

Collective Bargaining Victory for “Specialists”

Thanks to the groundswell of activism and support provided by related service “specialists” (occupational/physical therapists, speech/language pathologists, and audiologists) along with HCEA reps and leaders, members, colleagues, and community members, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) withdrew from consideration a proposed rule change that would have removed these specialists from the Teachers’ Collective Bargaining unit. The rule change was championed by Assistant State Superintendent John Smeallie as a reaction to licensure changes passed by the General Assembly. Although prior statements made by the State Superintendent’s office to local superintendents and human resources directors suggested that the proposed changes were not substantive, MST A legal staff, upon analyzing the proposal issued a warning to Dr. Smeallie that these changes had a negative impact on collective bargaining rights of these valuable educators. Once discovered, MST A staff and the state associations representing these educators mobilized a grassroots effort to defeat the proposed change.

Howard County educators far exceeded expectations! Although the timeframe was tight (a few days before the end of the school year), everyone jumped into action!

- * You circulated a petition drive collecting over 1,000 signatures
- * You wrote volumes of letters
- * You sent hundreds of e-mails
- * You flooded the phone lines

- * You prepared to ascend on Baltimore to attend the PSTEB Public Hearing
- * You continued to keep the pressure on PSTEB members and members of the State BOE

Quotes:

When asked about the benefit of being a member of the NEA/MST A/HCEA family, here’s what one member said:

Paula Rivers, Speech Pathologist —
“When folks team up and work together, the world turns our way. Our immediate world involved the related services and the related state organizations. We fought the Maryland State Dept. of Education and influenced the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board’s proposal to repeal a crucial aspect of COMAR related to school employment. Our world turned around and said ‘NO!’ Now because of the 2,000 responses supporting these related services, we can continue to use our certification to receive teacher association representation for collective bargaining, salaries, benefits, pensions, and the like! If we choose, we can seek posts in administration, which requires certification through the schools. We will continue to monitor any proposals submitted by Assistant State Superintendent John Smeallie. Go, Team. Go!!”



Speech Pathologist and HCEA Activist Paula Rivers



New teachers sign membership forms at the New Teacher Orientation

Successful New Teacher Orientation

This year’s New Teacher Orientation was held at Reservoir HS. Veteran HCEA members joined staff during the three day event to sign up new members. Once again, large numbers of new hires stopped by to find out more about the Association, to receive information on Sick Bank and attending the MST A Convention, and most importantly to join! We welcome everyone who is new to the Howard County Public School System and urge you to become active with your Association. If you have any questions contact us at 410-997-3440. We’re glad

Register Your NEA Dues-TAB Insurance

NEA Active and some Retired members are eligible for this free benefit. It provides up to \$1000 of life insurance, up to \$5,000 of AD&D insurance with an added benefit of up to \$50,000 or \$150,000 for an incident that occurs while on the job or when conducting Association business. Make sure you are registered for this free benefit by calling to register your beneficiary call 1-800-637-4636.

Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

MSTA "I Can Do It" Workshop

Saturday, September 27

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 30
Schools Closed

Last Day to Sign Up For Teacher Sick Leave Bank

Wednesday, October 1

HCEA Crab Feast

Friday, October 3

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 9
Schools Closed

MSTA Representative Assembly & Convention Workshops

Friday, October 17 &
Saturday, October 18
Ocean City Convention Center
www.mstanea.org

Last Day to Sign Up for ESP Sick Leave Bank

Friday, October 31

General Election Day

Tuesday, November 4
Schools Closed



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BJ's Discount for September

BJ's Wholesale club is offering a special discount offer to HCEA members for the month of September. You can save \$10 on the \$45 annual fee for an Innercircle (basic) membership or save \$10 on the \$80 annual fee for the Rewards (rebate) membership. Each membership includes a FREE second card and three additional months FREE. For an application contact Janet Bloom at HCEA at 410-997-3440. Applications with payments must be received in the HCEA office by **Tuesday, September 30, 2008.**



Anna Gannon and Nina Martin enjoy a break at Summer Leadership in St. Michaels

MSTA Summer Leadership

Several HCEA members took time from their busy summer to participate in MSTA Summer Leadership Workshops. Ellicott Mills MS social studies teacher Cindy Waugh attended the Emerging Leaders Academy in Towson. Anna Gannon of Phelps Luck ES, Nina Martin of Atholton ES, and Catherine Willett and Kerri Wells of Marriotts Ridge HS took a lunch break with a view while attending the Leadership/Organizing Institute at St. Michaels. The opportunity to enhance your skills and meet colleagues from across the state is a valuable one. If you are interested in participating next summer contact HCEA at 410-997-3440 to let us know.

HCEA Marketplace

For Rent

Single family ranch house in Columbia: Hawthorne Neighborhood. Two bedrooms, including very large master bedroom, family room, living room, dining room, 2 full bathrooms, patio, and one-car carport. \$1800/month. Call Chris Tsucalas @ 410-491-0409. No pets. No smokers. No lawn maintenance required. Available immediately.

For Sale

Massanutten Time Share for SALE! Deeded timeshare property. Two Red Weeks for the price of one at the Beautiful Massanutten Shenandoah Villas. (Save on GAS) Beautiful vacation resort less than 2 hours away. Complete unit sleeps ten OR the lockout and own two week units. One sleeps four and the other sleeps six. Largest indoor water park as well as a renown ski resort area with a five star restaurant. Valued at \$18,900 asking \$11,000. Deed comes with the purchase as well as a year registration with RCI and the first year maintenance fee. Contact Leirdre' @ 410- 489-7819.

General Services

Musicians: Are you looking for a professional chamber music group for your special occasion? The Antares Musicians have over a century of combined experience performing at weddings, dinner parties, corporate events, etc. To find out more information or to request a free CD, please go to www.AntaresMusicians.com or call Tammy Sutton at 410-719-NOTE.

Employment

Tutorrific! Tutor in homes throughout Howard County. A great way to make extra money! Please send an email or your resume to Deborah Peled Markowitz at tutorrific@comcast.net.

*To advertise in HCEA Marketplace visit the Publications page on the HCEA website at www.hceanea.org or e-mail ad to editor_marketplace@hceanea.org. Deadline for next issue: **Thursday, September 18.***

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