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2024 ACEA and MSEA Elections
ACEA Retirement Seminars

Allegany County Education Association

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

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The



Advocate

2025 Election Edition >>>

2025 ACEA and MSEA Elections are CONCURRENT!



ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, in the near future, or in a few years, please feel free to attend one of our virtual informational sessions on Wednesday, January 29, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseane.org who will register you and send the Zoom link to you a day before the seminar.

Last year, for the first time, ACEA joined the MSEA Election cycle so that both ballots will come to you at the same time from MSEA, instead of two separate elections. It is our hope that more members will exercise their membership right to vote and we wanted to simplify this process as much as possible. Candidates for MSEA offices are highlighted in the January edition of MSEA's *The Action Line* and will be available on the MSEA website at <https://marylandeducators.org/elections-nominations>.

We heard from several candidates for MSEA Offices at our January 13 ACEA RA, made recommendations for our membership at that RA meeting, and which are being shared by individual letter to each member along with this newsletter.

As for the ACEA portion of the election, ACEA holds an election every year. During even numbered years, the elections are conducted for the ACEA Officers. During odd numbered years, the elections are conducted for ACEA Executive Board members. However, ACEA elects members every year to serve as NEA Delegates and MSEA Delegates as allotted. Nominees must both accept the nomination AND meet the requirements of our [ACEA Bylaws](#) to be considered viable candidates by the ACEA Nominations and Elections Committee. A special thank you to each of our ACEA Nominations and Elections Committee members for their service to our members in this vital role.

WORKSITE VOTING GROUPS

Each worksite/building will be considered a single voting group EXCEPT for the following combined groups:

GROUP 1: Central Office, Maintenance, and Operations

GROUP 2: Mt. Ridge and ReStart

GROUP 3: CCTE and Transportation

GROUP 4: Fort Hill and CBTP

PLEASE VOTE!

Your ACEA leadership and building representatives will be ready and willing to help you accomplish this should you need any assistance. In addition, the ACEA RA voted that the **worksite voting group** which has the highest percentage of members who vote in this election will receive a sponsored visit from...Steeple City Coffee! This will be scheduled for the March 3 Parent Conference Day to maximize opportunity for all. Last year, Beall Elementary won with an 73.17% voting rate! Who will win this year?!? Be sure to vote!

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| <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director, MSEA Delegate and NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Lacy Dickel Westside Elementary</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director, MSEA Delegate and NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Amy Duncan Westmar Middle</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director, ACEA ESP Executive Director, MSEA Delegate and NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Greg Weinberger South Penn Elementary</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director, MSEA Delegate and NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Shawnee Poche Cash Valley Elementary</p>  |
| <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director:</i></p> <p>Joe Thompson Fort Hill High</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director and ACEA ESP Executive Director:</i></p> <p>Susan Sommers South Penn Elementary</p>  | <p>My name is Greg Weinberger, and I want to thank you for considering my candidacy. Although new to Allegany county, I am not new to MSEA or to representing my colleagues. Prior to my move to ACPs I worked in Garrett county and was involved in the union there, most recently as the ESP vice president as well as a member of their contract negotiations team. I started my career in education in Kentucky where there was no representation, so I understand the value and necessity of union work. I would love the opportunity to serve and work for my fellow members of ACEA. Thank you again, for your consideration.</p> | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director:</i></p> <p>Chelsea Boor Fort Hill High</p>  |
| <p>Dr. Joseph Thompson is the Band and Orchestra teacher at Fort Hill High School and serves on several committees. Joe is a 23-year member of the Allegany County Education Association, a former member of the Calvert Education Association, and a member of several National and State Music Teaching Associations and Groups. Joe completed his interdisciplinary Master's in 2010, focusing on Special Education and Business Management, and his Doctorate in Public School Leadership in 2020. Having taught middle school for four years and high school for nineteen years, he brings a varied viewpoint to discussions. Joe is serving ACEA as a Board of Directors member and seeking re-election.</p> | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director, MSEA Delegate and NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Dawn Riley-Shepetuk Allegany High</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director and ACEA ESP Executive Director:</i></p> <p>Julie Crawford Operations</p>  | <p>Chelsea has been a Spanish teacher for the past ten years, working at both Washington Middle and Fort Hill during that time. She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, which has given her a wealth of knowledge in educational law and state level educational requirements. She has always been actively involved in the union and is currently a building representative. She says, "I believe the union should work for our members to provide a better work environment and lighten the great burden currently placed upon educators. If elected, I will work to help do just that."</p> |
| <p>Nominee for <i>ACEA Executive Director:</i></p> <p>Jill Bell Westmar Middle</p>  | <p><i>Fellow ACEA Members, It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as one of your ACEA Board Members for several years. However, while I am willing and intended to continue in this capacity, other extenuating circumstances will require my time and attention elsewhere, and I will have to decline the office if elected. While it is too late to withdraw my name from the ballot, I thank you for your support and understanding, and ask you to please vote for the other qualified candidates for the office of ACEA Executive Directors.</i></p> <p>Shawnee McElfish</p> | <p>Nominee for <i>NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Debra Weisenmiller Mt. Savage/westmar Middle</p>  | <p>Nominee for <i>NEA Delegate:</i></p> <p>Holly Itzo Mt. Ridge High</p>  |