annual Job Satisfaction Survey continues to be respected by HCPSS and the media.
- HCEA’s New Para Orientation was well attended and highly successful.
- We have a rep in every building!



The HCEA Officers, Board of Directors, Building Reps and Committees work tirelessly on your behalf. Please let us know what else we can do to provide you with the support you need to be successful in the jobs you do for the children we serve.

I’d like to give special thanks to **Brian Donoughe** and **Maleeta Kitchen**, this year’s **HCEA Most Valuable Players** and to **Lee Ayers** and **Patrick Croushler**, the 2007-2008 **HCEA Reps of the Year**.

Have a super summer—you’ve earned it and deserve it!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## HCEA MVP’s

**Brian Donoughe**  
**Maleeta Kitchen**

## HCEA Reps of the Year

**Lee Ayers**  
**Patrick Croushler**

## Rule Change Proposed

The MD State Department of Education has proposed a rule change that, based on analysis by MSTA staff, would no longer allow certain “Specialists” (Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational/Physical Therapists, and Audiologists) licenses to be treated as “professional (teacher) certificates.” If passed, the impact of the change would remove these educators from the teachers’ collective bargaining unit. This would affect: working conditions, tenure rights, retention/recruitment, and retirement. The proposed change is being championed by the Office of the State Superintendent.

There are two phases of this process. First, the State BOE must approve the change. Second, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) must also approve the change.

### We Have the Power to Defeat this Move!

***In our favor***— There are numerous MSTA members on PSTEB (including our own Judie Cephas) who we are confident will reject the proposed change.

***Our challenge***— The State BOE has NOT traditionally been a friend to us.

HCEA President, Ann De Lacy is sending a communication to all of our members affected. She is also touching base with HCPSS (Dr. Cousin and his staff) to make sure they understand the negative impact of this proposal and to solicit support for our efforts to defeat it.

### ***What You Can Do***—

You do not need to be a “specialist” (as defined) to make your concerns known. Here are key dates and actions you can take:

- **June 6-July 7, 2008**— 30 Day public comment period for PSTEB (send letters, tell your stories)
- **August 7, 2008**— Public Hearing in front of PSTEB at the State BOE office in Baltimore (time TBA)  
**(We need to pack the room!)**

***For more details (names, addresses, talking points, etc.) please go to the HCEA website at [www.hceanea.org](http://www.hceanea.org) or contact Ann De Lacy or Cheryl McLeod at HCEA (410-997-3440).***

## Budget Testimony

HCEA Vice-President Donna Schulze recently testified (as an individual) before the County Council’s Budget Hearing. Donna is a Para Educator at Phelps Luck Elementary School and is a native of Howard County. Starting out by thanking County Executive Ken Ulman for his ongoing commitment to funding the HCPSS’s budget requests, Donna went on to encourage everyone to think outside the box when it comes to finding additional revenue sources. She reminded everyone that Howard County residents want the best of everything whether it is public schools, police and fire protection, libraries, roads or senior services. Unfortunately, many people don’t want to pay for the best because it may mean more taxes. “As a taxpayer, do I really want my taxes raised? The truthful answer is no, but in reality the answer is yes – if I want the best,” Donna said. She went on to say “People will stop at Starbucks every day for a cup of coffee and pay...almost \$1000 a year. But when it comes to county services we don’t want to pay more than we did ten years ago.” Donna concluded her testimony by pointing out that to maintain county services we need to maintain an excellent public school system. Well said, Donna!



*HCEA Vice President Donna Schulze testified before the County Council’s budget meeting.*

*Ed. Note: Salary increases for HCPSS employees have been fully funded for the 2008 – 2009 school year – thank you!!*



*HCEA’s Shannon Keeny discusses National Board Certification.*

## National Board Certification

HCEA member Shannon Keeny addressed the Representative Assembly about National Board Certification. HCPSS has partnered with HCEA to provide informational meetings throughout the school year so you can learn everything you need to know about NBC. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th at 4:30PM at the Faulkner Ridge Center. For more information contact Shannon at [Shannon\\_Keeny@hcpss.org](mailto:Shannon_Keeny@hcpss.org).

## Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

### Rep Council – Board of Directors Dinner

June 4 at 4:15PM  
Ten Oaks Ballroom

### HCEA Retiree Reception

June 5 3:30PM – 5:30PM  
HCEA

### HCEA Member Appreciation

June 11 3PM – 6PM  
Houlihan's Restaurant

### NEA Convention

July 1 – July 6  
Washington, D.C.

