

INTERLOC

Union County Education Association

Vol. 36

JUNE 2007

No.5

PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT – JUNE 2007

This has been a very busy and successful year for the Union County Education Association. Representative Council meetings were well attended – still no representation from Kenilworth. If anyone from Kenilworth is willing to attend a meeting, let me know. The meetings are held at the UCEA Office in the Target Shopping Center in Clark. Rarely, do they last beyond 6 PM. Dinner is served. Reps receive updates on issues facing us in public education. A great deal of resource information from NJEA and NEA is distributed.

Four issues of Interloc were mailed. The newsletter is mailed out by a mailing house. We were able to get the Interloc out faster prior to the involvement of the mailing house. The newsletter was delivered to us in the morning. By about 3 PM, our retiree volunteers would have it ready for the post office. Now, it takes about a week after it comes from the printer before it arrives at the Post Office -- so much for modern day technology! We still depend on our faithful retirees from time to time to assist with mailings. Thank you retirees!

Once the Interloc gets to the Post Office, it takes anywhere from overnight to several weeks (and sometimes months) before it reaches our members. We have done everything in our power to correct that. Several members have taken the time to call the UCEA Office when they receive an Interloc that has outdated information in it. Sometimes, we have no control over that. In the last issue, there was a reminder to vote in the School Board elections. It arrived after Election Day to some members. We got calls. My response to that is, "DO YOU ACTUALLY NEED A NEWSLETTER TO TELL YOU TO VOTE?"

The UCEA trip program has been very successful this year. Trips are open to, not only UCEA members, but to the general public as well. I urge you to read your Interloc and watch for flyers at your work sites. Interloc is our method of communicating to you what is available to you. I

wish I could figure out a way to read it to our members before they toss it out. So many times members call the office to say they did not know about one of our workshops or trips. They do not know because they do not read their literature or open their mail.

Dinner workshops in honor of National Educational Support Professional Day, Professional Secretaries' Day, and National School Nurse Day were successful. In addition, we had a poorly attended dinner workshop for new members, two dinner workshops for members of local and county Professional Development Committees and a workshop on Suicide Prevention for Guidance Counselors. There were about 10 additional two-hour workshops on a variety of topics held at the UCEA Office. Professional development certificates were presented to attendees for most of them. In order to receive a certificate, one had to be on time and stay until the completion of the session. Reservations are required, prior to the day of the workshop. Workshops must be carefully planned, materials prepared and refreshments purchased. In order to accomplish all of this, an accurate count is necessary prior to the day of the event.

On October 10th and May 8th I brought greetings to those present at the Union County Retired Educators luncheon. I attended a retirement tea for Debbie Conway who retired from NJEA.

The UCEA reception at the NJEA Convention was attended by approximately 500-600. We changed the menu and were successful in seeing to it that those who arrived late still had food. During the NJEA Convention, I attended the ceremony honoring the recipients of the Frederick L. Hipp Awards. It's too bad more members do not attend to honor those receiving awards.

On Read Across America day, March 2nd, UCEA members, retirees, and students from Kean University participated in activities at Barnes and Noble in

Springfield and in Clark. They served as readers and assisted in other ways, including greeting children and walking around the store in costumes. The event was a success. Many of our local associations conducted RAA activities as well.

The UCEA Legislative Reception, in March, was well attended. It provided an informal, relaxed atmosphere in which members could interact with our legislators. Also in the area of legislative and political action, I attended meetings with several of our elected officials and several receptions for our Union County legislators. I also participated in the rallies for our pension and health benefits. In February, I attended the NJEA Legislative Conference. During July and August, I shall participate in the screenings of candidates in the election this November.

The Professional Development workshop at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa was a success. Approximately 180 members attended. Evaluations were complimentary.

This year, for the first time, we conducted two Focus Groups – one group of members who have been actively involved in association work and the other group of

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UCEA WEBSITE!

Visit us at 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.

(continued from front page)

members who have not been actively involved. We wanted to find out what our members want from UCEA. We did receive some valuable information. Look for a report in the next Interloc.

The UCEA phone bank was turned on in October and again in April, prior to school budget elections. Several local associations used the phones to work in the November elections and in the April school board elections. The phones were used for a special election in January also.

