

# EOEA INFORMER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE EAST ORANGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## From the President's Desk...

Fall breezes and autumn hues are in the air. The familiarity of the season brings some calmness in the midst of this pandemic. The new norm of teaching has been challenging. Despite the uncertainties of this time our focus remains the same; we want to give our students the best.

In our district we have been challenged with new curriculum changes, new learning platforms, building repairs, deep cleanings, social distancing, PPE, SGOs, lesson plans, grading, internet interruptions, and the list goes on. I want you to know that the EOEA Executive Board and I understand what you are dealing with. It takes resilience, tenacity, and determination to work as a professional educator in today's world.

We have to rely on one another to continue to run the course. I ask that you remember that we are in this together. We have to look out for one another and care enough to wear our masks and stay home when ill of any sort. If you are in the process of being tested for Corona Virus do not come into work until you know for sure that you are negative and have your doctor's consent to return to work. You must fill out the form everyday you enter a building. You must report if you have contracted the virus to your Administrator as soon as you know. Please read the East Orange School District Restart & Recovery Plan 2020-2021 for reporting protocols.

I ask that all members stay in contact with your Building Association Representative. They have been trained on the process for Accommodations and Leaves. If you had an accommodation denied you must contact the Superintendent asking why it was denied and what accommodation can be made.

Each school is supposed to have a Pandemic Committee, Leadership Team, and TALC. These groups should be operative to ensure that you have PPE and social distancing properly arranged in your building. If these committees are not active in your building contact your administrator and Building Association Representative.

Your concerns were presented to the Superintendent and his Senior Cabinet on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. Many of your questions regarding PPE, PD, and curriculum were answered. I will send the report from this meeting in a separate update so please check your email.



**Dr. Dawn Nichol-Manning,  
EOEA President**

We need Building Association Representatives for STEM Academy and PPS. This is a stipend position if interested please give me a call.

We are having some technical difficulties with the new email so please use the [eoea@aol.com](mailto:eoea@aol.com) to send messages until further notice.

The office is physically opened from 1pm to 5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. I can be reached from 10am to 5pm at 973-280-3547. I try to answer emails and calls as soon as I can. If you do not hear from me, please call again.

Stay safe and encouraged!

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Ms. Angel Boose, Vice President

Ms. Carolyn O'Connell, Treasurer

Mr. Keith Hinton II, Secretary

Mrs. Toi Hinton, Editor

## Vice President's Message

by Angel Boose

As we enter this fall season, remember that change is inevitable. There are many new changes we are being expected to make as we continue to teach our students in the virtual world. All change requires a process, so be kind to yourself as you adjust. You cannot do it all, just attempt to do your best.

The NEA and NJEA have endorsed Joe Biden for President. NEA is helping states around the country with phone banking and need you to volunteer. NJEA president Marie Blistan has called us to action. She's asking each member to volunteer to make at least 5 calls during the month of October. You can visit the following website to sign up for a phone banking opportunity: <https://www.mobilize.us/nea/>. It is more important than ever that we encourage people to vote.

There are many upcoming NJEA Members Benefits Webinars on topics such as: first-time home buying, student loan debt, and how to access member benefits. To register visit <https://www.njea.org/events/category/member-benefits/> and click on the calendar event you would like to register for.

The NJEA has decided to distribute wall calendars for the 2020-2021 school year, in lieu of a desk calendar. In order to receive your calendar you must request one by visiting this link: <https://www.njea.org/calendar-order/>. You will need your NJEA pin which can be found on your membership card. Your new card should have arrived in the mail to your home. The calendar includes virtual meetings, events, and trainings that you are entitled to attend as a dues paying member. Get involved, and take advantage of the opportunities available to you. Request your calendar today!

When you are communicating about Association business or concerns always use a personal email address. All EOSD email addresses are monitored and you want to keep your Association matters and concerns private.

Keep your contact information updated with the EOE office so we can ensure you don't miss out on receiving information.

If you have yet to receive text message updates via Remind, please contact your Association (Building Rep). You do not need to download the Remind app to join. You will need to simply text the code your Association Rep will provide you to 81010.

## Greivances

by Angel Boose, Chairperson

There are no grievances from the month of September.

Many teachers have reached out regarding concerns about accommodations and leaves. Please remember that when requesting accommodations, you must provide as much documentation as possible to support your request. If you are concerned about childcare or having to care for someone, you will have to apply for FMLA. Your request for an accommodation or FMLA can be denied based on need and the lack of documentation. Adhere to the deadlines given to you when applying and email the department of Labor Relations & Human Services any questions you may have

during the process. Having your correspondence in writing is always helpful in the event you need to file a grievance. The grievance committee meeting for November will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 3:45 pm.

