

UTEA



Eagle's Eye

Vol. XVI, No. 4

Union Township Education Association

September 2006

State Budget Funds Pensions

NJEA President Joyce Powell's words at the May 2006 meeting of the NJEA Delegate Assembly proved prophetic. "This will not be your typical summer," Powell had said.

The summer of 2006 was indeed a busy one for NJEA members. Faced with a State budget crisis, members lobbied their elected leaders through rallies, e-mails, letters, phone calls, and postcards to protect their hard-earned pensions and promised post-retirement medical benefits. They converged on NJEA headquarters as well to prepare themselves for a sustained effort to ensure that public schools are fully funded.

"By any measure, the June 19 rally at the State House to preserve the \$1.2 billion payment proposed for pensions and retiree's health benefits was a huge success," said Powell.

NJEA, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), set a goal to bring 5,000 members to the State House for the rally. The crowd was estimated at twice that number.

"I don't blame one person or one party for the mess the State is in," Powell said at the rally. "Pension neglect was a problem when Republicans were in power, it was a problem when the parties shared power, and it's been a problem with Democrats in power."

Powell praised Gov. Corzine's then-proposed budget, which included the first significant pension contribution in over a decade. "The governor has proposed a good, responsible budget, a budget without gimmicks. It's time for both parties to get behind him and make sure that the budget gets passed," Powell said.

Members also sent more than 47,000 post cards, wrote over 8,000 e-mails, and placed countless phone calls to New Jersey legislators to ensure that the state kept its promise to fund post-retirement medical benefits and pay its contribution to the pension fund.

The result: In July Gov. Corzine signed a budget bill that put \$1.2 billion into the State's pension funds and benefits programs – more than the State had contributed in the last 10 years combined.

Township of Union Education Foundation

With the start of a new school year coming very quickly, I wanted to be sure to give you the most current information about the Education Foundation. We will have several activities planned in the next few months.

Wednesday, October 11, 2006-Eat At Benningans, Rte 22 W. Springfield, NJ from 4:30 pm until closing. Have food and fun and a proceeds of the profits will go to the Foundation. Always a good time and you don't have to cook that night! Just be sure to put your receipt in the special box and you can have fun and benefit the children in our schools at the same time.

We are selling tickets again this year for the **Sunday, November 19, 2006 "Evening of Giving" at Menlo Park Mall**. Ticket holders only can shop from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm with special bargains, prizes, entertainment and fun. Always a great night. Tickets are \$10.00.

If you have any questions, please contact me-Susan Lipstein-908-851-9869.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all proceeds go to grants to staff in our school district for creative and innovative programs for our kids. We have given out over \$43,000 in the past 5 years. Please help us to continue this success!

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT – Brian Shanahan, UHS
 VICE PRESIDENT – David Shaw, UHS
 TREASURER – Bill Weiss, Kaw
 SECRETARY – Marie Krueger, Kaw
 NEWSLETTER – Andy Pfeifer, Franklin
 ESP – Cathy Sharp, Battle Hill
 SOCIAL – Nicole Ciampi, Livingston
 GRIEVANCE (Elem) – Kristin Alvarez, Liv
 GRIEVANCE (UHS/MID) – Charlie King, UHS
 GOOD/WELFARE – Josephine Palumbo, UHS
 PHILANTHROPIC – David Arminio, Kaw
 MEMBERSHIP – Michael Cohan, Kaw
 MEMBERSHIP (UHS) – Daniel DeMarco, UHS
 PAC/LEGISLATIVE – Joe Canarelli, Kaw/Burnet
 ADMIN. ADVISORY – Jim Grossi, UHS
 ELECTIONS – Laura Torres, HC
 PRIDE – Frank Palumbo, C5
 PRIDE CO-CHAIR – Jill Adams, C5
 NEGOTIATIONS - Jim Grossi & Cathy Sharp
 HEALTH & SAFETY – Kathy Brooks, UHS

UTEA URL:

www.geocities.com/njutea



Association Representatives

Head Reps

UNION HIGH – Greg Solla & Rob Brennan
 BURNET – James Frazier
 KAWAMEEH – Kristen Mellage
 CENTRAL 5 – John Zurka
 FRANKLIN – Lynn Vollmuth
 CONN. FARMS – Elaine Faulks
 LIVINGSTON – Sue Doyle
 H. CALDWELL – Laura Torres
 BATTLE HILL – Cathy Sharp
 WASHINGTON – Jackie Cunningham
 SPECIAL SERVICES - Linda Lozito

Classified Section

Mausoleum Crypt for Sale: Don't wait until it's too late! NEW, single large crypt (inside location) at Hollywood Cemetery, Union. Going price is \$9000+, this sale \$7000 or best offer. Only serious reply!

Call Andy Pfeifer 908 719-1283

UTEA Meeting Calendar

October		
Thursday	05	Executive Committee
Thursday	12	Rep. Council
November		
Thursday	02	Executive Committee
Thursday	16	Rep. Council
December		
Thursday	07	Executive Committee
Thursday	14	Rep. Council
January		
Thursday	04	Executive Committee
Thursday	11	Rep. Council

Dates to Remember

NJEA New Member Day Wed., Sept. 20
 Fall Begins Saturday, September 23
 Rosh Hashanah Fri.-Sun., Sept. 22-24
 Yom Kippur Monday, October 2
 Columbus Day Monday, October 9
 National Boss Day Monday, October 16
 Mother-in-law Day Sunday, October 22
 Daylight Saving SetBk Sunday, October 29
 Halloween Tuesday, October 31
 All Saints Day Wednesday, November 1
 Election Day Tuesday, November 7

Newsletter Input

Andy Pfeifer – Franklin School
apfeifer@twpunionschools.org

Fax 908 851-6792

E-mail TEXT and/or PICTURES
utea_eagleseye@hotmail.com

Business Card Advertisement

Members-free for first issue
 Non-member-\$5.00 per issue



Please include your e-mail address with all correspondence

UTEA The Eagle's Eye

EDITOR

Andrew B. Pfeifer

NJEA Launches New, Improved Website

www.njea.org

A new navigation bar item called “Members” provides easy assistance in logging on to the Members Only section. The section includes a preview of what can be found in the Members Only section, as well as help if you have forgotten key log-in information.

