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Allegany County Education Association

13145 Warrior Drive

P.O. Box 5179

Cresaptown, Maryland 21505-5179

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

www.aceamsea.org

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

October 2025



The



Advocate

Welcome New ACEA Members!

Unit 1

Sarah Ellsworth	BE
Brett Gearing	MS
Shirley Guinn	CCTE

Unit 4

Allison Eirich	BE
Melissa Miller	BE

The October Odyssey

Odyssey [od-uh-see] Phonetic (Standard)IPA noun plural *Odysseys*

2. *(often lowercase), a long series of wanderings or adventures, especially when filled with notable experiences, hardships, etc.*

While it is hard to believe that it is already October, it has definitively arrived along with the annual odyssey of events that the month presents. Among them are Parent Conferences, the culmination of the first quarter with grades, homecoming and other festivities, member-focused events, appointment of our Negotiations Teams for both Unit I and IV, nominations for both ACEA and MSEA Elections, as well as our [MSEA Representative Assembly \(RA\) and Convention on October 17-18 at the Ocean City Convention Center](#).

It is at this RA that our elected ACEA delegates, as well as those from across the state, review, consider and vote on various business matters from resolutions, the crisis fund, endorsements, bylaw amendments, new business items and much more. Then, in the Spring of 2026, these same delegates will represent at the MSEA Spring RA to review and vote on the budget for the following two-year cycle.

Federal election law requires that all delegates be elected to be a representative at both the MSEA RA as well as the NEA RA (to be held in Denver, CO from July 3 to July 7, 2026). So, if you are interested in serving your colleagues in this way, please be sure to complete a [Nomination Form](#) between October 1 and November 21, 2025, and submit it to Nominations and Elections Committee by sending it to the ACEA before the deadline.

However, for non-delegate members, [MSEA has two days of workshops](#) planned with a full schedule on Friday, 10/17 and a morning slate on Saturday 10/18. Attendance at this year's workshops allows the participants to earn up to five (5) Professional Development Points applicable to re-licensing - all at no cost!

Whatever adventures you choose or encounter this month, I hope your personal and professional odysseys are more positive than [Homer's](#) was!

In solidarity and service,

Kim

ksloane@mseane.org

ACEA

Retirement Seminar



If you are an ACEA member considering retirement this year, in the near future, or in a few years, please plan to attend one of our virtual informational sessions on Thursday, October 30, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. If interested, please email Kim at ksloane@mseane.org for the Zoom link and associated documents. Additional sessions will be held in January and April or reach out for other scheduling options.



2026 Nominations and Elections Committee Timeline
For Election of ACEA Officers, and MSEA and NEA Delegates

- **September 9** - Present timeline to Board of Directors for approval
- **September 29** - send *Notice of Nominations and Elections* Postcards for ACEA Officers, MSEA and NEA Delegates to membership via U.S.P.S.
- **October 1** - Nomination forms available on our website at www.aceamsea.org for ACEA Elections and through MSEA's website at marylandeducators.org for MSEA Election.
- **November 11** - NEC presents report of nominees received to date to the RA and accepts nominations from the floor.
- **November 21** - nominations due to the NEC committee in the ACEA office or postmarked by 5:00 p.m.
- **December 2-5** - NEC Committee meets to review nominations and prepares notifications to nominees to submit bios and photos to MSEA for publication, as well as for *The ACEA Advocate*, and invites each nominee to address the January 12, 2026, ACEA RA. In addition, the NEC will prepare the ballot information in accordance with MSEA instructions and submit it by the deadline of January 9, 2026.
- **December 12** - Deadline for nominees to submit bios and photos to MSEA and ACEA for publication.
- **January 2026** - Publish list and/or biographical information of nominees in the January Newsletter.
- **January 13** - NEC presents the final report of nominees received to the RA; nominees are invited to address the members of the ACEA RA.
- **January 26-February 13, 2026** - Electronic voting window. Voting will take place from 9:00 a.m. on January 26, 2026, through 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026, when voting closes.
- **February 17** - The MSEA NEC meets to verify election results and notify ACEA.
- **March 9** - The ACEA NEC reports the results of the election to the RA.
- **March** - The results are shared with the membership through email, newsletter and/or the website.

Licensing, Learning and Lemonade

Are you confused about the difference between what used to be certification and is now called licensure? Are you concerned about whether you have what you need?

Fear not. 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
5:30-6:30 PM
ACEA OFFICE BUILDING

BRING YOUR COMPUTER!!

REGISTER USING THE QR CODE OR [HERE](#)

Questions? Call 301-729-8280

ACEA

Certificated Members!

Join us for **Licensing, Learning and Lemonade** as we demystify the new licensure portal including the various categories of licensure, how to properly enter your qualifying PD activities, and how the new literacy and reading requirements impact licensure, all while enjoying some lemonade and snacks. Please register using the QR code on the flyer to the left, or at <https://secure.ngpvan.com/Xs94x6FxlEaht5mqzwmyDg2>. Questions???? Call the office or email Kim or Cresta.

GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

\$

Alpha Delta Kappa, an International Honorary Organization for Women Educators provides **35 Innovation Grants** in the amount of \$300.00 each for **teachers with no more than ten years of teaching experience, who are not members of the organization.**

The purpose of this grant is to assist creative, innovative educators with the cost of supplies or services to enhance lessons. **The deadline to apply is November 15.**

More info can be found on the Alpha Delta Kappa website alphadeltakappa.org, under the tab "FOUNDATION", and then under "Awards, Grants, & Scholarships".

*Information concerning the local Alpha Delta Kappa group email jmhall@atlanticbb.net

Instructional Assistant Members!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our second monthly meeting at ACEA on Tuesday, October 21 from 4:15-6:15 pm. ACEA will provide refreshments as we discuss and plan for ESP Day and contract negotiations in November. Please plan to come and share your voice and power for positive change in this important year.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN for the 2026 ACEA and MSEA ELECTIONS!

ACEA Nomination Forms can be found and downloaded from our website at www.aceamsea.org. MSEA Nomination Forms can also be found and downloaded from our website at <https://marylandeducators.org/elections-nominations/>