

## PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT – JUNE 2008

Once again, we have had a very busy and successful year for the Union County Education Association. Representative Council meetings were well attended. Special congratulations to Kenilworth and especially to Candice Grimaldi and Curt Cerillo who brought Kenilworth back into the fold by attending the meetings throughout the year.

Five issues of *Interloc* were mailed. We use the US mail to make sure that all of our members receive the newsletter. 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 the situation, but to no avail.

The UCEA trip program has been very successful this year. One of the most successful was the Cape May Victorian Weekend in October. We will be running it again this year during Columbus Day weekend. Trips are open to, not only UCEA members, but to the general public as well. I urge you to read your *Interloc*, watch for flyers at your work sites, and check the UCEA website.

Dinner workshops in honor of *National Educational Support Professionals 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 for Guidance Counselors. There were 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.

September 15<sup>th</sup> I attended the retirement celebration in honor of Bob

Bonazzi, NJEA Executive Director. October 13<sup>th</sup> was Red Ribbon Day at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. I represented UCEA in the parade to the park. On the 18<sup>th</sup> I participated in a dinner celebrating our local presidents. On October 9<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> I brought greetings to those present at the Union County Retired Educators luncheon. I attended these luncheons as a full-fledged member of UCREA, since I retired on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The UCEA reception at the NJEA Convention was attended by approximately 500-600. 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. We had several winners from Union County.

At the beginning of February, I attended a breakfast at Drumthwacket, the Governor's Mansion. Governor Corzine gave us a briefing on his proposed plans for the State.

On Read Across America Day, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, UCEA participated in the Union Township annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade was dedicated to the members of NJEA. NJEA members from all over New Jersey joined in marching. A fun-filled party followed.

The UCEA Legislative Reception, in April, 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. I also participated in the screenings for 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidates. 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. Almost 200 members attended. Evaluations were positive.

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.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, I served as a delegate to the annual Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) Convention in West Windsor.

May 4<sup>th</sup> was a historical event in New Jersey. The first group of inductees was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame. NJEA is a supporter of the Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at NJPAC. Check your NJEA publications for coverage of this event.

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

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**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE.  
STUMPED FOR A GIFT? GIVE A UCEA TRIP!**

**UCEA TRIPS**

**Young Frankenstein** \$125 per person  
**Tuesday, July 29, 2008** Lv. 3 PM Ret. 11 PM  
 Includes: Bus, orchestra seat.

**A Catered Affair** \$125 per person  
**Sunday, September 21, 2008** Lv.11 AM Ret. 7 PM  
 Includes: Bus, orchestra seat.

**Victorian Weekend in Cape May**

Friday, October 10, 2008 - Monday, October 13, 2008  
 4 Days, 3 Nights - Lodging at the oceanfront Atlas Inn  
 Leave 3:30 PM Friday - Return 7 PM Monday

\$475 Double    \$645 Single    \$425 Triple    \$400 Quad  
 (Rates are Per Person)

**Tentative Itinerary**

***Friday, October 10, 2008***

3:30 PM Leave UCEA Office  
 6:00 PM Dinner at Bloody Mary's Bar & Grill at the Atlas  
 8:00 PM Cape May Stage Production "Rounding Third!"

***Saturday, October 11, 2008***

Hot Breakfast at the Atlas  
 10:00 AM Around Cape Island Cruise & Dolphin Watch  
 12 Noon Annual Lima Bean Festival - food,  
 fun,entertainment  
 2:00 PM Shopping time on Washington Street Mall  
 5:00 PM Dinner at Godmother's Restaurant  
 6:30 PM Sunset Tour of Cape May Point  
 8:00 PM East Lynne Theater production "To the Ladies"

***Sunday, October 12, 2008***

Hot Breakfast at the Atlas  
 11:00 AM Coast Day NJ, A Celebration of the Sea  
 1:30 PM Cape May Wine Festival - Complimentary  
 samplings, food, entertainment, crafters, & vendors  
 6:00 PM Dinner at the Lobster House  
 7:00PM Musical Variety Show featuring Joey Vincent

***Monday, October 13, 2008***

Hot Breakfast at the Atlas  
 9:15 AM World War II Tour of Cape May Area  
 12 noon Lunch at Lucky Bones Backwater Grill with  
 Victorian Fashion Show  
 2:30 PM Shopping time at Cape May Wicker Shop North  
 & Teaberry's Antique Emporium  
 4:00 PM Leave for home

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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. In October, I attended the Governor's Summit sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA).

The Union County Professional Development Board now meets at the UCEA Office.

This summer, we will once again sponsor a concert at Echo Lake Park. It will begin at 7:30 PM on August 27th. Admission is free. The group, this year, is "Verdict." 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!

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 Brooklyn. I attended the Passaic and Hudson Counties Legislative Events. I served on the screening committee for the Union County Teacher of the Year and attended the Union County Teacher Recognition breakfast on May 8th. On May 28th, I attended the Union County Outstanding Scholars' breakfast.

