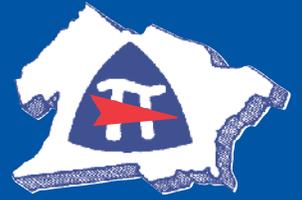


INTERLOC

UNION COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

FALL 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Let me start out by saying Thank You. Thank you for being a friend, colleague, and member of your local

association, UCEA, NJEA and the NEA. I hope you enjoyed your summer and took the time to spend with friends and family, as well as taking time for self.

On April 27, 2018, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released a statewide broadcast calling for public input to inform New Jersey's next generation of statewide assessments. This broadcast marked the first step of the transition away from PARCC, or Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, as promised by Gov. Phil Murphy. The NJDOE subsequently scheduled approximately 70 events designed to capture public input throughout the state and via webinar.

We are asking you to write your State Senator and ask him or her to support collective bargaining and school employees S-2606 to make healthcare more affordable. This bill, sponsored by Senator Joe Cryan, would reduce the amount most NJEA members pay toward their health insurance and return fairness to the bargaining table. S-2606 will cap premium sharing at a percentage of salary, not the cost of the premium. It will also allow districts to exempt the health benefits premium relief from the 2% property tax cap. In addition, it will require more transparency around health benefits.

If you would like more information on these topics listed here, please visit www.njea.org. Also, the *Interloc* will be sent via email and posted on the unioncountyea.org website after this issue.

Lisa Palin
UCEA President

"We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated."
- Maya Angelou

See NJEA's statement on the *Janus v. AFSCME* ruling on p. 2.

INTERLOC

Published by the
Union County
Education Association
77 Central Avenue
Clark, NJ 07066
(732) 574-0033
ucea@comcast.net

Lisa Palin
President

James Frazier
1st Vice President

Michael Boyd
2nd Vice President

John Zurka
Secretary

Diego Alvear
Treasurer

Debbie Morris
Office Manager

Maureen Dreher
Editor





NJEA: “WE REFUSE TO BE SILENCED”



NJEA President
Marie Blistan

The NJEA released the following statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*, in which the court overturned more than four decades of established law in order to tilt the balance of power in workplaces even further toward employers:

“This morning’s blatantly anti-worker, anti-middle class ruling by the Supreme Court demonstrates what unions have always known: we must always fight for the rights of working people in America and never take any of those rights for granted,” said NJEA President Marie Blistan. “The court’s attempt today to stifle labor’s collective voice will fail, because we refuse to be silenced. They can change the law, but they cannot do anything about our determination to organize, to advocate and to fight for our fellow members and all working people.”

“The wealthy and powerful have always wanted to weaken unions, because we, the people who make up unions, refuse to be intimidated by them,” declared NJEA Vice President Sean M. Spiller. “But unions have never needed the permission of courts or legislators to do what we’ve joined together to do. Our mission has always included challenging the status quo and disrupting the structures built to hold back working people. That work doesn’t depend on the Supreme Court’s permission, and it will not be stopped by this misguided ruling.”

“NJEA members know the value of our union, because we see the power of collective action at work every day,” added NJEA Secretary-Treasurer Steve Beatty. “We bargain contracts, we advocate for students and public schools, and we work to build a fairer, stronger and more just society for everyone. Separately, we could not win those fights. Together, we cannot be stopped.”

The anti-union effort that led to the *Janus* case has been bankrolled by the National Right to Work Foundation, part of a network funded by corporate billionaires whose goal is to use the courts to rig the rules against working people. It is a multiyear, multimillion dollar effort to manipulate the system for their benefit, at the expense of the middle class. For decades, they have used the vast resources at their disposal to chip away at the progress unions have made for working families. Their goal is to weaken unions in order to muffle the voices of middle class families.

While the full legal ramifications of the ruling must still be examined, NJEA will continue to fight for all members’ professional and economic interests, and advocate for students, families and public education.

