

# INTERLOC

## Union County Education Association

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president of UCEA, it has been my goal to provide programs that will benefit you and your local association without competing or conflicting with those services already provided by your association. Most locals spend most of their time and resources dealing with bargaining and contract enforcement. One of the areas in which UCEA tries to put its efforts is legislative and political action.

Our Legislative Action Team (LAT) meets several times a year to update county representatives from each district on the latest educational activity in Trenton and Washington. Most districts have at least one representative on the LAT. There are a few, however, that are not represented on this most important committee. If you are interested in finding out about this committee, contact the UCEA Office at 732-574-0033. It is important that all local associations be represented on the committee.

The election, next November, will have a profound effect on the future of public education. As NJEA members, we must be more politically active. In order for NJEA to play a critical role in the November election, NJEA PAC needs a major effort on your part to finance the campaign. The costs of campaigns continue to rise. Like it, or not, we must be involved to protect our interests.



If you have not already done so, sign up for payroll deductions for NJEA-PAC. When looking at the numbers of our members contributing to PAC, we find there is much room for improvement. Please consider contributing. If you are already on payroll deduction, consider increasing your donation. The days for us to sit back and say that it is unprofessional to be involved in politics are gone! If each of our over 200,000 members contributed \$1.00 a month, we would raise over \$2 million a year.

In April, school board elections will take place. Candidates with questionable motivation are planning to run for school boards across the nation. Groups with agendas that include dismantling public schools are working to elect individuals to carry out their

plans. Although some candidates are vocal about their dissatisfaction with public school education, the majority do not verbalize their opposition to public schools and public school employees. These candidates do not advertise that they are getting training and financial support from extremist groups. We must get more involved in our local school board elections. We must elect friends of public education. We must get out and vote. The percentage of eligible voters who vote in school elections is deplorable. You can make a difference!

UCEA provides a variety of programs to meet your needs. I encourage you to take part in all UCEA activities. If you have any suggestions for future activities, please contact the UCEA office to let me know. Remember, this is your association.

Best wishes for a very happy, healthy, productive 2008!

Herb Levitt



### READ ACROSS AMERICA - MARCH 3, 2008

We urge all local associations to organize reading activities on March 3rd. Becoming involved with your local communities' police, firefighters, chambers of commerce, PTA's, Board of Education members and others can only have beneficial effects. The days of solely working in the classroom and expecting public support are over. Inviting people into the schools, linking up with community groups, and developing relationships with them can pay great dividends for you and members of your local association.

REQUEST YOUR FREE RESOURCE KIT AT  
[WWW.NEA.ORG/READACROSS](http://WWW.NEA.ORG/READACROSS)

The UCEA has arranged to partner with Barnes & Noble in Clark and Springfield to conduct reading activities at the stores on the evening of March 3rd from 4:30 PM until 7:30 PM.

We need volunteers to serve as readers and to wear costumes. If you can give some time, please call the UCEA office, or e-mail us at [ucea@comcast.net](mailto:ucea@comcast.net), and leave your name, e-mail address, and phone number and the store in which you would like to work.



**New Trip JUST Added!!**

**The Litle Mermaid**

**June 22, 2008**

**\$135 includes**

**orchestra seat and bus.**

**Hurry and reserve today before it's  
sold out!**

**TRIPS**

**Due to the overwhelming  
popularity of the trips, please  
check the website for the most  
up-to-date information!**

**NJEA Legislative &  
Political Action  
Conference**

NJEA members played an important role in this year's Congressional races in New Jersey. Let's continue to show our presence at this year's Political Action Conference. You will have a chance to address legislators in break out sessions so, register to meet some of our state representatives and hear the latest about NJEA's proactive legislative agenda at this year's Legislative & Political Action Conference on Saturday February 23, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. The cost is \$45 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is February 11th. Check with your local presidents. Most local associations will help fund members to attend.

**UCEA WEBSITE!**

Visit us at [unioncountyea.com](http://unioncountyea.com). Our webmaster, Ken Betros, has been working hard to create the site. Now, we will need your help to keep it up-to-date. Please send us reports on events and activities that your local sponsors. Let's show the rest of the counties what we are doing here in Union County.