On June 4th, I plan to attend the 2008 NJN Gala, celebrating 40 years of excellence. It was 40 years ago that legislation was introduced to establish NJN Public Television as New Jersey's only statewide broadcast network and only public television station.

At the end of June, I plan to represent you at the Summer Conference of the National Council of Urban Education Associations and the NEA Convention in Washington, DC. I attended the NCUEA Fall Conference in December in Charlotte, North Carolina. In August, I shall attend a meeting of the NJEA PAC Operating Committee, as well as the County Presidents' workshop at the NJEA Summer Leadership Conference in East Brunswick.

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 met twice this year in Washington, DC.

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. On April 28th, I met with our NJEA UniServ representatives in consultation with a representative of the NJEA Professional Development staff to plan our workshop program for next year.

As a member of the New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards Board, I attended meetings of the Board from September until January, when I had to leave

the Board due to my retirement.

Our UCEA website is up and running ([www.unioncountyea.com](http://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.

We welcome a new local into our family. The Morris Union Jointure Commission is now affiliated with us.

Once again, let me remind you that this is your association. Your local association, as well as 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 31th year as president of UCEA. It is time for me to move on. We need new leaders. I hope to concentrate on identifying emerging new leaders during this next year. 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 almost 13,000 mem-

bers, I am sure that we have some potential leaders within our membership. 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

## NJEA Election Results

Congratulations to the following for being elected as your representatives.

**NJEA  
DELEGATE ASSEMBLY  
(2 YEAR TERM)**

*Anne Marie Abercrombie*

*Lisa Palin*

**NJEA  
DELEGATE ASSEMBLY  
ALTERNATE  
(2 YEAR TERM)**

*Dawn Leonard*

*Minnie Mozee*

*Paul Ridgway*

*John Zurka*

**NJEA  
DELEGATE ASSEMBLY  
ALTERNATE  
(1-YEAR TERM)**

*Guadalupe Ferreiro*

**VACANCY**

## FALL FORUM 2008

**KEEP THE DATE: Tuesday, October 21st, 2008**

**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](mailto:Reaprez1a@aol.com) or phone 908-352-1394**

# Union County Teacher Recognition Program 2008

The Union County Superintendent's Roundtable and the NJ Department of Education sponsored the Teacher Recognition Program. A breakfast was held on May 8, 2008 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:** Lorraine Knight, Cheryl McKinney, Ellen Masters, Dr. Meredith Morgan, Jeanmarie Ringwood, Stacey Saravay.

**Clark:** Kenneth Davidson, Lisa Giandanna, Dr. John Giannattasio, William Terhune.

**Elizabeth:** Joao Augusto Camacho, Mary C. Costa, Jill M. Damato, Ana Dias, Wayne Dillon, Dawn DiNardo-Lippi, MSW, Guadalupe Ferreiro, LCSW, Ellen P. Gabriel, Deanna Higgins, Mary E. Hillebrenner, Kristie L. Krowl, Jacob Kulik, Tina M. Labadessa, Rosa Lake, Michele Lourenco, Joan M. Mannix-Moedt, Mary Lou Margadonna, Stephen Marotta, Linda K. Mayer, Barbara J. Meigh, John H. Melody, Patricia E. O'Connell, Elizabeth Perez, Richard H. Pulsfort, Diane M. Riggi, Anna Rodriguez, Jennifer Rodriguez, Jesenia Rodriguez, Lynn Rubin, Rosaraia Smeraglia, Juliette Smith, Doreen R. Stromko, Ronald Szotak, Vanessa Tanneberger, Joseph C. Tintle, Maritza Trujillo.

**Kenilworth:** Leslie Bedford, Christa Candon, Jason Shapiro.

**Hillside:** Scott Avidon, Barbara Frazier, Dr. Peter Maio, John Smith, Kate Vacula, Elizabeth Welsh.

**Linden:** Kimberly J. Casey, Sandra Coglianese, Maria DeLucca, Nanci Garafola, Daniel J. Koslowski, Kimberly Krupski, Tracey E. Lepore, Miriam Merced-Evaldi, Kate C. Scherer, Alice Kennedy Topoleski, Lisa C. Van Dam.

**Morris-Union Jointure:** Brooks DeSantis, Arlene Goldman, Lisa Lawler.

**Mountainside:** Suzanne Jenks, John Theis.

**New Providence:** James Finley, Scott A. Maciag, Donna Trivisonno, Kelly M. Villa.

**Union:** Joseph A. Caliguire, Jr., Marisa Virginia Caruso, Janice DeNoia, Emanuel J. Disporto, Sheryl Ilene Erman, Mary E. Ferrise, Laurie C. Kranz, Victoria P. Pollak, Gilbert L. Rivers, Catherine Stewart-Schackman.

