



Spring 2016

GCEA UPDATE

GLOUCESTER COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION : 190 N. EVERGREEN AVENUE, WOODBURY, NJ 08096

GCEA Celebrates Public Education

The Gloucester County Education Association held the annual Paul J. Petrille Education Celebration recently at the Scotland Run Golf Club. One hundred seventy-five members, mayors, superintendents, elected officials, business leaders, board of education presidents, and special guests celebrated all that is great about our county's public schools. The theme for the event was "Educating and Empowering Students Through Business Partnerships". Three outstanding citizens of the county, Barbara Jones, a teacher at Glassboro High School, Destini Clark, a senior at Delsea Regional High School and President of the NJ State DECA Chapter, and Frank Bottino, owner of Bottino's ShopRite in Washington Township were honored for their service to the public schools with the prestigious "Friend of Education" award. Gloucester County Freeholder Deputy Director, along with Freeholders Heather Simmons, Dan Christy, and Frank DiMarco, also honored the awardees with special Certificates of Recognition. Musical presentations were performed by the Glassboro High School Select Choir and the Chestnut Ridge Middle School String Quintet. The Washington Township High School Air Force JROTC led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students of the Baking and Pastry Arts classes from the Gloucester County Institute of Technology provided cookie treats. Peg Grady's horticulture students of the Gloucester County Special Services School District created the centerpieces.



Washington Twp. High School Color Guard



Master of Ceremonies, Linda K. Martins



Lynn Cianci and "Friend of Education" Frank Bottino



Bob and Marie Blistan



Freeholders Chila, Christy, Simmons, and DiMarco



Glassboro High School Select Choir



Ryan Griffin and "Friend of Education" Barbara Jones



Chris Onorato and "Friend of Education" Destini Clark



Chestnut Ridge Middle School String Quintet

Elections Being Held

Elections for Gloucester County State Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly are being held from **April 1-15, 2016**. Unless you have previously registered to vote electronically, a paper ballot will be mailed to you on March 31, 2016.

Paper ballots must be received at NJEA by noon on April 15, 2016.

Congratulations to the following members who ran unopposed for the selected offices:

Minority Member-at-Large: Debbie Wilson

Workshop Operations Coordinator Member-at-Large: Lynn Cianci

Educational Support Professional Member-at-Large: Traci Davis

Local Outreach Coordinator Member-at-Large: Steve Balaity

Delegate Assembly Alternate: (2) Tina Dare, Jeannie Long

Delegate Assembly (2): Debbie Wilson, Joan Beebe

NEA RA State Delegate: Minority Concerns: Joyce Farr

The following are candidates for NEA RA State Delegates

Tina Dare:

Hello Fellow GCEA and NJEA members! My name is Tina Dare and I am a chemistry and physics teacher at Delsea Regional High School. I feel I would be a strong representative for Gloucester County at the NEA-RA based on my involvement with NJEA at all levels. I am currently the GCEA treasurer, webmaster, and Government Relations co-chair. I have attended numerous trainings including Summer and Winter Leadership Conferences. I am also an NJEA Union School graduate. During these challenging times I want to be in a position to help make a difference for all public school employees. I would be honored to continue to serve you as a delegate to the NEA-RA. Please remember Tina Dare when taking the time to vote. Thank you.

Sonya Cramer:

Hi, my name is Sonya Cramer and I am a 3rd grade teacher at Aura School and president of the Elk Township Education Association. I have been a GCEA Executive Committee member for 6 years and serve as their Delegate Assembly Alternate and Scholarship Fundraising chairperson. I also serve on many GCEA and NJEA committees. My years of experience on the local, county, and state level demonstrate my commitment to education and the important issues that we are facing in education today. I would love to be elected to attend the NEA-RA!

Judy Putnam:

My name is Judith L. Putnam and I am a product of Gloucester County schools- including Rowan University! Education is a second career for me. I realized I wanted to teach as I was working at Mt. Misery Retreat Center with 3rd and 4th graders teaching them how to juggle. I went back to school part time and am now a Basic Skills teacher for 4th and 5th grades in Swedesboro-Woolwich. I have served as a member of the negotiations team and as a Junior AR for my local association. I am a member of the GCEA Rep Council and represent Gloucester County on the NJEA Leadership Committee, the committee responsible for the Summer and Winter Leadership Conferences! I was elected as a Delegate to the 2011 NEA-RA and would be honored to serve as your representative again this year in Washington, DC. Please save one vote for Judith L. Putnam. Thank you.

Lou Randazzo:

Lou Randazzo teaches 8th grade English at Maoongahela Middle School in Deptford. He is the president of the 680-member Deptford Education Association and has attended the NEA-RA since 2014. Lou is also a Region 2 UniServ consultant.