**Congratulations!!  
Union County honorees:**

**Teacher of the Year**

**Kevin LeMastra**

from Linden

**ESP of the Year**

**Lisa Palin**

from Roselle

**Teacher of the Year  
Selection Process**

By April 1 each district Superintendent must submit the district nominee to the County Superintendent's office. The winning application for County Teacher of the Year is submitted to the state by May 1.

The winning teachers will receive notification of their selection from the Office of Innovative Programs and Schools. They will also receive the criteria for state selection and timeline. The program requirements call for the submission of a video of a class lesson.

The state selection committee will review all the videos over the summer and announce the winner at the October State Board Meeting.

If you feel that a teacher at your school should be the Teacher of the Year, contact your district Superintendent for additional information concerning the nomination process.

**INTERLOC**

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## Meet-A-Member

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At the Union County Education Association reception for our ESP members, the following people were asked to respond to the following questions: What is the most enjoyable part of your job? What advice would you give to UCEA members? Here's what they had to say!



**Paul DiTrolio**

4 years of service  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood  
Classroom Aide

*"I enjoy working with the kids. They are a lot of fun and they keep you young. As for advice, be patient because we do make a difference in a child's education. We may have*

*a closer relationship with the kids because we are more familiar with them and they may open up more to us than even to a teacher."*

**Duris Penn**

12 years of service  
Plainfield

Lunch Room Assistant

*"I enjoy talking with the children and taking them out to the playground; watching them run and play; listening to what they say; and I just love being with them. We*

*should ask for more workshops so we can come together, listen to some of the problems, and share some ideas."*



Great Public Schools for Every Child



**Juana Cannon**

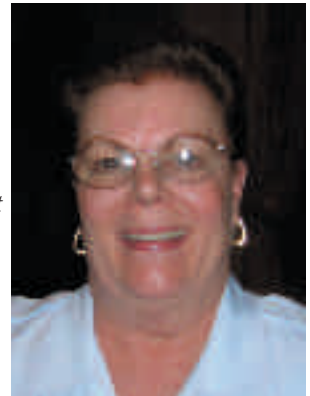
7 years of service  
Rahway  
Paraprofessional

*"I love working with great kids that teach me something new everyday! My advice is to relax and enjoy every day and moment because kids really take your mind away from problems."*

**Nancy Neary**

22.5 years of service  
Elizabeth  
Security

*"I enjoy taking care of the wonderful children at School #6. My advice to members is to STICK IT OUT - THE REWARDS ARE GREAT!"*



**Cathy Sharp**

26 years of service  
Union Township  
Paraprofessional

*"I enjoy helping my children. I believe you should be active in your association. Our strength is unity. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion. You are important to NJEA."*

# UCEA/NJEA Professional Development Workshop

for UCEA Members (retired members not eligible)

# Ocean Place Resort & Spa

One Ocean Boulevard, Long Branch, NJ 07740

Free shuttle service to and from Long Branch Train Station

**\$45.00**

**January 25 - 26, 2008**

**Includes: dinner, overnight guestroom, breakfast, lunch, AM coffee break, workshop materials**  
This program may qualify for professional development hours. In order to receive a certificate, you must arrive by 5 PM Friday & remain through lunch on Saturday. You must attend a 1-hour session Friday and two 2-hour sessions on Saturday and the closing

session Saturday.

Certificates will not be issued for partial attendance.

Participate in informative, useful workshops

Meet new people

Have fun!

## Workshop Session

**A. Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)** – This workshop is designed to provide a basic understanding of Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder including who, what, and why.

**B. Safe Schools** – Participants receive information on management skills for the classroom, school, and district that serve to reduce violence and bullying behaviors while increasing positive interactions among students and improving communication among staff members.

**C. School Law, Member Rights, and Contract Enforcement** – This workshop will cover the rights of members under the various laws which affect their employment. Topics will include sick leave, family leave, tenure and seniority, drug testing, workmen's compensation, DYFS, ADA, and other topics covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement including grievance processing and arbitration.

