



UTEA Newsletter

Eagle's Eye

Union Township Education Association

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Education Foundation Grants

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Thank you for helping the Township of Union Education Foundation to have another successful year. We are all looking forward to the implementation of programs by those who have received grants for the 2008-2009 school year. The Foundation is proud to announce that we have now given out over \$62,000 for educational grants! We could not have done it without the support of the faculty and staff of the Township schools.

The Township of Union Education Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients for educational grants for the school year 2008-2009.

This year, the Foundation is awarding two large macro-grants. The first is for a pilot program in the German language department to be started at Union High School. Students will use modern technology on a daily basis in German class to connect with other German language classes and German news, radio, television, educational websites with video clips and sound bites of native German speakers. Students will better understand the German language and culture and observe its real world applications.

The other large macro-grant is being awarded to the Math Department at Union High School. A team of teachers will work with students to utilize math through the real world applications by developing a study of traffic patterns at Union High School, devising solutions, and presenting them to the Township.

The Education Foundation is awarding three mini-grants to individual teachers or teams:

Gregory Pardo, fourth grade teacher at Connecticut Farms School, has been awarded a grant for his students to work in teams to devise a working hoverboard. Students will research and analyze prior to developing a design which they will then construct.

Linda Hrevnack and Joan Pikula, K-4 and fourth grade teachers at Connecticut Farms School, will implement a year-long project studying the environment focusing on the importance of the impact of a watershed area on the lives of people in the state of New Jersey. Students will investigate a salt marsh in two seasons, noting changes, and they will design and build a functional water filtering system.

Susan Doyle and Lindsay Conneely, first grade teachers at Livingston School, have developed a year long project for their students to study insects. The project will integrate math, technology, literacy, social studies, art and music and will culminate in a family program for student and parents.

Education Foundation grants are competitive grants and these proposals represent the hard work of our teachers!

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Classified Section

Mausoleum Crypt for Sale: Single large crypt (inside location) at Hollywood Memorial Park, Union. Walk-in price of \$9000, yours for only \$4990. A price to die for. apfeifer@twpunionschools.org

Townhouse for Sale: Sayreville, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath. New carpeting, freshly painted, new Trex decking with vinyl railings, new stove, counters and sink. Updated bathroom. Pool one block, laundry room includes washer/dryer. Asking price \$285K.

Call Kim or Joe (908)783-4203

UNION: First floor of 2 Family House -- Living Room, Eat-In Kitchen, Dining Room, Bedroom, Full Bath. Convenient to transportation. Connecticut Farms School area. For details, call White Realty, Realtor at 908-688-4200. www.WhiteRealtyCo.com.

Good and Welfare

The Good and Welfare reports are archived in the UTEA website. Members can read and print the reports by visiting the site at www.njutea.com and clicking on **Good & Welfare** on the main menu or accessing it directly by typing into your browser’s address bar, www.njutea.com/goodwelfare.html

Visit the UTEA website
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Up-to-Date Information

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Notice:

The Eagle’s Eye newsletter will appear only 2 times a school year, in or around the months of October and May. Please visit the UTEA website for updated news and information.

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www.njutea.com

Newsletter Input

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UTEA The Eagle’s Eye
EDITOR
Andrew B. Pfeifer

Education Foundation Announcement

We have another exciting year of events planned, beginning in the fall. In the meantime, if you wish to make a donation to honor a friend or loved one, or send a memorial tribute, please call Sue at 908-851-9869. For a minimum donation of \$5.00, we will send a tribute or memorial card for you.

The Township of Union Education Foundation, Inc. is selling tickets to "An Evening of Giving" at the Menlo Park Mall. Join us for an exclusive after-hours evening of shopping on Sunday, November 23, 2008 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Throughout the mall there will be special store discounts, entertainment, food sampling and more. The mall will be open to ticket holders only. The cost of a ticket is \$10.00 (children under 1 year of age are free). Tickets can be obtained by calling Barbara Birger at 908-687-5743 or writing a check made payable to the "Township of Union Education Foundation" and sending it to Barbara Birger, 757 Roessner Drive, Union, NJ 07083.

Legislative Update

A-2250 (Cryan, Coutinho) would prohibit the State Board of Education from allowing the use of the Special Review Assessment (SRA) as an alternative to graduation requirements. NJEA provided testimony against the bill, arguing that the SRA provides an alternate means of assessment. No action was taken on the bill; it was only up for discussion.

A-1943 (Schaer, Lampitt, Coutinho) This bill would create a pilot program in 6 districts across the state to provide instruction to seniors on financial literacy. At the conclusion of the pilot, the Department of Education would decide whether it was feasible to expand the program. The bill was reported out of the Assembly Education Committee and is now on second reading in the Assembly.