Roberta Rissling:

I am a paraprofessional for the Township of Franklin School District. I am the president, grievance, and Pride chairperson for the Township of Franklin Support Staff Association. I also serve on the NJEA Editorial and Paul Dimitriadis Rights Fund committees. I am proud to be a charter member of the GCEA Educational Support Professionals Committee. Attending the RA would be beneficial for me to obtain knowledge and vote on issues that may affect all members. I would be honored to represent GCEA in Washington, DC.

Annmarie Dunphy:

Annmarie Dunphy has been a special education teacher for 30 years and an active member of the Mantua Township Education Association. She has served on the MTEA Executive Board for 25 years and held various positions, including association representative, PR&R chairperson, social chairperson, action team leader, negotiations team member, and GCEA representative. Annmarie currently serves on the GCEA Legislative Action Team and the NJEA Constitution Review Committee. Previously, she served four years as an education representative on the County Professional Development Board. She was elected as a State delegate to the NEA-RA and, if chosen again, will continue to serve as an effective voice for public education. She respectfully asks for your support.

Monique Stowman:

Monique Stowman, President of the Glassboro Education Association and a social studies teacher, hopes to attend the NEA Representative Assembly in an effort to fight for our rights as union members and to stay vigilant concerning the policies and agenda that the state and federal government try to impose upon us. Our strength is in our numbers and we must stay informed so that we can use that strength to strike down the injustices politicians and the government cast upon us.

Christine Onorato:

Greetings! My name is Christine Onorato and I am a candidate for the NEA Representative Assembly in Washington, DC. I am currently serving my second 2-year term as the GCEA secretary, chairperson of the NJEA Membership Committee, and as a member of the NJEA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity committee. Prior to these positions, I served for 10 years as the local president of the Delsea Education Association. I have represented Gloucester County as a delegate in Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, and Orlando and take the responsibility very seriously. I stay apprised of the issues affecting our members on a daily basis so that I am informed when called upon to vote at the sessions and would be honored to represent you once again.

Susan Clark:

Hi Everyone! I am proud to serve you as the full-time released president of your Gloucester County Education Association, on a leave of absence from my teaching position in Mantua Township, for the past 7 years. As a member of our union for more than 40 years, I have served in all levels of leadership, from local president to a representative at 18 Representative Assemblies. The knowledge that I have gained from the NEA RA has helped me to understand the issues on a national perspective. Your support once again would be greatly appreciated.

Robert (Rob) Sheridan:

Information unavailable at press time.





ESP Members Record Radio Spot

NJEA and BEN-FM have partnered to educate the public about the important role Educational Support Professionals play in our schools and in our communities. Two members of our ESP family traveled to Philadelphia to record a 30 second spot in which they told about their important contribution to their school and their students. Congratulations to Deptford Education Association member and paraprofessional, Annmarie Cooney, and Vera Faux, a custodian with the Glassboro Education Association. Go to www.njea.org to hear their commercials.



Up-Coming Events

- April 1 Building a Strong Gay-Straight Alliance in Your School
GCEA/4:30
- April 8-9 Region 2 Overnight Training
Sheraton/AC
- April 11 Preventing Cyber-Bullying
GCEA/4:30
- April 14 Using Social Justice to Improve Student Achievement
GCEA/4:30
- April 19 GCEA Rep Council
GCEA/4:30
- April 20 Region 2: Gloucester-Salem Legislative Dinner
Nicolosi's/4:30
- April 21 ESP: Getting Educated-Our Transportation Prof.
GCEA/4:30
- April 25 XYZ's of Retirement
Auletto's/4:30
- May 3 Member Appreciation Reception
Wedgewood CC/ 4:30
- May 9 Reg. 2 LAT
DiPaolo's/4:30
- May 17 GCEA Rep Council
GCEA/4:30
- May 18 Reg 2 CBC
Auletto's/4:30
- May 31 GCEA NEA-RA Delegate Caucus
GCEA/4:30
- June 1 GCEA Retirement Reception
Nicolosi's/4:30

GCEA to Host Retirement Reception

The Gloucester County Education Association will hold its Annual Retirement Reception on June 1, 2016, 4:30 pm at Nicolosi's Catering, 1 Hessian Avenue, Woodbury.

This year's retirees will be receiving an invitation to the event directly from GCEA.

If you would like to attend to help honor your colleagues, please contact your local president for more information and registration details.



GCEA was awarded special recognition at the NJEA Jim George Collective Bargaining Conference for the highest and sustained political engagement through the Legislative Action Team. Pictured L-R are: Sean Spiller, NJEA Sec-Treas., Tina Dare, GCEA Gov. Relations co-chair, Sue Clark, GCEA President, Marie Blistan, NJEA VP, Wendell Steinhauer, NJEA President.