



The WTEA Today

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The Woodbridge Township Education Association Newsletter

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The WTEA Today is a publication of the Woodbridge Township Education Association
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Introducing Our Negotiations Team

The WTEA Negotiations Team has been selected and is composed of the following members:

High School Representative
Middle School Representative
Elementary Representative
Custodian Representative
Cafeteria Representative
Transportation Representative
Secretary Representative
Paraprofessional Representative
School Aide Representative
Chief Spokesperson
NJEA Representative

Brian Geoffroy
Lynn Torra
Jennifer Gyenes
Michele Portman
Marguerite Ciraky
Lois Yukna
Marianne Miller
Marilyn Shaw
Mindy McNair
Toyce Collins
Nancy Grbelja

Our Negotiations Team has actually been at work for several months. Our first order of business was the preparation of the negotiations survey, which members should have received late in September. The survey consists of a large number of items

to which respondents assign priority value. This information guides us throughout the bargaining process. We have also done a considerable amount of work in putting together our proposals.



However, it has only been in the past month that two matters have been clarified as to the composition of the team.

First, we have decided in concert with the Representative Council that, as in most negotiations in the past, I would serve as our Chief Spokeperson in all of our sessions. We will be assisted in negotiations by Nancy Grbelja, our NJEA Uniserv Representative. We have found this to be the most productive arrangement at the negotiations table. Nancy brings to our team a great deal of experience from throughout the state in support of the decisions we need to make. As a local leader, I have greater familiarity with the history of our agreement and our community and can therefore speak for our team more effectively.

In addition, we sought and received from the Board of Education an understanding that we would negotiate over successor agreements for both our large inclusive bargaining unit and the new school aide unit at the same time, with the goal of merging the units. As you may remember, last year we negotiated an agreement for our 140 school aides for the first time. In order to incorporate the school aides into the larger bargaining unit, our team will include Mindy McNair, as a representative of our school aides.

SOLIDARITY!



District Instructional Council

September 14, 2005

Minutes

In attendance were: Arlene Botti, Rhonda Dalton, Tara DelGandio, Dennis DeMarino, Suzanne Feneis, Amy Ferrara, Brian Geoffroy, Kerstin Hartlieb, Marilyn Krulewicz, Sharon McGreevey, Jennifer Murphy, Carol Parella, Nancy Paugh, Lois Rotella, Karen Rowland, Laura Steinberg, Lynn Torra and Carol Young.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Referendum News

Dennis DeMarino presented an update on the three phases of upgrades:

Phase I - Windows

- Package 1 – WHS, AMS and School #28 – completed
- Package 2 – Schools #1, #4&5, #11 and CMS – in progress
- Package 3 – Schools #18, #19, #20, #24, #26, IMS & WMS to begin January 2006

Phase II – Renovations (i.e. bathrooms, heaters, ventilators, controls, some drop ceilings)

- Package 1 – Schools #11, #14, #28, WHS & WMS – completion June 2006
 - Completed roofs – Schools #18, #19, IMS & CHS
- Package 2 – Schools #4&5, #20, #21, #22, #24, #27 and CMS – begin May 2006 – ends September 2007
- Package 3 – Schools #1, #18, #19, #26, AMS & IMS – begin May 2007 – ends September 2007

Phase III – Additions

- Package 1 – Schools #23 and #25 – begin January 2006
- Package 2 – J.F.K. High School (renovations as well) – begin March 2006
- Package 3 – School #9 and FMS – begin May 2006
- Package 4 – CHS – begin August 2006 – ends September 2007

- keep in mind that all dates are estimations and subject to change
- school packages were determined by the construction companies based on locations and workloads
- visit the district website for more information as well as photos

2. Genesis Concerns

- Another training session will be offered for secretaries to address issues such as reporting students' attendance.
- Report cards and distribution schedule is the same as last year. As Genesis is implemented, a schedule modification may be considered for 2006–2007.
- Schedules and report cards are printed in the individual schools. Extra money was allotted to principals to meet paper needs. Interims will be printed at the Evergreen facility in Colonia.
- Call Bob Regan for Genesis questions or concerns.

3. Task Force Reports

Elementary

- Laura Steinberg, School #14, joins Kerstin (Hunt) Hartlieb as co-chair
- Donna Jacobsen, Gifted and Talented, is a new member
- first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27 at School #18

Middle School

- Sue Belly, Gifted and Talented, is a new member
- newly adopted plagiarism policy should be discussed with students
 - goals for 2005–2006: 1) improve communication between staff and guidance with regard to at-risk students; 2) revision of the year-end failure options
 - concerns were shared regarding the honors requirements – Often students, who for a variety of reasons do not meet the requirements, are placed in honors classes. This causes them to experience frustration when they are unable to handle the accelerated material. In order to accommodate these students, teachers must move more slowly which in turn frustrates the “true” honor students. Lois Rotella and Nancy Paugh will look into this matter.
 - first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14

High School

- Lois Rotella will ask principals to review the newly adopted plagiarism policy at a future faculty meeting (middle schools as well). The policy will be distributed to staff members who will discuss it with their students.
- First meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22

4. Inclusion

The district will offer more inclusion training. Grade 6 teachers will have an in-service on Friday, October 21. Other levels will receive dates for future in-service.