The UCEA Office is available to all Union County local associations for meetings and events. Other groups that have met in the UCEA Office include the Union County School Nurses Association and the Union County Retired Educators Association. Also, the Union County Municipal Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) met several times at the office. The CASS is part of the GCADA (Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse). I serve as chairperson of the CASS. UCEA and NJEA sponsored a reception in December to honor the LACADA (Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse) volunteers of the year from Union County. The Union County Professional Development Board now meets at the UCEA Office.

Project Links, a group that strengthens communities through substance abuse education has used the UCEA Office for training programs. The group is supported by the Union County Probation Department and the Union County Family Court.

This summer, we will once again sponsor a concert at Echo Lake Park. It will begin at 7:30 PM on August 15th. Admission is free. This is part of our Union County/NJEA Pride Project. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT THE CONCERT!** Come out and have a fun evening! The group is "The Sensational Soul Cruisers."

Throughout the year, I represented your interests at various meetings, conferences, and other functions. In January, I attended the NEA Northeast Regional Leadership Conference in Boston. I attended the Passaic, Monmouth, and Somerset Counties Legislative Dinners. I served on the screening committee for the Union County Teacher of the Year and attended the Union County Teacher Recognition breakfast on May 10th. On May 23rd, I shall attend the Union County Outstanding Scholars' breakfast.

Between now and the end of the year, I shall represent UCEA at various retirement and end of the year events. At the end of June, I plan to represent you at the Summer Conference of the National Council of Urban Education Associations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I attended the Fall Conference in December in Las Vegas, Nevada.

I am an elected delegate to the NEA Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In July, I plan to attend the Education International World Congress in Berlin, Germany.

I serve on the Board of Directors of the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education and chair the Program Committee of that Board. We will meet

on June 7th in Washington, DC. Our last meeting was held in Palo Alto California at the headquarters of Sun Microsystems – fantastic conference facilities. I had the opportunity to tour the campus of Stanford University while I was there.

I attended meetings of the NJEA Delegate Assembly and the County Presidents' Council. I served as president of the CPC. As chairperson of the NJEA UniServ Committee, I chaired several meetings of that group. In June, I shall meet with our NJEA UniServ representatives and NJEA Professional Development staff to plan our workshop program for next year.

As a member of the New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards Board, I have attended meetings of the Board throughout the year. The Board meets monthly, usually at the Department of Education in Trenton. We will be having a two-day retreat in August.

On April 26th I was pleasantly surprised with a reception at the Suburban Golf Club in honor of my 30 years as President of UCEA. Members of the UCEA Rep Council were invited. It was a beautiful affair. I thank Ann Margaret Shannon, Paul Ridgway, Anne Marie Abercrombie, and Eleanor Bowser and whoever else was responsible for putting it together.

Our UCEA website is up and running (www.unioncountyea.com). Ken Betros, UCEA member from Rahway is our webmaster. Check the site for information about UCEA activities. There are links to other sites as well.

Once again, let me remind you that this is your association. Your local association, UCEA, NJEA, and NEA cannot succeed without you. Get involved! There is a place for you. Come out and meet new friends. There is always something to be done. You do not need any experience. Give us an hour or two when we need you. We feed our volunteers well!

If you are brand new in the Association, I invite you to become active. If you have been in for a while, completed your graduate studies, raised your family, fulfilled personal obligations, and addressed whatever it was that kept you from association involvement, please consider giving some time to the Association. Get involved in your local association and/or UCEA.

I am completing my 30th year as president of UCEA. It is time for me to move on. We need new leaders. I am working to identify emerging new leaders. I know they (you) are out there. If you would like to get more involved in Association activity, please let me know. Don't feel that you do not know enough to get involved. With over 12,000 members, we must have some potential leaders. Whether your interests lie in professional development, legislation and political action, social activities, public relations, membership, human rights, assisting with clerical work, or taking care of hospitality at meetings and workshops, we have a place for you.

Thank you for the support you have given me over the years. My very best wishes for a very pleasant and relaxing summer.

Be well!

Herb

FALL FORUM 2007

KEEP THE DATE: Tuesday, October 23rd, 2007.

Join us at 4:15 PM at the Westwood in Garwood.

Targeting local leadership, presidents will receive information forms in late August.

Timely responses will help make this annual event the success it has always proven to be.

