

MSEA Name Change Kick Off



HCEA Members Karen Filippelli and Pat Pecor celebrate the name change.



MSEA Manager Herman Whitter and HCEA Vice President Donna Schulze. Donna sponsored the resolution to change MSTa to MSEA.

MSEA celebrated its name change on Tuesday, September 1st with food, fun and prizes at the headquarters in Annapolis. The event featured the debut of The MSEA Connection band and the Unity in the School Community member-artist mural project.

When delegates at the MSTa Representative Assembly voted last October to change the name of the Maryland State Teachers Association to the Maryland State Education Association, it was a historic moment, but one certainly in keeping with the Association's long tradition of inclusion and advocacy.

"The vote was one of deep significance for our members," said MSEA President Clara Floyd. "Above all, we are advocates for great public schools, and what makes a school great is the commitment of each and every member of that school's staff."



"The name, Maryland State Education Association, truly reflects the diversity of our membership," said HCEA President Ann De Lacy. "The name change ensures that eventually we will no longer be viewed as solely a 'teacher' organization. Not only are we made up of para-

professionals and teachers but nurses, guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, social workers, media specialists, food service workers, security assistants, psychologists, and, in many cases, building administrators and superintendents, as well as a myriad of other educators. Many thanks to Vice President, Donna Schulze, for working to make this a reality."

Welcome New Educators!!

This year the New Teacher Orientation was again a great success, with HCEA officers and members of the Board of Directors joining staff to welcome new HCEA members. New hires included a mix of those just out of college and veterans transferring to Howard County from other systems. Be sure to check with your HCEA Building Rep or contact us at 410-997-3440 if you have any questions or problems. We're glad you're here!



HCEA President Ann De Lacy greets new teachers at the New Teacher Orientation.

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The View from Here



By Ann De Lacy
HCEA President

Happy New School Year!

Each June, HCEA invites retiring members to our office on Dorsey Hall Drive for a little gathering to celebrate the culmination of their longtime membership and years of service. At the end of these sessions, MSEA UniServ Director, Cheryl McLeod, asks those in attendance to share their most memorable moments in education. Following these heartwarming assemblies, Cheryl and I usually smile at each other, lament on how few people attend, and bemoan the sad fact that these stories are not somehow captured and shared.

During a conversation with then retiring Lime Kiln Middle School French/Spanish teacher, Vivian Gentile, the subject of feedback from retirees came up. "I think it would behoove the school system to get feedback from retiring teachers." "Usually we love an opportunity to voice our views," wrote Vivian. "So few people ever ask for them."

This past June, a survey, designed by Vivian, was mailed to all retiring HCEA members. One respondent's remarks were so beautifully written and, in my view, captured the essence of the passion behind why one chooses to go into education and, unfortunately, why many leave. These words were written with such clarity that I decided to share them with you. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide credit to the author because no name was attached.

Question 1. What were the reasons you remained in the Howard County School system for so many years?

"I stayed in teaching because I cherished the look in a child's eye when he/she understood. As I became older, I also cherished that same look in the eyes of new teachers when they finally understood the difference between classroom management and classroom control, lesson planning and lesson development, and surviving their profession and thriving in their profession. I get such a thrill when I see an adult who tells me how much they enjoyed my class and learning. They are always quick to share their one special moment."

Question 2. What were the reasons for leaving?

"When I began teaching, I was committed to the calling of educating children. I took my job and my moral responsibility to their education seriously. I talked about students, not because

of 'data' or 'scores' but because it was my ethical responsibility to do so. When a child failed, I saw it as my personal failure as well as my responsibility to help him or her succeed. Something terrible changed to the career I loved. We became a business; a very large, somewhat efficient, and highly impersonal business. We reduced students to IEP's, 504's, and test scores. We institutionalized and regimented conversations about their progress. We set protocols for how we should professionally interact with each other. We had meeting after meeting after meeting. We lost the heart and soul of our profession. I retired because I no longer fit in this new way of doing business.

As a classroom teacher of 38 years (five of those on leave as HCEA President), I am well aware of the many challenges facing those of us who work in public education. Our various occupations, although extremely rewarding, can be filled with roadblocks to success. Irrespective of the role each of us plays within Howard County Public Schools, we hold the future of the children, for whom we are responsible, in our hands. HCEA is here to advocate for you to ensure you have the tools, resources, and support you need to do your job.

Have a great year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann".



MSEA's '09 Convention & Rep Assembly

It's a full-on celebration of the best of your professional association. You'll find trainings and workshops, health information, exhibits, entertainment and more to fill your weekend. If you're a delegate representing Howard County Education Association, add to your schedule special guests and events, caucuses, debates and votes during the annual Representative Assembly meetings.

"I invite every member to come to Ocean City to celebrate not only our name change, but also attend the workshops and activities we have carefully planned," said MSEA President Clara Floyd. "I hope to see every delegate elected by their Local Association—it's an honor to work on important RA business with you and further our mission of creating great public schools for every child."

HIGHLIGHTS:

Official launch of MSEA's exciting new website:

www.marylandeducators.org!

You'll find special kiosks along the main concourse and inside the RA Hall where you can tour the new website, ask questions, provide feedback, and enter fabulous prize drawings!