Top Ten Reasons to visit www.njea.org

10. Change your address or phone number in your personal profile
9. Take an e-Learning course for PD credit
8. Subscribe to one of NJEA’s informative e-Newsletters
7. Send an email to your legislators
6. Print out money saving coupons
5. Enter the monthly Web Giveaway
4. Register for NJEA conferences
3. Apply for a Hipp or Pride grant
2. Submit an idea for NJEA’s television show
1. Get the latest news in education



Free Poster Set

Designed for use in all grades, the One World Poster Set includes 10 full-color posters and an accompanying teacher’s guide with standard-based lesson plans for language and creative arts. Remind students about their responsibilities to one another in our increasingly interdependent world. Free for all teachers.

www.teachingtolerance.org/neaposters



Grievance Chairs

Charlie King
Union High School
UHS and Middle

Kristin Alvarez
Livingston School
Elementary

Grievances... Active... Past and Present

1. Elementary teachers throughout the district were required to proctor the Terra Nova make-up tests on their prep periods without any form of compensation. (Article 6.02.4)
Filed at Level II. (Superintendent)
2. After conferences with Horizon representatives and numerous phone calls and e-mails, a number of our members are still experiencing problems with health insurance coverage and deductibles. (Articles 15.07.1 and 15.02.2)
Filed at Level II. (Superintendent)
3. A member recently experienced a miscarriage during her fifth month of pregnancy and is requesting that the 5 sick days that she used be reinstated and replaced with 5 days personal leave for death in the immediate family. (Article 12.04)
Filed at Level II. (Superintendent)

Legislative Update

A-515 (Bateman, Biondi) passed the full Assembly by a vote of 80-0 and now moves to the Senate for consideration. This legislation would address two long standing concerns regarding criminal record checks for volunteers working in our schools. First, is it mandatory that volunteers need to be required to have criminal record checks? If so, who should pay – the volunteer or the district? Based on a recent recommendation of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission, all such record checks are to be a permissive option for boards of education to determine. However, should boards adopt policy requiring unpaid volunteers to receive background checks, the bill also follows the commission’s recommendation requiring the reimbursement to the applicant for costs incurred. NJEA worked with the sponsors in amending the legislation to establish a standardized procedure in sending-receiving school districts for maintaining consistent rules and protocols on behalf of the students’ safety.

Pride

Since 1994, NJEA has conducted the PRIDE in Public Education campaign, a statewide effort to share public education successes with all New Jerseyans and build strong community support and involvement in our public schools. As part of its campaign, NJEA provides grants to its local/county affiliates for projects that bring the public schools out into the community and the community into the public schools.

Following is a list of completed and pending PRIDE activities from March 2006 to the present. If you have any suggestions for PRIDE activities, please feel free to contact Frank Palumbo at Central 5.



<u>Description of Activity</u>	<u>Date of Event</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Welcome Back to School Ad	9/02/06	\$1000
Open House Promo Giveaways	9/02/06	\$2400
UHS 5th. Qtr. Club Booster	Pending	\$ 100
Fightin' Farmers 5K Booster	Pending	\$ 100
Members of Chambers of Commerce	Pending	\$ 200
Hang UTEA Banner/Am. Ed. Wk.	Pending	\$ 250
Am. Ed. Wk. Ad Union Leader	Pending	\$1000
UHS Wrestling Team Booster	Pending	\$ 100
Union Tree Lighting Program Ad	Pending	\$ 125
VFW Teener League Sponsor	Pending	\$ 200
Rotary Club Adopt a Bench	Pending	\$2500

**UCEA
INTRODUCES
WEBSITE!**

Visit us at unioncountyea.com.
Our webmaster, Ken Betros, has been working hard to create the site. Now, we will need your help to keep it up-to-date. Please send us reports on events and activities that your local sponsors. Let's show the rest of the counties what we are doing here in Union County.

Good and Welfare-May 2006

<u>BIRTH:</u>	<u>U.S. Savings Bond</u>	
High School	Chris Capodice	- Daughter
High School	Frank Napolitano	- Daughter
Kawameeh	Michael Zarabi	- Daughter

<u>MARRIAGES:</u>	<u>American Express Gift Certificate</u>
High School	Robin Magliacano

Reserve Your Hotel Room Online for the 2006 NJEA Convention

NJEA members who wish to reserve their hotel room online for the 2006 NJEA Convention may do so in the Members Only page of www.njea.org. and link to ACrooms.com. If you need assistance, please contact the AC Central Reservations Help Desk at 1-800-524-1706 (daily from 8 a.m. to midnight).

Save the Date - Union County Reception at the NJEA Convention, Thursday, November 9, 2006... 4-6 P.M. Atlantic City Sheraton, Crown Ballrooms IV & V



Dell Member Purchase Program-Attention K12 School District employees

Your school district has teamed up with Dell to provide you with exclusive discounts on Personal PCs. Save up to 12% when using your Member ID: KS29315111 (Call 877 377-0238 for details)

<http://www.njea.org/pdfs/DellPromotion.pdf>