**D. Second Step Staff Training** – Participants learn goals and strategies for creating a positive learning environment through social and emotional skill development. The lesson framework for the multi-grade level violence prevention program features pro-social skill building, teacher management, parent involvement, and successful integration of these skills into everyday routines. This workshop includes group collaboration, hands-on activities, and lesson planning.

**E. Multicultural Manners in an Educational Setting** – You will learn how to foster harmonic relationships utilizing techniques that develop sensitivity to respect for people whose race and ethnicity are different. The materials shared in this workshop offer bridging techniques to support and value diversity effectively within groups and to enable students and education staff from different backgrounds and perspectives to work in harmony.

**F. Professional Learning Communities** – This workshop aims to increase personal and group effectiveness through activities that foster appreciation for the contributions of others. Participants will explore professional learning communities as a program in which educators work together over time to improve teaching and learning.

Your share of the cost for this workshop is \$45.00 per person, two in a room. NJEA and UCEA will pay the remainder (approx. \$165.00). Single supplement is an additional \$65.00. If you register and do not attend and do not cancel, you will be billed \$220. Reservations will be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

Complete and return to:

**UCEA Conference  
77 Central Avenue, Suite 201  
Clark, NJ 07066**

**Enclose \$45 per person  
SPACE IS LIMITED.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (INCLUDE STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ HOMEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ ROOMMATE REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHOOSE 3 WORKSHOPS \_\_\_\_\_ IF NOT AVAILABLE, CHOOSE AN ALTERNATE \_\_\_\_\_

## HIPP AWARDS COME TO UNION COUNTY!

This year the NJEA Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence In Education has awarded 12 grants totalling \$77,672 to educators in school districts across the state.

Of the 12 grants awarded, two Union County schools were recognized for innovative projects. Winfield and Linden proposed projects that were accepted by the grant committee. These schools garnered a total of \$12,600!

Winfield teachers Patricia Pfeifer and Colette Bapst developed a kindergarten project called **Bats 'N Bugs** for which they received \$2600. The project includes units on bats, worms, and insects. The project includes the creation of a butterfly garden. What a fantastic way to learn about ecosystem!

In Linden, Kevin LeMastra, Michael D'Amato, Marie Henry, Eliana Penaranda, and Mark Decastro from Soehl Middle School re-

ceived \$10,000 for their proposal **Friends Beyond Borders II**. In this unit, students will send school and health care supplies to children of Haitian migrant workers. The students will then discuss the activity with other schools, and a few student leaders will get the opportunity to present the project to the U.N. Student Conference on Human Rights. In the next phase, summer literacy projects will be held to deepen the knowledge of the project themes. Students will participate in blogs to extend their knowledge and experience. Finally, students will take a field trip to NYC to view Caribbean art, visit a Dominican marketplace, and sample ethnic foods. Then teachers will travel to the Batey community to perform community service and interview the migrant families. They will correspond with their students via interactive blog. What a great experience for students, teachers and parents!

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## UCEA Workshops

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To register: Send \$10 check, payable to UCEA, to the UCEA Office, 77 Central Ave., Suite 201, Clark, NJ 07066. The check will be returned to you at the conclusion of the workshop. Some of these workshops may qualify for professional development hours. In order to receive a certificate, you must arrive on time and remain till the end. Unless stated otherwise, workshops will be at the UCEA Office and run 4 - 6 PM

### **SCHOOL BUDGET: GET YOUR LOCAL BUDGET PASSED**

Tuesday, January 15, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM  
Learn strategies and public relations techniques to pass your local school budget.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION - AUTISM**

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 Westwood 4-7 PM

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM

### **PD ON A SHOESTRING**

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM

### **ANGER MANAGEMENT**

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Tuesday, May 20, 2008 UCEA Office 4-6 PM

## Union County Art Students Honored for Their Fine Artwork

Artwork from various schools in Union County is being showcased for the Art Educators of NJ's Youth Art Month. This annual observance each March emphasizes the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.