A-3043 (Moriarty, Cryan) was favorably released by the Assembly Education Committee and is now ready for a full floor vote. The legislation, which was favorably amended by NJEA, requires boards of education to adopt nepotism policies that are already set in regulation by the School Ethics Commission. NJEA amended out of the bill any language which would have empowered the Commissioner of Education to withhold state aid from a school district that failed to comply with the bill's provisions.

A-930 (Scalera/Voss/Prieto/Vas): This legislation, which directs the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to establish adapted athletic programs, was passed unanimously in the Assembly Education Committee. NJEA is monitoring this legislation. This bill is scheduled for a vote in the General Assembly on Thursday, September 25, 2008.

A-2386 (Diegnan/Lampitt/Coutinho) NJEA supports this bill which was voted out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is now on second reading in the Assembly. This bill expands the authority of the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority by allowing it to issue bonds on behalf of a public institution of higher education or of a private institution of higher education in order to allow for the development of student housing and other revenue-generating projects. The bill also allows the authority to issue bonds to finance tax-exempt working capital loans and allow colleges that have cash flow needs in certain months, such as July and December when payroll must be paid prior to the tuition checks arriving, to borrow to meet their needs.

A-591 (Voss, Malone) NJEA supports this legislation, which would allow teachers working under a technology education endorsement in public schools to redeem student loan expenses over a period of five years. This bill was reported out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

NJEA Convention News

The NJEA Convention is the largest professional development event of its kind in the world. It consists of two primary experiences: the exhibit floor and workshops.

In Halls A, B, C, and D, you will find hundreds of exhibitors. Are you searching for a new textbook? You'll find most major textbook publishers on the exhibit floor. Thinking about adding a field trip to your curriculum? Many of New Jersey's great educational destinations will have a booth. Looking for new fundraising idea? Then visit "the floor"—you may even get some free samples!

Many of New Jersey's colleges have booths, as do producers of educational products, special interest groups and professional organizations. Do you want to apply for a Hipp grant to fund a special classroom project? Visit the Great Ideas Forum and talk to last year's Hipp Grant winners. Want to learn more about all that NJEA has to offer? Visit the Services Center, where you can speak to someone about everything from AID-NJEA to "Classroom Close-up, NJ," NJEA's Emmy-winning television show.

A new feature at the 2008 Convention will be the Technology Integration Showcase. NJEA and the N.J. Center for Teaching and Learning will sponsor this area on the exhibit floor so that NJEA members can share their best practices in using technology in the classroom. Program proposals are due on May 15; for more information, contact Annalisa Russell at arussell@njea.org.

Needless to say, you'll need comfortable shoes on the Convention floor, and don't forget your wallet! Many of the booths feature vendors selling their wares—you might find something for your classroom—or for you!

You should set aside several hours to peruse the floor—perhaps more. But don't forget the hallmark of the NJEA Convention—great workshops. This year's event will feature over 300 offerings. There is truly something for everyone, regardless of grade level or subject matter. Educational Support Professionals are urged take part in the ESP Career Development programs; there are even special events for our student and retired members!

As you may know, this year's workshops will be organized so that attendees can choose a strand of seminars most appropriate for their classroom. NJEA has identified relevant learning strands to help educators prepare for the emerging issues and demands of the 21st century. All sessions will be assigned to one or more of these learning strands, which are:

Core Subjects	Learning and Thinking Skills	Life Skills
Global Awareness	Information/Communications Technology	21st-Century Assessments

These strands have been adapted from "A State Leaders Action Guide to 21st Century Skills: A New Vision for Education," produced by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills in April 2007. New Jersey has recently joined the Partnership, known as P21, in the coming months. To learn more about P21, visit www.21stcenturyskills.org and look for an article in your September Review.

Food is back!

Know what else you can do in the Convention Center? Grab a bite to eat! After a four-year hiatus, food service will once again be provided to NJEA members inside the Atlantic City Convention Center. No longer will you have to leave the convention center to wait in long lines at area restaurants.

What has brought about this welcome change? The Atlantic City Convention Center has ended its contract with Aramark, a company with a history of privatizing jobs previously held by NJEA members. During the years that Aramark held the contract, NJEA could not allow it to profit from our convention. Ovation, a division of Comcast-Spectator, is the center's new food service vendor. If you've eaten at a Philadelphia Flyers or Sixers game, you've already had a taste of what they have to offer.

So leave your brown bags at home. Enjoy everything the NJEA Convention has to offer without losing precious time searching Atlantic City for a decent lunch.

