

Social Networking

Social networking spaces like MySpace and Facebook may be a good way to keep in touch with friends but teachers and other education personnel should be careful in terms of creating personal profiles, communicating with students, and sharing sensitive information. As a result of an investigation, the Ohio Education Association (OEA) has issued a strongly worded warning to its members: "OEA advises members not to join [these sites], and for existing users to complete the steps involved in removing their profiles," the memo said. "While this advice might seem extreme, the dangers of participating in these two sites outweigh the benefits."

While HCEA/MSTA have not gone that far, members need to be very careful about what they share online. Individuals need to remember that it's accessible by students and that material may be inappropriate for students – or parents – to see. You probably don't want discontented parents or mischie-

vous students circulating those pictures of you from your college keg party or wet t-shirt contest.

Other concerns have also arisen. Investigations around the country and Maryland involving misconduct underscore the reasons for this concern. The Ohio memo goes on to say "The fact that a student can attempt to contact a ... member who has a profile on these sites lends itself to the possible interpretation of an improper relationship." It goes on, "Because of the high standards placed on school employees and the risk of job and career loss, the OEA recommends avoiding even the appearance of impropriety." All communications with school-age children should be through official school e-mails only. HCEA thinks this is good advice. If you participate in a social network website, review the material you have posted and remove any material that may be inappropriate given your employment as an educator.

BJ's Discount Membership Available in February

BJ's Wholesale Club is offering discounted rates and three additional months free to HCEA members through February 29, 2008. This special will give you a 15-month membership for \$15 off the \$45 annual fee for an Innercircle (basic) membership OR \$15 off the \$80 annual fee for the Rewards (rebate) membership. Each membership includes a FREE second card.

Current BJ's Members can renew and add 13 months at the discounted rate, even if there is time left on their cur-

rent membership. (You will find your expiration date on a store receipt or at bjs.com).

Please note: This is a marketing program only available to HCEA Members through the HCEA office. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, contact Janet at HCEA at 410-997-3440 for the instructions and form (also available on www.HCEANEA.org). The application and check must be returned to HCEA **prior to February 29.**

February is the time to VOTE!

The Presidential Primary is scheduled for February 12th and all HCEA members are urged to exercise their right to vote! Next up will be the MST A elections. Ballots will be sent to schools and are due back to MST A by February 25th. Finally, ballots will be sent out on February 22nd for the HCEA elections and are due back by 4 PM on March 10th. All of these elections are important and you are urged to participate in each and every one!!



HCEA members recently attended the NEA Mid-Atlantic Conference in Louisville, KY. Back row are teachers Danielle King, Mayfield Woods MS; Brian Donoughe, Murray Hill MS; Karen Searles, Reservoir HS; Hugo Jackson, Lime Kiln MS. Front row are Ann De Lacy, HCEA President; Gisela Cooke, Reservoir HS ParaProfessional; Cheryl Coleman, Jeffers Hill ES ParaProfessional; Sharon Brunswick, Jeffers Hill ES ParaProfessional.

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The View from Here

by Ann De Lacy,
HCEA President

“When you are asked to make a pledge, please say “Yes.””

Dear Fellow HCEA Members,

Sometime near the end of the month of February, you will receive a call at home asking for a contribution to the *Fund for Children and Public Education*. **When you are asked to make a pledge, please say, “Yes.”**

Why do we to ask for this money? One important reason is that we cannot use dues monies for politics. We rely on your continued commitment to the FUND to move our public education agenda forward through legislation. We must ensure, through the election of public education officials, that our members are provided with the tools and resources necessary to education our children.

Why are we involved in politics? The answer is that elected officials or those who appoint them decide each and every important education issue we deal with everyday. The Howard County School Board decides your salary, and all of your benefits, i.e. health insurance, etc. **In the face of the current economic climate, our Board of Education, County Executive and County Council have agreed to fund your 5% COLA for next year. The fact that we supported and elected almost all of these people is not coincidental.** Other issues affecting you that are determined by elected officials are your class size, length of school year and pension benefits.

The Fund for Children and Public Education is a special fund made up of voluntary contributions from our members. Your contributions pay for the advertising, printed materials, and other voter communications used to elect public officials who support public education and public educators. **WE ARE NON-PARTISAN.** Once we help people get elected, we then use these funds to ensure that these officials know, on a regular basis, what is important to YOU.



What is going to happen when you are called? The caller is going to ask you to pledge \$5.00 per pay period. We ask that you agree to make a contribution through payroll deduction. This year, we are asking for a minimum pledge of \$5.00 per person but we will not discourage you from contributing more or even less.