For further information concerning the Fall Forum and membership concerns in general, contact Anjanette Valiante at Reaprez1a@aol.com or phone 908-352-1394

30 Years of Service and Still Counting

UCEA celebrated Herb Levitt's commitment to Union County at the Suburban Country Club on April 26th, 2007. Herb has given 30 years to the county organization, and has represented us well locally in Elizabeth, at the county level through his presidency of UCEA, at the state level through the Delegate Assembly and the County Presidents Council, and nationally with NCUEA (National Council of Urban Education Associations), and a member of the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) Board of Directors. These are only a few of Herb's projects that he has completed in his years with the association. We are truly thankful for Herb's commitment to the positive advancement of the organization!



UCEA Officers Meet With Congressman Ferguson

On May 30th, the officers of UCEA spent some time with Rep. Ferguson talking about federal issues including the reauthorization of ESEA, better known as 'No Child Left Behind.' Many discussions have been held concerning this political upheaval of public education. Rep. Ferguson has been talking with Anne Marie Abercrombie about real classroom and school problems that have arisen due to the implementation of NCLB. It is nice to know that we have a working relationship with people on 'both sides of the aisle', especially since ESEA is up for reauthorization this year. Hopefully we can make a difference in the new policy discussion that will take place this summer. Don't forget, you can make a difference with a letter, phone call, or e-mail to your legislators. Check out www.njea.org and click on Cyberlobbee to see how you can make a difference.

UCEA TRIPS

Mary Poppins \$125 per person
Sunday, July 15, 2007 Lv. 11 AM Ret. 6:30 PM
 Includes: Bus, front mezzanine seat.

The Little Mermaid \$110 per person
Thursday, November 15, 2007 Lv. 4 PM Ret. 11:30 PM
 Includes: Bus; orchestra or front mezzanine seat

Radio City Christmas Spectacular \$95 per person
Thursday, December 6, 2007 Lv. 3:45 PM Ret. 11 PM
 Includes: Bus; 2nd mezzanine seat; dinner

Jersey Boys \$125 per person
Thursday, January 3, 2008 Lv. 4 PM Ret. 11:45 PM
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat.

Grease \$125 per person
Saturday, February 9, 2008 Lv. 10 AM Ret. 6 PM
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat

Victorian Weekend in Cape May

featuring
the Lima Bean Festival & the Garden State Wine Growers Wine Festival
October 5 - 8, 2007

\$625 (Single) \$455 pp (double), \$399 pp (triple), \$375 pp (quad)

Includes: 3 nights at the oceanfront Atlas Inn
 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, 1 lunch
 East Lynne Theater presentation

Around Cape Island Cruise & Dolphin Watch Cruise
 Annual Lima Bean Festival

Tour of Cape May's Designer Show House (optional)
 Dinner at Cold Spring Village
 Living History Presentation

Tour of the lavishly restored 1879 Physick Estate
 Trolley Tour of Cape May's Historic District

Visit Hereford Inlet Lighthouse & Gardens, Anglesea
 Cape May Wine Festival - 18 wineries offer samplings
 Cape May Stage presentation

Cape May's Natural Habitats Tour (on board the coach)
 Shopping at "The Walk" in Atlantic City

Make check payable to: UCEA (Separate check for each trip)

We cannot accept cancellations for theater trips, unless we have a waiting list.

NAME _____ DISTRICT (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

TRIP# _____ TRIP NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Union County Teacher Recognition Program 2007

The Union County Superintendent's Roundtable and the NJ Department of Education sponsored the Teacher Recognition Program. A breakfast was held in May 2007 and all the recipients were honored by the Union County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carmen Centuolo. The following were the recipients who were selected by their respective schools and school districts: _

Berkeley Heights: Kim Delatour, Kathleen Grysko, Gina Holzman, Donna Marcy, Laraine Reedy, Anna Smith.

Clark: JoAnn Chern, Lisa Dunn, Franklin Stebbins, William Veit.