In terms of the local associations, UCEA President Lisa Palin said she is concerned about the possibility of current members dropping their association memberships and prospective members refusing to join. “Non-members will not have to pay anything to support our associations, and that is just not fair,” she said. “Over the years, our association leaders and negotiation teams have worked hard to provide representation and to negotiate contracts on behalf of *all* our fellow employees. So the impact of *Janus* can definitely hurt unions, and we simply cannot let that happen. Our associations must continue to build and maintain relationships with our colleagues and have those face-to-face conversations.”

UCEA First Vice President James Frazier offered a unique perspective: “This is actually not a defeat for the Association. *Janus* is the spark that we needed to bring to our membership what union activism is. We will now utilize this opportunity to become more engaged and involved in our chosen career paths of educating the future leaders of tomorrow. We will now take hold of the policy-making body by running for public office or holding our elected officials accountable. We will be the change agents for our students and their families. I look forward to the new and exciting Association of tomorrow.”

Palin emphasized, “Overall, the key is to stay involved!”



UCEA MEMBERS ATTEND NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Minneapolis Convention Center in Minnesota was the location of this year's NEA Representative Assembly (RA), which is the highest decision-making body of the National Education Association. The convention convened on June 30 and ended on July 5. Attending were 6,200 delegates representing state and local affiliates, student members, and retired members. UCEA members, including six first-time attendees and three retirees, proudly stood among the ranks. The Assembly elected NEA leaders, voted on key issues that impact education, and focused on the recent *Janus v. AFSCME* ruling. Notably, the NEA-RA is largest democratic deliberative assembly in the world.



First Time Delegates (L-R): Ann Margaret Eiring, Bobby Fowler, John Griffin, Eloy Delgado, Vashon Hill, Lissette Ferreras-Edua



UCEA Retired Educators (L-R): Minnie Mozee, Tuheedah Muhammad, Terry Kennedy



State Contacts (L-R): Charisse Parker, Michael Boyd, Patty Frazier, Kelee Mitchell-Hall, Chrystal Parr-Allen



UCEA Delegates to the NEA RA



UCEA WORKSHOPS FOR 2018-2019

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>WORKSHOP TITLE</u> |
|-------------------|---|
| October 2, 2018 | Legal Seminar for Security Guards |
| October 10, 2018 | SGO's |
| October 16, 2018 | XYZ's of Retirement |
| October 17, 2018 | Your Social Security |
| October 25, 2018 | Parent Conferences |
| November 14, 2018 | ESP Dinner Workshop |
| January 9, 2019 | LGBTQ: An Overview |
| January 22, 2019 | XYZ's of Retirement |
| January 23, 2019 | Your Social Security |
| February 6, 2019 | Supporting Transgender Students |
| February 12, 2019 | Gangs |
| March 22-23, 2019 | UCEA Overnight Professional Development |
| April 8, 2019 | XYZ's of Retirement |
| April 9, 2019 | Your Social Security |
| May 1, 2019 | Secretaries' Dinner Workshop |
| May 6, 2019 | Nurses' Dinner Workshop |

Workshop Registration: A \$10.00 deposit is required; a separate \$10.00 check is required for each workshop. Send a check made out to Union County Education Association, along with Name, District, Home Phone & Work Phone number to the UCEA office. Deposits will be returned to participants at the end of the workshop or if the workshop is canceled within three (3) business days prior to the workshop. All workshops are held at the UCEA office from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm and refreshments are provided. **No one will be admitted after 4:30 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS!**



UNION COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
77 Central Avenue, Suite 201, Clark, NJ 07066

UCEA website: <http://unioncountyea.org>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1826
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

SAVE THE DATES

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

**Join UCEA for their annual HOSPITALITY LUNCHEON
at the NJEA CONVENTION**

SHERATON HOTEL, Crown Ballroom 3 12 to 2:00pm

CONVENTION BADGE MUST BE WORN TO ENTER

MARCH 22-23, 2019

UCEA Overnight Professional Development

MAY 1, 2019

Secretaries' Dinner Workshop

MAY 6, 2019

Nurses' Dinner Workshop

**Please check the unioncountyea.org
website for more information.**