Union County's Youth Art Month exhibit will be held at IKEA Elizabeth on Ikea Drive in Elizabeth from February 27 to March 31, 2008. Visitors to the IKEA Youth Art Month Exhibit will see a variety of media used by the artists, such as pastels, acrylic paints, and pencil. Drawings, paintings, prints, and even photographs will be exhibited to showcase the wonderful art programs throughout our country.

Take an afternoon or evening during March to check out what our students are creating! Let's support our young artists!

# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH... MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

February and March have been designated as special months in the calendar year to highlight the achievements that Blacks and Women have made in our world. Here are just a few NEA recommended web resources. For additional resources, go to [nea.org](http://nea.org) and search for additional resources and lesson plans.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH:**

### **Unsung Heroes of African-American History**

Find two lesson ideas and dozens of online (and on air!) curriculum resources.

<http://www.nea.org/lessons/pbs060201.html>

[org/lessons/pbs060201.html](http://www.nea.org/lessons/pbs060201.html)

### **Famous African Americans ABC Book Grades K-12**

create an ABC book of famous African Americans in history.

<http://www.nea.org/lessons/tt060130.html>

### **Other Online Resources**

### **The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving, and providing access to resources documenting the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world.

[www.ny.com/museums/schomburg.center.for.research.in.black.culture.html](http://www.ny.com/museums/schomburg.center.for.research.in.black.culture.html)

### **African American World (PBS)**

Explore the history and culture of African Americans and browse through educational resources, including lesson plans for grades 3-12.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/>



## **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:**

### **National Women's History Project**

On this Web site you'll find official information, a downloadable poster, and other resources about National Women's History Month celebration. See the 2006 nominees for women in history — women creating community and sustaining dreams in countless ways and in myriad venues. See "The Learning Place" section for useful resources for teachers, students, and parents.

<http://www.nwhp.org/index.html>

### **Thomson-Gale Free Resources**

This site offers a brief history of Women's History Month, biographies of significant women throughout time, a quiz based on women and their achievements, a time line of significant events in women's history, a downloadable calendar, and some activities to celebrate women's history.

[http://www.gale.com/free\\_resources/whm/index.htm](http://www.gale.com/free_resources/whm/index.htm)

### **Topical Resources**

### **National Women's History Museum**

This site's educational resources include a self-guided tour of the museum, biographies of famous women, lesson plans, quizzes and quotes, and women's history events by state.

<http://www.nmwh.org/>



## **St. Patrick's Day Parade Marchers Wanted**

- Union County Education Association will once again be marching in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15, 2008. As an added bonus, the parade is being dedicated to NJEA. The goal is to have a strong UCEA representation and to support our message of "Pass The School Budgets!" and to show our strength in unity. You can sign up by calling the UCEA office or getting a group together and speak to your local president. We will be handing out PRIDE items on the parade route. If you are available to participate, please call or e-mail the office. It would be great if we had groups from each district representing all of Union County. We need you to come stroll with us!

## **Legislative Reception**

The UCEA will host a Legislative Reception on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the Westwood in Garwood, N.J. The event will run from 4:30PM until 7:30PM. All Union County Legislators have been invited to share their ideas and positions on issues relevant to our membership. NJEA and NEA leaders will also be available at this event to present the current state and national positions on our hot topics. The cost of this event is \$25.00 per person. Contact your local president or the UCEA Office for tickets.

## ***Come Meet Your County Legislators***

## **UCEA SPONSORS MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR DINNER**

On December 4, 2007, UCEA, as part of our Pride in Public Education Program sponsored a dinner to recognize the municipal alliance volunteers of the year.

In March 1989, legislation created the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GCADA), and the Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Abuse (MAPSA). Funding for the GCADA and the Municipal Alliances is provided by Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction (DEDR) fines. These fines are collected from persons convicted of drug and alcohol related offenses, utilized to place prevention programs back into the communities at the grass roots level.

Union County has established 19 municipal alliances, representing 20 municipalities. Due to the diversity among these municipalities, the community-based alliance approach offers each municipality the opportunity to implement the drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention program that will best meet the needs of the local population.