Elizabeth: Ines Avila, Kathleen A. Badalis, Patricia A. Bittner, Paul B. Bochenek, Teresa Casal, Jennifer Cedeno, Donald S. Conner, Chrissy Correia, Helen Davidson, Heather A. Dill, Elizabeth Zawislak Duda, Ellen Fazekas, Colleen Flanigan, Lisa Ann Gubman, Miranda Hanafy, Harry Huber III, Sonia Hunter, M. Gabriela Iannacone, Mary Jankowski, Natalie Jefferson, Marguerite Jensen, John Kumar, Odalys Legra, Rafael Enrique Lopez, Melissa Moran, Khalid Mujib, Rebecca Okpych, Thomas Paduano, Joseph Przytula, Lauerin H. Pupos, Evelyn Rodriguez-Salcedo, Katherine Rush, Mary Ellen Scott, Susy Silvestri, Carmen Vielba-Murias, Susan Surmay Wood.

Kenilworth: Joseph Capizzano, Janet Cariello, Joanne Devlin.

Hillside: Philippa A Craig, Marta Ferreira, Dennis Nardone, John M. Trezza, Anthony Tucker, Jeannie Wicklund.

Linden: Kathleen A. Burns, Rocio E. Horzepa, Lauren E. Ioviero, Paul R. Koslowski, Carol-Ann Kroboth, Kenneth Kunz, Shalom Labkovski, William Mastriano, Suzanne Olivero, Theresa Rogakos, Kimberly Terwilliger.

Morris-Union Jointure: Teresa Cassidy-Bennett, Jason Parenti, Michelle Swisher.

Mountainside: Julie Cennamo, Jana MacMillan.

New Providence: Kelly Gilligan, Colleen Hennessey, Carol McCabe, Nancy Scarola.

Union: Linda Auletta, Karen A Bralczyk, Donald R. Erdman, Theresa Marie Hanlon, Angela M. Micchelli, John Olivio, Jennifer Pistolese-Krom, Judith Rubin, Shelley Silver, Toni A. Wyckoff.

Queen City Academy Charter School: Muriel B. Cagney.

Plainfield: Francine Frahm, Oladele Ighodaro, Frank J. Livelli, Tanya Magalif, Marilyn Pisano, Pamela P. Schipper, Sandy Schultz, Luz Sepulveda, Kimberly Wyatt-Jackson, Zena D. Young.

Rahway: Douglas P. Hillegas, Karen Lewis, Tara Seeburger, Marie J. Toto, Stephanie R. Volino, Cynthia P. Zatorski.

Roselle: Maria Simone Cistaro, Mandi Jerome, Dana Ockimey, Marianne T. Panarese-Oh, Margarete D. Philippeaux, Jennifer Roman.

Roselle Park: Dena M. Ahmad, Ellen C. Bachert, John Flecca, Kristin Manko, Sheila O'Reilly.

Springfield: Lisa Bierly, Judy Cariani, Kristine Murray, Mary Perdomo, Ronald Slate.

Union County Ed. Services: Lynda C. Leo, Chastity C. Rivera.

Union County Vo-Tech: Barbara Kaczmarek, Wendy Larsen, Sue Ann O'Rourke, Colleen Prince, Anne Weisgerber .

Winfield: Lynn Bakazan.

Kudos to the Nurses in Elizabeth!!



ADVANCE for Nurses, a magazine for school nurses, annually selects individuals and teams of school nurses that are the epitome of professionalism and go above and beyond the call of duty. This year the school nurses of Elizabeth were recognized in the April 30, 2007 publication as a runner-up in the Best Nursing Team in the category of 'Adaptability'. And according to Cathleen Lear "This is the only time any group of school nurses has been selected for this award. It's quite an honor for us!" Great work nurses! We are thankful for all of our school nurses who never turn away a child in need.

NEA IS LOOKING FOR UNISERV INTERNS

NEA Affirmative Action UNISERV Intern Program for Ethnic Minorities and Women is seeking highly motivated and committed leaders who are interested in employment as UniServ staff and who are willing to relocate for future employment purposes. You must be an active member of NEA to be eligible. Those selected will participate in an intensive 5 week training session next summer in Washington, DC from July 10 through August 12, 2008. If you have an interest in this career path, please contact the UCEA office, and we will send you further information on the application process.

NEA RA DELEGATES

The UCEA delegation to the NEA-RA is listed below. These members will be representing you at the national convention in Philadelphia, PA.