"We are MSEA" art gallery, RA video and performances
See your colleagues express what the historic name change means to them.

Professional Development Workshops

Two days of FREE professional development include something for everyone—you'll meet dedicated teachers, support personnel, administrators and college students from all across Maryland.

Exhibits

Two exhibition halls filled with education-related and other great booths.

Apple-a-Day Health Fair (sponsored by Women's Concerns)

Don't miss important health information and free screenings.

Member Trade Show

Share your education innovations, crafts, products and more.

Seacrets

Delegates! Dance the night away at MSEA's now-famous Friday night party at OC's hottest nightclub.

Visit MSEA OnLine,

www.mseane.org, for MSEA 2009 Convention updates and additions, including a full workshop schedule with descriptions and a list of hotels offering educator discounts.

Bus day trip to MSEA Convention on Friday, October 16th for HCEA non-delegates.

Cost is \$20 and includes round trip to and from Ocean City and a stop at the outlets. For more information contact Jessica at HCEA, (410) 997-3440 or jbernhardt@mseane.org.

Now is the time for FINA: FAIRNESS IN NEGOTIATIONS ACT!

Last year Senator Jamie Raskin, the lead Senate sponsor of MSEA's Fairness in Negotiations Act, called the Senate passage of the labor bill, "a big last-minute breakthrough." The vote in the Senate was 31-13, a strong margin, but it failed to get a vote in the House of Delegates because time ran out.

We are going to restart the clock on January 13, 2010 and with 90 days to get it done we believe this is the year to pass MSEA's Fairness in Negotiations Act. MSEA leaders have worked with members of the General Assembly over the interim and have continued to stress the importance of having an independent authority to resolve differences between the local school boards and the employee representatives. The 2010 bill will address the problem by establishing a process where an independent board will settle labor disputes within a specific timeline and will issue a decision that is final.

Our success in 2009 was a result of our members' grassroots activism. Your phone calls, emails and letters to lawmakers, and visits to Annapolis made a difference. When you get the call to action this year on the Fairness in Negotiations Act, please take the time to participate. This is the year to make a difference!

HCEA Marketplace

facebook

HCEA on FACEBOOK

Keep updated on the latest goings on by becoming a fan of HCEA on Facebook! Just search HCEA or Howard County Education Association. Become a fan today, we want to hear from you!

For Rent

3 BR Townhouse in Laurel, Howard County, Bowling Brook Farms, TH, 3 level, lg kit, 3 br, 2 full baths, large deck, new carpet/paint, \$1600 + dep no pets. Call 240-398-9218 or trishbr@aol.com .

General Services

Mobile Dry Cleaning and Shoe Repair Service: www.pressed4time.com. Did you know North America's largest Mobile Dry Cleaning and Shoe Repair Service is now calling on Howard County offices and residences? Free pick up and delivery dry cleaning, laundry, alterations, and shoe repair services. HCEA Members receive 10% discount on first order (dry cleaning only). Call (301) 776-6305 or email oji703@pressed4time.com.

Handyman Services: Summer pass you by without getting all your to-do list done? Projects and to-do list too big to handle? JM Frederick, LLC. MHIC Licensed #97185, #125996. Insured, and Workers Comp. Residential and commercial services available. Office: 410-750-7473 or email

jm.frederick.llc@gmail.com. Servicing Howard and nearby counties. Emergency services as available.

Longaberger!! With the holidays approaching it is the perfect time to have a party and earn rewards for you or holiday gifts! To find out how to purchase our baskets, host a home show, have a fundraising event for your school or organiza-

tion or become part of the growing Longaberger family contact Melissa Ronnenberg, at 410-719-2214 or melisron1@comcast.net.

Home Mortgages/Refinancing: Interest rates and home prices are the lowest in years. Presidential is a Maryland based bank with offices in Columbia. No application fees or appraisal fees for HCEA members. First time home buyer programs. Contact Mitch Lax @ 443-812-9319 or by e-mail mitchlax@presidential.com to discuss your mortgage options.

Vacation Rentals

Fenwick Island, DE: Luxury 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA, Townhouse. A resort within a resort; tennis, basketball, fishing, crabbing, pool, gym, walking and bike paths. Unit on a pond community surrounded by the Bay. Fully equipped kitchen, 4 TV's, cable, etc. Sleeps 8, \$1250/week. Call Kathy 410-465-9417.

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.

Deep Creek Lake: 3 bedroom lake style home. Large yard with volleyball, horse-shoes, badminton, a swing and a large sunny deck with hot tub. Short walk to the community dock and lake access. Fully furnished 2K, 1Q, 2Q sleepers sofas. Weekend and weekly rentals call Chuck 410-979-4958 or Candy 410-530-1265. \$1100.00 for a week.

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Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

National Hispanic-American Heritage Month

September 15-October 15

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 28
Schools Closed

Last Day to Sign up for Teacher Sick Leave Bank

Wednesday, September 30

HCEA Crab Feast

Friday, October 2

Retirement Seminar

Wednesday, October 7
4:30PM-6PM
Homewood School

MSEA Representative Assembly & Convention Workshops

Friday, October 16 &
Saturday, October 17
Ocean City Convention Center

Last Day to Sign up for ESP Sick Leave Bank

Friday, October 30