The MSTA/HCEA Legislative Agenda in this year's General Assembly focuses on **funding**, an **Independent Labor Relations Board**, **Respect for our Negotiated Agreements**, **Class Size**, **Workload**, and the **Achievement Gap**. Your donation will help us secure a fair and equitable future for all of our children.

Sincerely,

What are “UniServ” Directors?

Your MSTA and NEA dues pay the salaries of professional staff who are trained and experienced in bargaining and contract enforcement; processing grievances and representing members; and providing communication, training, public relations and government relations support to HCEA and its committees.

At this time HCEA has 3.4 UniServ Directors who work with members. Marius Ambrose works with certificated staff in middle and high schools and negotiates the contract for certificated staff. Cheryl McLeod works with staff at Homewood, Cedar Lane, ARL and the Board of Education. Dan Collins negotiates the contract for ParaProfes-

sionals and represents ParaProfessionals at all levels. Mary Jo Neville works with certificated staff in elementary schools and provides content for the HCEA Web Page and The Works.

If you have any questions or concerns you can reach your UniServ Director at HCEA by calling 410-997-3440.

Worth Giving Up a Saturday



Members of the HCEA SPARKS class of 2008 pose with HCEA President Ann De Lacy and members of the IPD Committee which sponsored the event.

Teachers and ParaProfessionals put in an eight hour day on a cold, January Saturday to be part of HCEA's SPARKS class of 2008. According to Laurie Ressler, Media Para Educator at Veterans Elementary, "Every new employee to the school system needs to hear the information HCEA shared with us today. Thanks so much – definitely worth taking a Saturday to attend and learn!"

Amy Hagler teaches kindergarten at Bollman Bridge Elementary and said, "This workshop really filled in the gaps from my roles in the classroom to how to obtain a masters degree and even how to improve my credit! I will definitely recommend this in the future".

HCEA's own Matt Martini, math teacher at Oakland Mills High, got things rolling with his presentation on classroom management. Dr. Mark Stout, HCPSS Coordinator for Secondary Social Studies worked with the group

on best practices. Ken Gill, University Partnership Liaison, and Lois Witte from the Office of Human Resources provided useful information regarding cohorts and certification issues.

In addition, the HCTA Federal Credit Union provided information, and an informative and often hilarious presentation was made by the MSTA legal department's Jim Whattam on job related legal issues.

Overall the participants were pleased that they had given up their Saturday to spend a day with HCEA. Trish Woods from Veterans Elementary summed it up when she said, "Everything said really will benefit you 100% in life!"

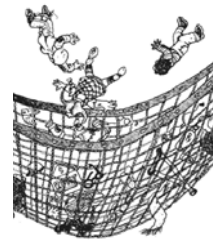
If you are an HCEA member with less than six years in education and would like to be included in our next SPARKS training contact Mary Jo Neville at HCEA at mjneville@mstanea.org or 410-997-3440.

Request for Summer Camp Proposals

Proposals are invited from teachers interested in teaching summer camp sessions at the Howard County Center for the Arts, for children aged 4-14. Sessions are: June Mini (June 23-27); Session I (July 7-18); Session II (July

21-August 1); Session III (August 4-15). For additional information or to receive a proposal form please contact the Howard County Arts Council at 410-313-2787 or info@hocoarts.org.

Thank you from Help-A-Child



The HCEA Help-A-Child Fund has been a life saver for me as a Pupil Personnel Worker. In my role, I am often called upon to meet the emergent needs of students and their families. Many of these students are from single-headed households, are homeless, victims of domestic violence and or part of the growing number of working poor families that cannot afford health care and housing in Howard County. The Help-A-Child Fund helps me provide students with basic resources such as clothing, shoes, toiletries, and eye glasses. Meeting our students' basic needs helps our families to develop a sense of belonging and sends the message that the HCPSS and HCEA cares about its students. HCEA has done an outstanding job of making the Help-A-Child referral process fast and easy. I can genuinely say that I could not effectively meet the needs of our students without the Help-A-Child Fund.

Tracey Williams
Pupil Personnel Worker

If you would like to make a contribution to the Help-A-Child Fund or if you know a child in need, contact HCEA at 410-997-3440. One hundred percent of all contributions go to helping children.

Tomato Palace Discount!

The Tomato Palace, a wonderful Italian restaurant on the lake in Columbia, offers a 15% discount to all educators. Just present your ID card and your discount will be taken from your bill. 410-715-0211. Thank you, Tomato Palace!

Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

MSTA Para Professional Development Day

February 16

Understanding Your Retirement Workshop

February 19

Deadline to Register for March ParaPro Test

(to register contact www.ets.org/parapro)
February 21

Deadline for Receipt of Ballots for MST A Election

February 25

Read Across America Day

March 3

NEA ESP National Conference

March 7- 9

ParaPro Test

March 15

To advertise in HCEA Marketplace visit our website at www.hceanea.org/publications.php or send e-mail ad to editor_marketplace@hceanea.org. Deadline for next issue: **Thursday, February 21.**

Inclusion in Marketplace does not express or imply endorsement by HCEA or HCEA responsibility for price or quality. HCEA assumes no liability for nor makes any warranty as to the condition of any article advertised in Marketplace.



Howard County Education Association

5082 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite 102
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410/997-3440
www.hceanea.org
editor_works@hceanea.org

President	Ann De Lacy
Vice President	Donna Schulze
Treasurer	Brian Donoughe
Secretary	Teri Dennison
Works Editor	Mary Jo Neville
Design	Carol Riley

HCEA Marketplace

Special Events

Longaberger Bus Trip: Join us on the Spring Bus Trip to Dresden, Ohio May 4th and 5th. Trip includes tours of Longaberger® Home Office (shaped like a Market Basket) and the factory. You will have the option to work with a weaver to make your own Longaberger Basket too! Please contact Melissa Ronnenburg at melison1@comcast.net if you are interested.

For Sale

Townhome for Sale in Riverchase Community. Located minutes from UMBC, Routes 95, 695, and 100. Lovely 3-story townhome built in the 1990's. 3 BR, two full BA. (There is plumbing rough-in to add an additional full and half BA.) Updated flooring and kitchen appliances. Large, finished basement. All exterior maintenance (snow removal, mulching, exterior painting, etc.) is covered through the neighborhood association. Call 410-737-0014 or email mlane88@aol.com for more information.

General Services

Electrician - Genesis Electric: Paddle fans, recessed lighting or any electrical needs. Call Larry @ 443-927-4052.

Landscaping Yard Service: Spring is just around the corner! Its not too soon to think about who will be cutting your grass, mulching your flower beds, and doing your yard work. We provided extraordinary work at a reasonable rate. Call 410-262-4375 or email landscapingbyalfredo@hotmail.com for your FREE estimate today.

Music for your Event: Musical ensembles, including string quartets, available for your wedding, reception, parties etc. References available upon request. Please email RLather@verizon.net

Vacation Rentals

Outer Banks, NC Condo: For rent last week in July (July 27 – August 3, 2008). Right on the beach in Kill Devil Hills, NC. Full kitchen, cable TV, phone, Jacuzzi, etc. One bedroom plus sleeper couch. Sleeps 4. Linens and towels included. \$950/week. Call Marius Ambrose @410-997-3440 ext. 19.

Fenwick Island Townhouse Rental: Luxury 3 BR 3 1/2 BA townhouse on lake surrounded by the bay sleeps 8. A resort within a

resort, crabbing, and fishing pier. Pool, clubhouse, biking trails. Tot lot, basketball, tennis and shuffleboard. New Jack Nicklaus golf course 1/2 mi. away. Fully equipped kitchen. TV's, cable and DVD player in each BR, and living area. Call Kathy @ 410-465-9417.

Ocean City, MD: 4 BR, 2 BA, fully equipped house on 140th 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

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.

Employment

Pool Supervisors, Managers: Summer job openings for swimming pool field supervisors and managers (Full or part time). No experience necessary. Call David Watts, DRD Pool Management, Inc. @ 410-785-7665 or e-mail dwatts@drdpools.com.

Camp Seeks Head Counselors, Instructors: Boating, campcraft, drama, singing, nature, physical education, art and swimming. Beth Tfiloh Camp in Owings Mills runs Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm for 8 weeks (June 23 – Aug 15). Visit our website at www.btcamps.org or phone 410-517-3451. Your child attends free!

Do You Need Extra Money to Pay Bills?

Are you interested in starting a home-based business? We are looking for motivated, individuals to join our team. For more information, contact us at majestykitchen@yahoo.com or 240-565-3984.

Tutorrific! Tutor in homes throughout Howard County. Much higher pay than most tutoring companies! Please send an email or your resume to Deborah Peled Markowitz at tutorrific@comcast.net.