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SPARKS 2025

Allegany County Education Association

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

March 2025

The



Advocate

And the winners are...

MSEA ELECTION:	ACEA ELECTION:	HIGHEST VOTING GROUP:
MSEA Board of Directors -At Large	Seven ACEA At-Large Executive Directors and MSEA Delegates Elect (June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2027):	***** <i>With a spectacular voting turnout of 79.63%, our fellow ACEA Members at FORT HILL earned a visit from Steeple City Coffee on March 3rd during the Parent-Conference Day with a special treat on ACEA... Congratulations!</i> *****
Tanya Martin	Amy Duncan	
Jacob Bennett	Joe Thompson	
MSEA Board of Directors -Region 1	Chelsea Boor	
Cindy Porter	Lacy Dickel	
MSEA Board of Directors -Region 5	Greg Weinberger	
Dr. Donna Christy	Dawn Shepetuk	
NEA Director, MSEA Board of Director, Delegate to NEA and MSEA RA	Jill Bell	
Chad Wilson	Two ACEA ESP At-Large Executive Directors and MSEA Delegates Elect (June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2027):	
Sunta Harris	Susan Sommers	
*All above elected MSEA leaders are also elected as Delegates to NEA and MSEA RAs from August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2028	Julie Crawford	
	ACEA Delegates to MSEA RA 2025:	
MSEA Delegate to NEA RA 2025:	Holly Itzo	
Kimberly Sloane	Shawnee Poche	



Welcome New ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Amy Alderton
Sarah Taylor

Fort Hill
CCTE



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, April 30, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseane.org and she will register you and send the Zoom invite to you a day or two in advance of the seminar. Please note that these are the last sessions to be scheduled for this year.

For the Health of It!

As the cost of health insurance continues to trend up across the state, here are a few pieces of advice for both the short and long term:

* Our Cigna plan covers one annual physical per calendar year at 100% with an in-network provider. Be sure your provider knows to code this accordingly to be sure to get this benefit.

* Try to accumulate at least eighty (80) personal illness days for unforeseen long-term medical needs. Having these will keep you covered under the insurance plan without your share of premium costs during that time. Also, if never needed, they have monetary value through both the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, and ACPS upon retirement.



WESTERN MARYLAND ED PRACTICES SUMMIT

HEALTHY &
EMPOWERED SCHOOLS:
Reclaiming and Reframing
Public Education

Location - Washington County Public Safety Training Center
18350 Public Safety Place, Hagerstown, MD 21740
(Easy access from Interstate 70; take the Sharpsburg Pike exit.)

AUGUST
FRIDAY | 8 | 10 AM - 4 PM
2025

- Sessions for Educational Support Personnel, Teachers, and A&S Staff
- Lunch & Early Bird Registration Incentive Provided by **Marathon Health**

Drive In for the Day & Drive Home By Dark



OR

Stay for a **Fireworks Friday** Baseball Game w/the Boxcars! First 50 registrants will receive free tickets to the game, compliments of Marathon Health.

Planned by & for MSEA Members in
Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties



2025 ACEA SPARKS

On Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1, seven ACEA members took part in our ACEA SPARKS Adventure at MSEA in Annapolis. During the two days, participants had the opportunity to explore the multi-faceted work of our association at all levels. Pictured L to R: Greg Weinberger, Amy Ditto, Brad Ditto, Kim Sloane, Kate Roberts, Julie Kostovick, Veronica Cosby, Shawnee Poche, Deb Weisenmiller, Dawn Shepetuk and Cresta Kowalski.