## P.R.I.D.E

by Venus Yearwood

As we continue to move through our new norm. The pride committee would like to preserve some things that are familiar. For the month of October most of our students acknowledge Halloween and with all of our early childhood classrooms and special Ed. classrooms are reopening. The pride Committee would like to inform any member that teaches early childhood or elementary; the union office does have Halloween bags to distribute out to students. The union office hours are Mon. Tues. 1-5 and Thur. Fri. 1-5. You can stop by to pick up bags during those times before October 31.

Let's try to keep some normalcy alive.

## Government Relations

by Jacqueline White, Chairperson



Greetings Members!

### TAKE ACTION

#### 1) MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

October 13th is the last day to register to vote. If you have not received your ballot by now, call your County Clerk. Click the link for voter information such as how to complete & return your ballot and tracking your ballot. Also, be sure to express your opinion on the 3 questions that are on the ballot.

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

#### 2) REGISTER FOR PHONE BANKING EVENTS

1. Register Biden/Harris phone bank events on the next 4 Wednesdays - 7:00p

<https://www.mobilize.us/joebiden/event/326492/>

2. Register for Andy Kim phone bank events on:

- Tuesday the 13th & 20th - 5:30p-7:30p

<https://www.mobilize.us/kimforcongress/event/326530/>

- Thursday the 15th & 22nd - 5:30p-7:30p

<https://www.mobilize.us/kimforcongress/event/326534/>

3. Register for Amy Kennedy phone bank events on:

- Monday Oct. 26th from 5:00-7:00p

<https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/329208/>

4. Register for Tom Malinowski phone bank events until November 3rd.

<https://www.mobilize.us/malinowskiforcongress/event/318483>

5. Register for Mikie Sherrill phone bank events every

Wednesday at <https://www.mobilize.us/sherrillforcongress/>

### **3) TELL REPRESENTATIVES: DON'T DESTROY SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE**

Donald Trump has suspended collection of the payroll tax that funds Social Security and Medicare for the rest of this year—a backdoor approach to dismantling both programs as we know them. He has pledged to cancel the tax permanently if reelected—a move that would put the very existence of these essential programs at extreme risk. Email your senators and representative and tell them don't destroy Social Security and Medicare.

<https://www.njea.org/take-action-dont-destroy-social-security-and-medicare/>



### **SHARE THE NEWS**

#### **1) ECEA HAS BIDEN/HARRIS LAWN SIGNS**

Essex County Education Association has lawn signs for Biden/Harris and some of the other NEA endorsed candidates. Please call the office at 973-736-5650 to arrange to pick up a lawn sign.

#### **2) SAFEGUARDING YOUR VOTE: A JOINT MESSAGE ON ELECTION SECURITY**

Watch a PSA about the security of the 2020 elections. The Directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, National Security Agency, National Counterintelligence Security Center and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency speak candidly about the upcoming elections.

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-newsroom/item/2156-safeguarding-your-vote-a-joint-message-on-election-security>



## **EOEA HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (HSSC)**

**by Keith Hinton II, Chairperson**

The HSSC sent out two emails to the maintenance department requesting certifications and updates of all schools being ready for use. That letter was sent on August 27, 2020 and again on September 16, 2020. We are still waiting for a response but in the meantime Mr. Lambkin has been assuring the EOEA that issues that could possibly keep us from working have been resolved. Please keep in mind while you are reading this that when we left in March, COVID-19 was not in any schools except one. That school was cleaned and no one was allowed back until recently. I am asking that we continue to practice safety when in the buildings to avoid the spread of any germ especially COVID-19. Superintendent Hasan and Ms. Brooks (District BA) are inspecting all schools to ensure buildings are up to standard. Updates added to the list I previously sent last week are:

- We are working with the Work Environment Council (WEC) on obtaining the proper paperwork requested from the Board of education.
- Please inform your building administrator and head custodian about issues in your building before you call the EOEA. Trust me I will jump on it as soon as you send it to me.

- Do not try and be the custodian! We do not want any members getting injured. If something does not look right, notify office or custodian staff.
- New boilers and chillers have been either installed or are being installed as of 9-28-2020. The EOEA is waiting for certifications.

1. Wahlstrom (chiller)
2. Campus (HVAC)
3. Jackson (chiller)
4. Hart Complex (HVAC)
5. Bowser Annex and Main building (boiler and chiller)
6. Carver (New boiler)

Sweeps are back in effect. Schools will have issues worked on as an importance basis.

District is obtaining touchless products (water fountains, water coolers, paper towel dispensers to name a few) Roof Repairs are in the process of getting estimates.(All roofs have been assessed.)

Filters-Most key areas in school have been replaced (more filters are on the way)

## **Social/Communications**

**by Ashley Greene, Chairperson**

Greetings members! During these unprecedented times in teaching I hope you're all finding innovative ways to relieve your stress. I hope everyone is safe and healthy.

The EOEA Spring gift for members was distributed during the last week of September.

