

September 2022



MCEA
MERCERGRAM



County News

Upcoming Events

Election News



WELCOME BACK!

MCEA wishes you a successful start to the new school year. In this newsletter, you will find information about our county association.

MCEA AT THE NEA RA

Each summer, over 8,000 educators gather to debate the vital issues that impact American public education and set National Education Association (NEA) policy and agendas for the year ahead. After two fully virtual NEA Annual Meetings and

Representative Assemblies (RA), Mercer County continued to have a strong showing at NEA RA 2022. This year's RA was a hybrid model, and MCEA sent 35 Delegates from

all corners of our county. Twenty of the Delegates were in person in Chicago, and fifteen were virtual here at home. Our 35 delegates represent the almost 8,000 NEA/MCEA members. Our delegates had their voices and votes heard with those of educators from across New Jersey and the nation.
(continued on next page)

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Click Here to WIN MCEA GEAR!:

<https://forms.gle/KHAsHKGXdC6LeEZ96>

www.mercercountyea.org

The NEA RA is the world's largest democratic, deliberative body, and NJ delegates take their roles seriously. Each day of the RA, the NJEA delegation met bright and early for our state caucus. During these morning meetings, we discussed New Business Items (NBIs) of particular concern to our membership and voted on positions that helped inform our actions later in the day.

Throughout the day at the RA, delegates voted in real-time on the NBIs, NEA strategic plan and budget, legislative program, and resolutions. They participated in affinity and special interest caucuses during breaks, such as the Hispanic, Black, LGBTQI+, Urban Education, AAPI, and Women in Education caucuses. RA delegates also vote, by secret ballot, on proposed amendments to the NEA constitution and bylaws and elect NEA's executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the Board of Directors. This year, in-person delegates voted at the Convention Center, while virtual delegates voted by mail.

No RA would be complete without some special guests to break up the very long days of business. We were applauded and encouraged by comedians Sheryl Lee Ralph and Tyler James Williams from Abbott Elementary, who both have educator family members. Dolly Parton visited virtually to accept her Friend of Education Award. Last but not least, Vice President Kamala Harris came to Chicago to speak to us directly about how the Biden administration is working to support us and our integral role in Democracy. It seems paradoxical, but after five long days of work, we are more inspired than ever to make our association and public education work for us and for our students.

The virtual delegates had a chance to gather in our office to participate in the RA together. In this link to our own MCEA President, Grace Rarich introduces herself during a short break in the business.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/faigoCN6JtTxDYgz5>



Published by
Mercer County Education Association
MCEA Officers:
Grace Rarich.....President
Daniel Siegel.....1st Vice President
Patty Yapple.....2nd Vice President
Sandra Herrington.....Secretary
Ryan O'Donnell.....Treasurer



Committee Dates

2022-2023



The MCEA Executive Board is responsible for the management of the association and the coordination of the annual county program and meets six times throughout the year. The dates for this year are Sept. 15, October 6, December 8, February 2, April 20, and June 1.

The MCEA Representative Council meets five times throughout the year. Any member in good standing is welcome to attend with the permission of the president. The Rep Council will convene on: October 18, December 13, February 21, April 25, and June 13.

You're Invited!

MCEA PRIDE
(Public Relations)
 8/23 Planning Meeting
 10/4 Meeting
 10/25 Womanspace
 Communities of Light
 Reception
 11/1 Meeting
 1/10 Meeting
 2/7 Meeting
 3/7 Meeting
 4/24 Meeting
 TBD Social Justice Judging
 6/17 Juneteenth
 Celebration in Trenton

MCEA HCR
(Human & Civil Rights)
 9/22 Meeting
 10/27 Workshop:
 Community Cultural Wealth
 - Linguistic Capital
 11/17 Meeting
 1/26 Workshop: Building
 Respect in Diversity
 Virtual 2/7 Workshop:
 Inclusive Curricula
 2/23 Meeting
 3/30 Workshop: LGBTQ+
 Curriculum
 4/27 Meeting