## **UNION COUNTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD VACANCIES**

There are several vacancies that need to be filled on the Board. I am seeking nominations for the positions.

The Union County Professional Development Board is composed of fifteen members, seven teachers (nominated by UCEA), two college representatives, two district administrators, two school board members, and two members of the general public. The Board has the delegated authority of the Commissioner of Education to:

- Review and approve the in-service professional development programs of local school districts under the standards established.
- Initiate and direct district self-evaluation programs so that there is a constant dialogue between and among all those with a stake in the professional development of and/or in-service for teachers.

If you are interested in being nominated, please contact the UCEA Office. An application form will be sent to you.

Each municipality in Union County is eligible to receive funding to implement prevention programs in their community. These municipalities identify and prioritize the drug and alcohol prevention needs for their community into a Needs Assessment. These assessments are then approved by the County Alliance Steering Sub-committee (CASS) and endorsed by the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA), and are funded by GCADA through DEDR funds and sub-contracted to each Municipal Alliance. The sub-contract contains various "prevention activities" which are to be implemented and conducted with the communities' school district, community centers, police departments, senior centers, etc. Some of the better known programs are: D.A.R.E., Project Graduation, TIGS, Red Ribbon Program, High School & Middle School Peer Leadership Programs, Keys to Innervations, Parenting, Senior and Youth Alternative Activity Programs, 5K Family Run/Walk, and many, many more.

# Nominations for NJEA/NEA Positions

A Nominating Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at the UCEA Office at 4:00 PM. Nominations will be made for the positions of NJEA Delegate Assembly, and NJEA Delegate Assembly Alternate. There are two (2) two- year term openings for NJEA Delegate Assembly. In addition, there are six (6) openings for Delegate Assembly Alternate. There are six (6) one-year terms. All NJEA members in Union County are eligible to run. However, with the exception of Elizabeth, which may have two delegates, only one member from a local association may serve at a time. Currently, there is one member from Union County Vo Tech, Rahway, Roselle, Union and Linden on the Delegate Assembly whose terms do not expire until 2009. Therefore, no one from these districts can run for the NJEA Delegate Assembly this year.

The NJEA Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of NJEA. Union County is entitled to 8 delegates and 7 alternates. Each term is for two years.

If you want to run for any of the positions, submit your name to the UCEA Nominating Committee on the form on this page by 4:00 PM on February 12, 2008 or make sure someone presents your name for nomination at the meeting. **Submission of this form is not a requirement.** However, if you are not nominated at the meeting on February 12th, you will have to run by petition.

**NEA Representative Assembly:** If you desire to become a **state delegate** (one year term) to the NEA Convention (Representative Assembly) to be held in July in Philadelphia, PA you may nominate yourself. You must apply directly to the NJEA Elections Committee on their official form. The form can be obtained directly from NJEA

headquarters, NJEA website, or by calling Rosemary Reilly at the UCEA office (732) 574-0033. You may also run as a **local delegate**. Contact your local president for details or call the UCEA Office. Partial funding from the UCEA and NJEA is available for local delegates.

**Members from Garwood, Westfield Secretaries, Westfield Support and Winfield** can increase their representation at the NEA-RA by clustering together and electing delegates. For every 150 NEA members, Union County can send an additional delegate. If you are interested in running as a cluster delegate, fill out the nomination form. The UCEA will take care of all the arrangements for your special election.

**MAIL TO: UCEA Elections Committee  
ATTN: Rosemary Reilly  
77 Central Avenue, Suite 201  
Clark, NJ 07066**

**NJEA Offices:  
Delegate Assembly  
Delegate Assembly Alternate  
NEA-RA Cluster Delegate**

I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A CANDIDATE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION(S) IN THE 2008 ELECTION:

POSITION(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

All forms must be received before 4:00 pm Feb. 12, 2008

**February is African American Black History Month National School  
Counseling Week February 3-9  
Vocational Education Week February 10-16**

**UNION COUNTY  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
77 Central Avenue, Suite 201  
Clark, N.J. 07066  
Phone (732) 574-0033  
www.unioncountyea.com**

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