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# 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



## The V.I.P. Edition



The most important aspect of our association is our members...you! As an organization comprised of public education staff, we organize to advocate for the best working conditions for staff and learning conditions for our students. We are the experienced experts at our jobs, and the association not only provides a voice, but amplifies it through our collective power. As a democratic organization, WE are empowered to become our own heroes. This edition is dedicated to those who are already using their superpowers in service to ACEA.



These heroes representing Westernport, Westmar, George's Creek, and Mt. Ridge staffs were presented with a Governor's Citation at the September 9 Board of Education meeting for their "outstanding services to the citizens of this State" during the May 13<sup>th</sup> flooding.

## 👉 Rockin' Representatives! 🎸

The ACEA building representatives are arguably the most important people in our association. According to our ACEA Bylaws, each building is entitled "...to one association representative for each ten members or major fraction thereof..." Your current volunteers can be found in the list to the right. However, as you can see, there is room for many more. If you would like to know more or join your building representative team, we would be very happy to answer any questions that you may have. Reach out by email or by calling the ACEA office at 301-729-8280.

Allegany HS	Dawn Shepetuk (BOD) and Tammy Twigg
Beall EL	Michelle Saville (BOD) and Susan Sommers (BOD)
Bet Air EL	Laura Alkire
Braddock MS	Chris Kellermeyer and Whitney Stoner
Cash Valley EL	Shawnee Poche (BOD)
CCTE	Stewart, Monroe, Jr. (BOD) and Tom Krukowsky
Central Office	Jason Huber
Cresaptown EL	Donica Evans
Flintstone EL	Lisa Nasser
Fort Hill HS	Chelsea Boor (BOD) and Mark Kowalski
Frost EL	Tiffanie Hardman and Amy Eber
George's Creek EL	Diane Sipple, Bobbie Kirkwood and Melissa Kealy (BOD)
John Humbird EL	Kelly Oyer and Veronica Cosby
Mountain Ridge HS	Holly Itzo
Mt. Savage EL-MS	Peggy King and Debra Weisenmiller (Treasurer)
Northeast EL	Chelsea Carr
Parkside EL	Bailey Lutton
RESTART (at Eckhart)	Raymond McCoy
South Penn EL	Kelly Griffin (BOD) and Gregory Weinberger (BOD)
Washington MS	Shawnee McElfish
West Side EL	Crystal Wilhelm and Lacy Dickel (BOD)
Westernport EL	Beth Chapman
Westmar MS	Jennifer Ritchie and Amy Duncan (BOD)
Maintenance	Amy Krumpach
Operations	Julie Crawford (BOD)
Transportation	Jeffrey Rosenberger

## Welcome new ACEA Members!

### Unit 4

DAYLIN	ABE	SP
ALISSA	DECARLO	WM
CARLIE	FLOWERS	CCTE
ANGELA	HARDMAN	WM
KATHERINE	LICK	JD
ASHLEY	MYERS	GC
MICHAEL	POWELL	SP
BRITTANI	SCHADE	WS
KENDRA	WHARTON	JD

### Introducing Alicia Walz!



Alicia will be serving as Cresta's UniServ Intern this year through the NEA Fellowship

Organizing Academy. She is a secondary ELA and special education teacher who has worked in alternative education for 16 years, most recently in Washington County, MD, from where she commutes to ACEA and/or GCEA every workday. In addition, she has served her local as a building representative, association board member, MD delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly, middle school team leader, equity coach, and SIT facilitator. Welcome!

## Compassionate Solidarity from Our MSEA Colleagues! ♥



CAESS and ACEA Members at SLC 2025. Front and center in orange is CAESS President, Stacy Tayman.

As soon as the May 13<sup>th</sup> flooding hit the news, our MSEA colleagues across Maryland began asking how they could help. It took a few weeks to give them some verifiable ways to do so...and did they! In addition to our donation to the fund for those staff members who lost vehicles, collaborating with South Penn Staff on a luncheon for the Westernport Staff, and providing 10 large bins of classroom supplies to Westernport, MSEA granted ACEA \$2,000 which our Board of Directors chose to donate to the PTO account at M&T Bank. And while many more MSEA colleagues donated individually to the GoFundMe Vehicle Fund, the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff (CAESS) went above and beyond. Their CAESS Representative Assembly voted to donate \$500 to the relief efforts. Then, one of their members had *Savannah Bananas* tickets they offered up for raffle which raised \$451, so then CAESS added \$49 for a total \$1,000 donation! What amazing colleagues WE HAVE...THANK YOU [MSEA](#) and [CAESS](#)!!!

## Welcome new ACEA Members!

### Unit 1

ALEX	ARTHUR	WA
JESSICA	BISER	RE
PHILLIP	BORDER	WA
SARAH	CHAPMAN	BE
VERONICA	CRITES	WA
ALISON	CUTTER	NE
SARAH	DESHAIES	MS
STEFANIE	DUMPROFF	WS
JADISON	FAIRALL	JD
JOHN	FLANNERY	CCTE
TANYA	GOMER	FO
JESSICA	IMES	WS
NATHANIEL	KIDD	SP
JOSHUA	KIMBLE	RE
MALLERY	LATGIS	BE
LEILA	NASH	PA
CANDY	NESS	PA
LOREN	O'ROURKE	SP
HANNAH	REYNARD	JD
REBECCA	RIVER	FS
SHARON	SNYDER	SP
KATHERINE	STERN	BR
EVELYN	SWARTZ	JD
ALICEN	GREENWALD- STEELE	BE

## Save the Dates!

**ESP Organizing Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 21, 2025**  
**4:15-6 pm at the**  
**ACEA Office**

Join us for a dynamic time designed to educate and empower ESPs about the Bill of Rights campaign and the impact on contract negotiations during the 2025-2026 year.

**MD Teach Portal &**  
**Licensure Primer**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2025**  
**5:30-6:30 pm at the**  
**ACEA Office**

Join MSEA's Center for Education Policy and Practice to learn how the new system and terminology affect you and about the new, more flexible ways to be "licensed" to teach. We will also cover the new literacy and reading requirements and how they impact licensure as well.

### Sick Leave Bank:

### Enrollment Window Open NOW for a Limited Time

The Sick Leave Bank was established through contract negotiations in 1999 and began in the subsequent year 2000. The purpose was to create a bank of sick days for severe medical hardship such as catastrophic illness or serious accident that has depleted all accumulated sick leave and vacation days where applicable.

To join the SLB, you would be required to donate *two sick leave days* to the bank once, and complete the Sick Leave Bank Sign-up Form. The form can be found and downloaded from our website at [www.aceamsea.org](http://www.aceamsea.org), and can be found under the "Member Resources" tab. Once completed, you must return it to the ACEA to arrive no later than Friday, September 26, 2025, for processing before the enrollment deadline. Questions? Contact the ACEA office at 301-729-8280.

Don't forget to check out the online monthly deals just for members at [NEA Member Benefits!](#)