I hope every member wears his or her shirt with pride. We will remain union strong, and will always focus on pushing education forward. The building reps will continue to distribute the Polo shirts to the members in their buildings.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Upcoming Events: (subject to change or cancelation)

The social committee will also be hosting an event at the end of this month celebrating our unique creativity with a Virtual "Mask"arade Parade on Zoom. Please plan to join us on Friday, October 30, 2020, at 4 pm. Invitation details will circulate in a flyer. We are having a costume contest so dress to impress! The **BEST COSTUME** winner will receive a gift card to McLoone's Boat House.

Our 14th & 15th Annual Retirement Party will take place on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM, at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover, New Jersey. Tickets for guests of retirees will be \$50. I look forward to seeing as many members there as possible. This year's Retirement Dinner will be a combined celebration for both school years due to the Corona-19 pandemic.

**REMIND APP:** If you have received the invitation, please reply yes to receive text messages from the EOEA. If you did not receive the invite please send us an email stating your first and last name, school, and cell phone number, or see your Building Rep for the code to add yourself.

# FAST

## by Pansy Leblanc and Sharon Johnson, Chairperson

The committee has been working diligently on the Virtual Chat and Chew called, "Remote Learning 2020". The event will be held on October 15, 2020 @ 5:00 pm via zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the parents an opportunity to discuss the expectations of remote learning with a panel of association members. We would like to thank the following members for volunteering to be part of the panel: Mylene Brown-Social Worker, Juan Leonardo-Performing Arts Specialist, Michele Gaeta-Technology Teacher, Rosemarie Velez-Early Childhood Teacher, and Don Juan Wingard-5th Grade Teacher.

We're currently working on rolling out the book club in October. This year we have revamped the book club to be inclusive of the entire family. We look forward to you participating.

We have various activities for the remainder of the season and more information will be forthcoming.

We continue to desire members to participate in FAST and encourage you reach out if you have an interest in working with the FAST committee. Our next meeting will be held on November 12 via Google Meet at 3:30

## Membership

### by Annamaria Economidis, Chairperson

Greetings Members! Happy Fall!

You should have received your current NJEA membership card in the mail. If you did not, please go to [njea.org](http://njea.org) and update your profile. If you are unable to update your profile because you don't know your login information, you can click on forgot password and get a link emailed to you to reset your password. You can also get an electronic version of your membership card online under "My NJEA/Profile."

This year the convention is remote and registration for the convention is necessary for to receive credit for any workshops you attend. Certificates of attendance will only be emailed to you for the workshops you attend on the 5th and 6th.

Register early! Anyone registered by Oct. 15th (as long as supplies last) will receive in the mail a convention event box that will enhance your convention experience.

What remains true for the NJEA Convention, whether online or in person, is that it is a benefit of membership.

There is no charge to attend the NJEA Convention. Below, you will find the workshops offered at the 2020 Convention

- Advocacy
- Comprehensive Health/Physical Education
- English Language Learners
- Inclusive School Culture
- Instructional Strategies/Best Practices
- Language Arts/Literacy
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Special Education
- Technological Literacy
- Visual and Performing Arts
- World Languages

### How do I register for the NJEA Convention?

You will need:

An email address.

Your NJEA personal identification number (PIN). You'll find your PIN on your membership card. Your PIN has six characters in a two-letter, two-number, two-letter combination.

### What is my PIN?

You can find your PIN by logging onto [njea.org](http://njea.org) with the email address you have on file with NJEA and your password. Go to [njea.org](http://njea.org) and click on "Sign-in" in the upper-right-hand corner.

Enter your email address and password as directed. Your default password, unless you've changed it, is the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Once you have successfully logged on, slide over to "My NJEA" and click on "Profile."

As you scroll down, you'll see your membership card on the right-hand side. Your PIN is under your name.

What level of access does registration get me?

Registration for the convention grants you access to:

The REAL Block Party/Welcome Reception

Nov. 4: 7-8:30 p.m.

The Virtual Exhibit Hall

Nov. 4: 3-7 p.m.

Nov. 5: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 6: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Keynote address from Ruby Bridges

Nov. 6: 3:45-5 p.m.

To attend professional development workshops, you must enroll separately.

How do I enroll in the professional development workshops?

After you register, within two weeks, you will receive an email taking you to the enrollment process for workshops.

Be sure to check any spam folders. As the convention approaches, the email will come more quickly.

Questions? Write to [convention@njea.org](mailto:convention@njea.org)

If you are not an EOE member and would like to become a member, please visit [WWW.NJEA.ORG/JOIN](http://WWW.NJEA.ORG/JOIN)

#### Dates to Remember

Virtual "Mask"arade Parade  
on Zoom  
October 30, 2020

NJEA Teacher's Convention  
November 5-6, 2020

General Membership  
November 17, 2020

Retirement Party  
June 9, 2021



Want to stay connected with the EOE? Check out our Facebook page: East Orange Education Association and our Twitter page: EOE\_A\_NJ