### Emerging Leaders Academy

July 8 – 10  
Burkshire Marriott, Towson

### Leadership & Organizational Development Institute

July 16 – 17  
Harbourtowne Resort, St. Michaels

### Teaching & Learning Institute

July 22 - 24  
Rocky Gap Resort, Cumberland

### New Teacher Orientation

August 12 – 14  
Volunteers Needed



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## HCEA Marketplace

### For Sale

**BEAUTIFUL piano for sale:** or buyer can take over monthly payments. Please contact Michael at 240-506-8584

### General Services

**Making a list of all those small summer jobs?** Contact JM Frederick, LLC for handy-man services. MHIC Licensed #97185, #125996. Insured, and Workers Comp. Residential and Commercial Services available. Office: 410-750-7473 or email [jm.frederick.llc@gmail.com](mailto:jm.frederick.llc@gmail.com). Servicing Howard and Nearby Counties. Emergency Services As Available

### Employment

**Summer Camp Employment:** Capital Camps in Waynesboro, PA has a few positions open for this summer. Positions include: male counselors, male special needs counselors, male and female lifeguards, sports specialists, ropes course and staff. Contact Julie Finkelstein @ 866-430-2267 or [julie@capitalcamps.org](mailto:julie@capitalcamps.org)

### Vacation Rentals

**O.C. condo** in ocean block for rent week beginning July 12. 2BR 2 bath, sleeps 6, \$1050. Call Doris Case at 410-465-8108

**Fenwick Island, Delaware:** First floor condo just north of Ocean City: 3 BR, 2 BA, screened porch, TV, washer/dryer, fully equipped kitchen, pool, tennis courts, easy walk to beach. Very near Harpoon Hanna's restaurant and Fenwick Island Boardwalk. Plenty of parking. Weekly rentals in summer. Call 410-997-2279.

**Deep Creek Lake:** 4 BR chalet located on 2 acres with lots of woods and privacy; beautiful lake access area; All amenities, including hot tub, ping pong & foosball. Weekly or weekend rentals. Discount for HCEA members. Call Krista at 410-715-8738; CLC at Krista Feezel; To view house at: visit [www.deepcreekrealty.com](http://www.deepcreekrealty.com) and search for Vacation Rental, Property ID #714 "Our Neck of the Woods".

**Beach Cottage Ocean City, MD:** Rent this ocean side, fully furnished, 3 BR North OC cottage. Cottage has new paint, A/C, fridge, newer bedding, cable, internet, off street parking, free on street parking. Available for weekly rental from May 15 -Sept 16. Would consider Senior Week, weekly during the

summer to HCEA members. Contact JM @ 410-730-3988.

**Woods Resort - Hedgesville, WV:** (90 miles from Balt. & Wash.) Private house for rent. Weekend or weekly rental. 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, AC, cable/TV/VCR, fully equipped kitchen, sunroom and deck nestled in a beautiful wooded area. Golfing, swimming (indoor & outdoor), tennis, biking, hiking. Sleeps 6. Call 410-465-4087.

**Deep Creek Lake:** 5 BR. log cabin chalet; fully furnished; all amenities included; minutes from WISP Ski resort; 30% discount to HCEA members; weekend or weekly rental. Call Dan @ 410-465-5190.

**Fenwick Island DE Townhouse Rental:** Luxury 3 BR 3 1/2 BA townhouse on lake surrounded by the bay. Sleeps 8, 1 1/2 miles to the beach. A resort within a resort, crabbing, fishing, pool, clubhouse with gym, biking and walking trails. Tot lot, tennis, basketball, and shuffleboard. New Jack Nicklaus golf course 1/2 mi. away. Lots of room for everyone to spread out. Great weeks still available. Call Kathy @ 410-465-9417.

**Ocean City, MD:** 4 BR, 2 BA, fully equipped house on 140<sup>th</sup> street (7 blocks from beach). Sleeps 10. Cable/TV/VCR and wireless internet. On a quiet street but close to all the action. Video tour available <http://im3.image-maker360.com/view.asp?ID=67163>. HCEA members receive 10% discount. Call Pam @ 410-381-8593

**Ocean Side Condo, Ocean City, MD:** mid town, steps to the beach, 3 BR 2 BA. First floor unit has 1 step to enter, great for young and elderly. 3 queen beds, queen sleep sofa, tv in every room, lv rm 50" plasma tv, fully equipped kitchen, large stone patio (AM sun, PM shade) close to all amenities. Contact JM @ 410-730-3988 for special HCEA rate.

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