

In this issue >>>

President's Message

2024 ESP Day!

MSEA Convention 2024

Coexisting

Toys For Happiness 2024

# Allegany County Education Association

13145 Warrior Drive

P.O. Box 5179

Cresaptown, Maryland 21505-5179

T: 301-729-8280 F: 301-729-4834

[aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org)

A full color electronic version of this newsletter can be found on our website.

November 2024



The



# Advocate

President's Message >>>

## Let's Talk Turkey



I believe that turkeys have been misunderstood and under appreciated among the species here in North America. As natives of our continent, turkeys are actually very intelligent, sensitive and highly social animals. Even Benjamin Franklin extolled the qualities of the turkey in a [letter](#) to his daughter, Sarah, in 1784 in which he suggested it should have been the symbol of the new confederation instead of the Bald Eagle.

Similarly, we humans are very intelligent, sensitive and highly social animals. Hence, on this day after the election, and given the statistics and polls of the last few weeks, half of us are probably elated today, while the other half of us are feeling quite the opposite.

We also tend to analyze our participation going forward based on the outcome. Like turkeys, we each have unique voices, all of which are valuable and crucial to the process of governing. So, I encourage you to respect both the process designed by our founding fathers, as well as each other - as we strive to heal and move forward.

I will leave you with the words of another founding father to consider-James Madison- regarding the importance of the process and our involvement, and urge you to remain engaged and active in the governing of our association, our community, and our country.

*"If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.*

*A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions. This policy of supplying, by opposite and rival interests, the defect of better motives, might be traced through the whole system of human affairs, private as well as public." (Madison, 1788)*

Excerpt from *The Federalist Papers*: [Federalist 51](#)

In solidarity and service,

Kim

[ksloane@mseanea.org](mailto:ksloane@mseanea.org)

November 20,



2024, is...

### Education Support Professionals Day



#WeLoveOurESPs

# 2024 MSEA CONVENTION and RA



Six ACEA elected delegates faithfully attended the 2024 MSEA Convention and Representative Assembly in Ocean City, MD on October 18 and 19. If you would like to attend the 2025 MSEA Convention and RA as an ACEA delegate, **you must be nominated and elected** during our 2024 election cycle which is in the nomination phase now. If interested, please contact the ACEA office for more information, or go directly to our website at [aceamsea.org](http://aceamsea.org) and find the [2025 ACEA Election Nomination Form](#) to complete and submit before November 22.

Pictured L to R, are Kim Sloane (ACEA), Stewart Monroe, Jr. (CCTE), Kelly Griffin (SP) Jill Bell (WM) Deb Weisenmiller (MS/WM) and Amy Duncan (WM).

## COEXISTING



We are deep into the fall season, a time of gatherings and celebrations with the families we were born into and the families we choose. While some of these gatherings are harmonious, some can be a source of tension and conflict, no two people

are the same, thankfully, and this comes with its own challenges when we are navigating tough waters in conversations and social situations. Coexisting can be tough, but it is possible.

One of the best examples of coexisting is in this picture of Munchie (turkey) and Scout (dog). Both are sitting obediently at the feet of their owner, ACEA member Joe Thompson. While you would think that Scout would be nipping at the turkey's heels, they have found peace and comfort in the presence of one another. Now do not get me wrong, it has taken some growing pains to get here, but now they are living happily together on the top of the mountain with the rest of their flock (another turkey, many happy chickens, a cat, and their humans).

Our local association consists of 875 individuals bringing unique backgrounds, positions, and beliefs with them. While we may not always agree with one another on every issue, there are a few items on which we can coexist. We can agree that we can have a positive impact on the lives of the students we work with each day no matter what our role is in the county. We agree that every student deserves a quality education no matter what their background. We agree that our members work diligently to provide that quality education against sometimes insurmountable odds. We agree that every person in our school community deserves to be treated with kindness, compassion, and respect. Finally, we agree that when we work together to the greatest extent possible, amazing things happen in our schools.

This season we are thankful for each of our 875 members and their commitment to the students of Allegany County. Our diverse backgrounds and interests are what make our association strong, and when we effectively coexist, we demonstrate our power. We hope you find some time to rest, enjoy time with your family, maybe eat some turkey (not Munchie), and know that you are valued as a unique part of our local! Happy Thanksgiving!

## Toys For Happiness!



Since 2005, ACEA (formerly ACTA), in conjunction with ACPS, has hosted an annual Denim Day for Toys for Happiness collection to support this local charity and help spread the spirit of giving in our community. Over the past 19 years, this event has collected more than 5,000 toys and \$33,000 dollars in donations for this worthy cause!

This year, **Tuesday, December 3** will be designated as the **Denim Day for Toys for Happiness**. On this day, toys and monetary donations (cash or checks) will be accepted at each work location and can be given to one of your ACEA building representatives or another designated individual. These will then be forwarded to ACEA to document and deliver. Please note that checks should be made out directly to "Toys For Happiness".

We encourage staff to consider making a \$5 minimum donation. In exchange for your support of this event, Mr. Blank has once again agreed to permit the wearing of seasonal garb and denim to work on this day. So, dust off those ugly sweaters for a beautiful reason, and let's make this 20<sup>th</sup> year the best one ever!