**Queen City Academy Charter School:** Michelle Dudley-Jones.

**Plainfield:** Eleanor Hemphill, Nicola A. Sobers.

**Rahway:** Donna Fidecaro, Robyn Malloy, Patricia Ross, Stephen Valentine, Donna Rose Villars, Dawn Vollero.

**Roselle:** Kusuman Daniel, Susan Dube, Luz Gonzales, Myra Hardy, Donna Palivoda, Emily Rico.

**Roselle Park:** Tiffany Bain, MaryBeth Connell, Tara M. Lechner, Giuliana Melo, Nancy Merwede.

**Springfield:** Lauren M. Chang, Marie Florio, Colleen Funk, Linda Schmidt, Christopher White.

**Union County Ed. Services:** Paula Falconer, Renee Santorelli.

**Union County Vo-Tech:** William Barlettano, James Capone, Samantha Green, Lawrence Miranda.

**Winfield:** Donna Sykes.

## 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.

### Cranford

Rosemary Reilly

### Elizabeth

Anne Marie Abercrombie  
Diane Bello  
Eleanor Bowser  
Guadalupe Ferreiro  
Joseph Galego  
Katie Jones  
Herb Levitt  
Jon Lippi  
Barbara McMurray  
Minnie Mozee  
Taheedah Muhammad

### Linden

Len Sobel

### Hillside

Catherine Francis  
G. Terry Franklin  
Cynthia Jones  
Angela Lawlor

### Plainfield

Katherine Cardona  
Oral Hill  
Eric Jones  
Diane Yglesias

### Rahway

Anjanette Highsmith  
Susan Krivenko  
Paul Ridgway

### Roselle

Michael Boyd  
Joan Dorsey  
Lisa Palin

### UC Vo Tech

Frank Furino

### Union County College

Madeline Santoro

### Union

James Frazier  
Ann Margaret Shannon  
John Zurka

## Money for Your Scholar 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](http://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 2008-09 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, 2008.

# Messages from UCEA Delegate Assembly and Executive Committee Members

**AnneMarie Abercrombie**

*Elizabeth*

Delegate Assembly

In regards to information gathered, our service is invaluable. Our members need to be represented. I consider it an honor to represent interests of the members of Union County at the DA.

**Eleanor Bowser**

*Elizabeth*

Executive Committee

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you on the NJEA Executive Committee Ethnic Minority at Large. I've attended leadership workshops representing NJEA as well as my county and local, which has helped me to share pertinent information necessary to provide excellent education for our students.

**Ann-Margaret Shannon**

*Union*

Executive Committee

I am proud to be a part of the Union County watchdog contingent that represents you at the NJEA Executive Committee and Delegate Assembly meetings.

**Frank Furino**

*UCVTS*

Delegate Assembly

Serving this past year as a DA member has provided a great understanding of the day-to-day operations of NJEA. The legislative efforts of NJEA are always for member benefit to keep our profession strong. It has been a pleasurable learning experience.

**Sue Krivenko**

*Rahway*

Delegate Assembly

All organizations need leaders who represent the interests of their constituents. My colleagues and I on the Delegate Assembly regularly discuss issues prior to the meetings. In addition, we seek out your input by discussing the issues with our colleagues in our locals.

**Lisa Palin**

*Roselle*

Delegate Assembly

My service this year as a DA member was very interesting. I got to hear important information and also vote on important recommendations. I look forward to being a DA member in the future.

**Catherine Francis**

*Hillside*

Delegate Assembly

This year has been an interesting and challenging year for NJEA. Hearing first hand the major issues and challenges facing NJEA members and how the NJEA will fight these challenges has been very informative. The most memorable event was participating with the other NJEA members in the St. Patrick's Day parade. It has been an honor to represent Union County as a member of the DA.

**Len Sobel**

*Linden*

Delegate Assembly

This has become a quite challenging year to be a member of the DA. Many challenging issues have come before this body, such as the State of New Jersey attacking our pensions, possibly raising the retirement age, affecting our health benefits, etc. It has been an honor and pleasure to represent Union County in trying to create better benefits for all educational employees.

**I N T E R L O C**

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77 Central Avenue, Suite 201  
Clark, N.J. 07066  
Phone: (732) 574-0033  
ucea@comcast.net

President.....Herb Levitt  
Vice-President.....Paul Ridgway  
Secretary.....Eleanor Bowser  
Treasurer.....Anne Marie Abercrombie  
Editor.....Susan Krivenko

# 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

**"Verdict"**

at Echo Lake Park

**August 27th, 2008, 7:30 PM**

**Verdict is a lively Reggae Band that features a mix of international reggae and soca music, a twist of Latin and some original songs.**

**Admission is free.**

**Bring a chair.**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## New UCREA Members Sought

The UCREA is looking for new retirees to join for the 2008-09 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 , President, Winifred Cohen 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 2008 to:

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

**UNION COUNTY  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
77 Central Avenue, Suite 201  
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NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

Past date show tickets available:

**Spring Awakening - \$100**

**Avenue Q - \$85**

Call the UCEA Office for details.