MCEA LAT
(Legislative Action)
 9/29 Meeting
 10/2 Canvassing for
 Congressman Andy Kim
 10/11 Statewide Virtual
 10/20 GOTV Pizza &
 Postcards
 10/29 Canvassing for
 Congressman Andy Kim
 11/29 LAT Committee
 1/24 LAT Committee
 2/28 Statewide Virtual
 3/21 LAT Committee
 4/19 LAT Dinner
 5/31 Statewide Virtual

To get involved :

<https://forms.gle/cWjduGamrisG5Ca16>.

just breathe

Professional Development & Technology Workshops

- 9/21 Universal Design for Learning
- 10/12 Parent Conferences
- 11/30 X,Y,Z's of Retirement (not PD)
- 12/6 Screencastify
- 1/18 Mindfulness Matters
- 2/2 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Part 1
- 2/15 Flip Grid
- 3/1 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Part 2
- 5/3 X,Y,Z's of Retirement (not PD)

MCEA offers these Professional Development workshops in an effort to help meet the needs of our members. PD certificates are issued by NJEA and placed in your Learning file for downloading and safekeeping.

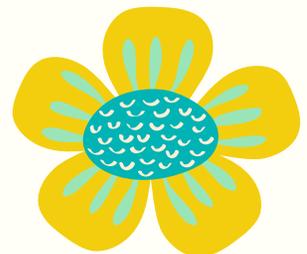
These are free workshops, but a \$20.00 deposit check is required to save your place. If you do NOT attend a spot you reserve, that check is cashed, otherwise, it is returned to you. Register on our website at www.MercerCountyEA.org

**Celebrating
National ESP DAY:
11/16/22
with an ESP Workshop
Stress and Time
Management**
(open to all members)

Calling All Local Membership Chairs!

Save the Dates:
Thursday, 10/13 4:30 pm Training
Thursday, 12/1 Virtual Meeting
Thursday, 2/9 Virtual Meeting
Thursday, 5/11 In-Person Meeting

**All Local Treasurers are
invited to an NJEA Training
on Thursday, 10/6/22**



*Light meals are served at all in-person events.
Pre-registration is required.*

PD: <https://forms.gle/VgyQJ8CmYSYS8q6z6>

Mid-Term Elections - Pro-Education Candidates

Now more than ever, we need to keep our NJEA-endorsed candidates in front and in the winner's column. MCEA will once again have members working on election campaigns by phone banking, writing postcards, canvassing, and texting to get the vote out (GOTV). This November we will be voting on our US Congressional Representatives. Our area is served by **Bonnie Watson-Coleman** and now with the new voting redistricting, **Andy Kim**. We must GOTV to re-elect these representatives! Our MCEA LAT has already planned a Pizza and Postcards event on **Thursday, October 20th** at Brother's Pizza on Rt. 33 in Hamilton from 2:30 - 5:00pm. Come write some postcards and enjoy some pizza with us. We also have a Member-to-Member phone banking opportunity to take place at the MCEA office on **Tuesday, November 1st**. Come anytime after 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm and make some calls and there is always some food involved. Check our website for more information.

REA CRISIS!

The Robbinsville Education Association is in a major bargaining crisis. They are among the lowest-paid teachers in the county, and the BoE continually puts out incorrect or misleading information to the community. A special thanks to the leadership of Ewing, Hamilton, and Lawrence for calling out the Board and their lies.

The REA has done a brilliant job of combatting the BoE lies, and has organized the community. As part of that process, they are hosting a community salary guide workshop on **August 31st @ 7:00 p.m. at the Hibernian Club (2419 Kuser Rd, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690.)**

Please pass this information on to any of your members who live in Robbinsville, your bargaining teams, or anyone else you think might be interested in supporting the REA. It would be great if locals from all over the county came out to show their support.

