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A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found at aceamsea.org.

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The



Advocate

President's Message >>>

Sick Leave Bank

If you have not become a member of the Sick Leave Bank and would like to do so, now is the time to enroll. Forms can be found and downloaded from our website at [Sick Leave Bank - Allegany County Education Association \(aceamsea.org\)](http://Sick Leave Bank - Allegany County Education Association (aceamsea.org)). Once completed, please send them to the ACEA office by courier. Please do so before September 27, so we can process it before the deadline of September 30.

Hey ACEA Artists!

If you dabble in creating cartoons, ACEA would love to feature your work in our newsletter. This is the last month before our cartoon subscription ends.



"When Mrs. Smith asks if anyone knows who discovered America, tell her Captain Jack Sparrow and the other Pilgrims came over on the Titanic. She gets all sad and depressed; it's hysterical!"

A Common Consideration

You may think it is just another common word - and like me - rarely take time in our daily lives to consider it or the other common aspects of life. We tend to devalue the common for the rarer and more exciting like new adventures or the latest cultural craze which give our brain a rush of dopamine. But there is a lot to be said for and about the common.

The common can be very grounding. In fact, a common is an area of ground that everyone is allowed to use, usually in or near a city or college. This idea of belonging somewhere or to something shared like a group of people - even if being labeled a commoner at times - can also be stimulating. For instance, I happen to be a proud member of the Steeler Nation and have been since the glory days of the 70's. On occasion, I get to attend a game with thousands of others who have the same interest in common and it is very exhilarating and powerful.

But I often wonder if this connection to the Steelers is probably less about football and more about the fact that my father was a real steeler who worked the furnaces at a Pittsburgh steel company throughout his life, and of which the team reminds me. I watched my father don his asbestos clothing to protect him from the extreme heat of the furnaces and do shift-work his entire life. He eventually became disabled from the demands of the work including continued exposure to asbestos. Even so, he appreciated the fact that he could count on the union negotiated benefits of continued healthcare, along with pension and life insurance. And it was only during his early life that *The Fair Labor Standards Act* was passed for which unions fought hard and long and that made such negotiations possible. *The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA)* is a United States labor law that established the right to a minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor protections. Labor Day is a tribute to those who labored then and now for such things.

While that era seems so far removed from us and our work is vastly different, we still reap what was sowed in that common ground of labor such as the 40 hour workweek, benefits like healthcare and pensions, and the opportunity to promote the common good for all of us. It is our job to protect and nurture it for now and for the future.

I am honored to be your union president, but I alone cannot accomplish the work of 875 mighty members in their own right. It takes "u" and "i" to make a "union." It is powerful when we join together to address common education concerns. So, please attend the fall Ten Minute Meeting in your building to be informed, get involved, and ready to make the best choices for public education, our students, and our profession.

In solidarity and service,

Kim

ksloane@mseanea.org

PAC Work in the Union

The job of an educator is never-ending: new curriculum to master, new students to get to know, and new expectations to meet. Much of it is out of your control, but who does control it? How can we change the decisions they are making to benefit the work being done in classrooms for students? That is where the political action committee (PAC) part of the union comes into play!

A political action committee, or PAC, is an organization who collects donations from members and strategically directs those funds toward campaigns, ballot initiatives, or legislative efforts. For educators, the *Fund for Children and Public Education* PAC collects voluntary contributions from association members and uses those funds for political purposes that support candidates that support public education. Your dues money is never used for politics-it is not allowed-so that is why a separate, voluntary fund has been established.

So why do we have to be political? The bottom line is so much of what impacts your day-to-day work in the classroom is tied to decisions made by elected officials. Look at who is making the decisions that impact YOU!

Local Board of Education	Salary, Contract, School Budget, Class Size, School Calendar, Duty-Free Lunch, Length of Workday, Health/Dental Insurance, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Due Process, Superintendent of Schools
County Commissioners	School Budget, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Superintendent of Schools
General Assembly	Retirement Benefits and Pensions, School Budget, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Due Process, Health and Safety Standards, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Compensation
Congress	Health and Safety Standards, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Compensation

The MSEA PAC gives you a chance to choose the people who are making the decisions-and who would not want the opportunity to impact the hiring of their own boss? It allows you to contribute to pro-education candidates and support the work being done by the union to advocate with people who are going to support you and not vote in their own self-interests. The job of an educator is intertwined with politics as you can see from the chart above, and the PAC in coordination with your local leaders helps to take one burden from your already over-filled plate. Consider giving to the MSEA Fund for Children and Public Education PAC to have a greater investment in the work being done for you!

Welcome New ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Victoria Adam	BE
Christie Bazarnic	BR
Katie Beeman	GC
Camryn Blacka	MS
Jennifer May-Blank	RE
Andrea Blough	WS
Bailey Bohrer	SP
Alyssa Bridgens	BR
Caleb Brown	FO
Wenda Castro	WA
Chaney Morgan	GC
Bethany Chapell	WM
William Coburn	AL
David Cotton II	BR
Samantha Crowe	SP
Gretchen Dix	BR
Adam Durst	CO
Sarah Ferguson	PA
Katelyn Fields	SP
Madeline Frank	SP
Kelsey Gallo	WS
Angie Garcia	FR
Whitney Hafer	SP
Alex Hay	CO
Brianne Helmstetter	BR
Emily Hickle	WM
Kyler Kamp	GC
Jordan Kenney	BR
Natasha Kinsinger	BR
Stephen Kurek	CO
Kelly Lasher	BE
Stephanie Lewis	BE
Niki Logsdon	MR
Shelby Maltba	SP
Madeline Martin	WA
Kristen Massey	MS
Brandon McCormick	SP
Cherianne Menges	GC
Rebecca Meyers	WS
Haylee Morton	SP
Shawnee Poche	CV
Gabrielle Salas	CO
Kelly Sandok	AL
Faith Sentelle	SP
Payton Sharpless	CW
Kaitlin Shirko	CV
Sophia Shively	CW
Kaylynn Shockey	FO
Brice Simpson	BR
Michael Staggars	MR
Tristan Stahlman	WM
Casey Swart	SP
Roger Walker	BR
Robert Wallace	WM
Michelle Williams	BE
Kateland Wilson	BL
Allison Zimmerman	WT

Welcome New ACEA Members!

Unit 4

Kirby Butler	AL
Tina Goss	BL
Gregory Weinberger	SP
Logan Winebrenner	BR

Don't forget the deals and discounts from NEA Member Benefits at

<https://www.neamb.com/>

What do Heinz Baked Beans, Black Box Wines, Suddenly Salads, Unscrustables, Pepsi, Frito-Lays, and Ball Park Franks have in common? While many of these products may be part of your Labor Day Picnic, they are also UNION MADE IN AMERICA! Check out the [complete list compiled by the AFL-CIO](#) through the link in the electronic version and under the Member Resources page of our newly updated website at aceamsea.org/. By supporting our fellow union members we make all of us stronger.