Elizabeth AnneMarie Abercrombie Diane Bello Eleanor Bowser Joseph Galego Jeffrey Giesberg Herb Levitt Jon Lippi Barbara McMurray Minnie Mozee Tauheedah Muhammad	Plainfield Melvyn Duchin Susan Martin Diane Yglesias Barry Young Rahway Anjanette Highsmith Susan Krivenko Paul Ridgway Roselle Joan Dorsey Lisa Palin	Scotch Plains-Fanwood Jacinta Kay UC Vo Tech Frank Furino Rita Urbanski Vesta Winston Union County College Madeline Santoro Union Amy Carlin Ann-Margaret Shannon John Zurka
Hillside Catherine Francis Cynthia Jones Angela Lawler G. Terry Franklin		

NJEA Election Results

Congratulations to the following for being elected as your representatives.

NJEA Executive Committee (3 Year Term)

Ann-Margaret Shannon

NJEA Delegate Assembly (2 Year Term)

Frank Furino

Susan Krivenko

Cathy Sharp

Len Sobel

NJEA Delegate Assembly Alternate (2 Year Term)

Jacinta (Cindy) Kay

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PROCTORS NEEDED TO ADMINISTER PLACEMENT TESTS FOR UNION COUNTY COLLEGE THIS SUMMER

Those interested should contact:
Douglas Greenwood at 908-709-7486.

RETIREMENT SEMINARS

This summer, the Division of Pensions and Benefits will host retirement planning seminars for members of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) who work for local Boards of Education and plan to retire in five years. Visit the NJEA website for details. UCEA does not schedule these sessions. The Division sets the schedule.

MEMBERS CHANGING DISTRICTS

Members who are switching districts need to notify Prudential so that their disability insurance may follow them from one district to the next. The phone number is 800-727-3414.

Money for Your School or Classroom

NEA Foundation Grant Opportunities

Do you have a BIG IDEA? The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education is now offering bigger and better grants up to \$5,000 per project. Applications are accepted on an ongoing, year-round basis. Visit www.NEAFoundation.org for guidelines and an application. **There are changes to the guidelines, make sure you check out the website!** The first review date of the 2007-08 school year is October 15th, so organize your ideas and get them in today!

NEA Urban Grants

This year 25 grants of \$5000 each will be awarded. Information on the NEA Urban Grant Program is available on the NEA's web site at: <http://www.nea.org/ncueahome/urbangrants.html>. Deadline for proposals is September 30, 2007.

INTERLOC

Published by the Union County Education Association
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President.....Herb Levitt
Vice-President.....Paul Ridgway
Secretary.....Eleanor Bowser
Treasurer.....Anne Marie Abercrombie
Editor.....Susan Krivenko

GREAT OFFER FROM AEROSOLES

Go to any Aerosoles store or outlet, show your NEA membership card and photo ID, and receive 15% off your purchase! Although Aerosoles only sells women's shoes, the offer is extended to family, friends and loved ones! Internet orders are excluded.

Calling All New Retirees

UCEA Lifetime Membership Offered

You are eligible to join UCEA as a retired member for life. As such, you will continue to receive the *Interloc* and participate in UCEA workshops, trips and other activities. If you would like to join, send \$10.00 (one time payment) to the UCEA office, along with your name, address, telephone number and the name of the district from which you retired. We recommend you join both UCEA and UCREA.

UCEA
sponsors

"The Sensational Soul Cruisers"

at Echo Lake Park
August 15th, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Admission is free.
Bring a chair.
SEE YOU THERE!

New UCREA Members Sought

The UCREA is looking for new retirees to join for the 2007-08 membership year. We hope that your interest in education will continue with your membership in the UCREA. UCREA is not to be confused with the UCEA, which is primarily for "actively employed" teachers and staff members.

The UCREA is affiliated with NEA, NJEA and NJREA. Our meetings will afford you opportunities for socialization as well as providing you with information about pending legislation, pensions, and health and dental benefits. If you would like more information please call Winifred Cohen, President, at 609-395-9149.

Annual dues are \$10 which entitles you to membership, the UCREA Newsletter, and information about upcoming meetings. The fall luncheon/meeting will be held in October. If you are interested in joining UCREA, send your check for \$10 made payable to UCREA by September 1, 2007 to:

Rosalyn Bernstein-Charnes
Membership Committee
305 Martin Road
Union, NJ 07083

**UNION COUNTY
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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The UCEA office will be closed during July and open during the month of August. The regular hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Our answering machine is always on and it is checked regularly.

*HAVE A SAFE SUMMER
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!*