5. Literacy

- the district will investigate programs to address this issue
- Study Island computer program will be used as a tutorial on the elementary level

6. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Torra, Chairperson

NEA Teacher ToolKit

Introducing the NEA Teacher ToolKit! Online tools for teachers — designed by NEA Members. Take advantage of these easy-to-use classroom tools, including curriculum and assessment tools, IEP development tools, and more! Learn more at: www.neateachertoolkit.com

Your Association

Association membership—local, state, and national—represents the chance to do more for public education and your students than you could ever do alone. When you join your local association, you are joining together with nearly 175,000 people across this state who have different ideas, opinions, and interests, but who all care about public education.

NJEA is a statewide leader in professional development opportunities, education reform efforts and other work to advance the cause of public education and public school employees.

Your local membership also makes you a member of the New Jersey Education Association and the National Education Association. With nearly 175,000 members, NJEA is the state's largest public employee labor organization and its loudest voice for public schools. The NEA has more than 2.5 million members and is the largest organization in the world dedicated to public education and education employees.

People join their Association for many reasons.

We become better educators.

- * Members have access at the local, state, and national levels to professional development classes and publications.
- * Members are connected to their colleagues through local activities, state and national conferences, online resources, publications, and countless other sources.
- * Members have access to leadership and advocacy training.

We help our students and public education.

- * We bargain locally to enhance employee quality, working conditions and to address instructional issues such as class size and time to teach.
- * We lobby the state Legislature and the U.S. Congress for quality education for all children.
- * We're involved in textbook and curriculum committees locally, as well as professional standards boards and education reform panels at the state and national levels.

We have protection for our legal and contractual rights.

- * We work at the local and state levels to enhance working conditions and salary, and to work on other relevant issues.
- * We work to protect you from being treated unfairly or arbitrarily.
- * NEA membership provides a \$1 million employment liability insurance.

We have a great collective voice.

- * Together we can do more than we can individually.

Together we can send a united message to advocate for students and public education. Together we can influence the organization, the profession and the people who make education decisions.

What does it all mean?

ESP, Uniserv, RA. Learning the common acronyms and abbreviations used by NJEA and others in the education community may seem a bit like playing Scrabble.

What do I get for my dues dollars?

Your dues dollars generate big dividends. Did you know that because of NJEA's hard work, when you retire after 25 years of service, you earn lifetime health benefits? This benefit alone allows you to recoup all of your dues investment in just the first two years of retirement.

Over the last 25 years, a member has paid \$6,170 in dues. This amount is recouped in less than one year of free family coverage under the State Health Benefits Plan after retirement. In just two years, a member can recoup dues money in single coverage.

Lifetime health coverage is just one benefit of your NJEA membership.

NJEA also advocates for you in many ways.

- * NJEA provides a multitude of professional development opportunities, such as the NJEA Convention.
- * NJEA lobbyists pursue legislation that protects our members and public schools.
- * NJEA members are eligible to receive scores of discounts through the Consumer Services program.
- * NJEA publications provide up-to-date information on issues affecting members and their professional careers.
- * NJEA field staff bring negotiations expertise to your local's doorstep.

These are only a few of the services brought to you from NJEA headquarters and 21 UniServ offices located across the state.

What services do NJEA members need?

According to the NJEA Strategic Poll, members are clear about their needs. Their top 10 priorities for NJEA are:

1. Protect our pensions and retirement health benefits.
2. Protect our legal, contractual, and tenure rights.
3. Negotiate our salaries and benefits.
4. Work to raise academic standards in our schools.
5. Promote safety in our schools.
6. Encourage parental involvement.
7. Communicate with members.
8. Work for more support when special needs students are mainstreamed into our classrooms.
9. Help us improve our professional skills.
10. Help increase funding for our schools.



Online PD Courses Available at NJEA.org E-Learning!



All courses are web-based tutorials and are accessed through www.njea.org.
A Professional Development certificate will be provided upon completion of the course as well as PD diary, which allows members to maintain a diary of their professional development experiences.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Subcategory</u>	<u>Target Audience</u>
• 504 Online	Instructional Strategies\Best Practices	Learning/Teaching Strategies	Middle School
• Brain Compatibility Learning Online	Instructional Strategies\Best Practices	Learning/Teaching Strategies	Middle School
• Creating a Classroom Community	Affective Education	Character Education	PK - 12
• Drug Prevention Strategies for Educators	Comprehensive Health\Physical Education	Drugs and Medicine	PK - 12
• Effective Classroom Management Strategies Online	Instructional Strategies\Best Practices	Classroom Management	PK - 12
• I Can Do It - Online	Instructional Strategies\Best Practices	Classroom Management	Elementary
• Managing Multiple Tasks for ESP	Online Tutorial	ESP	ESP
• Math Problem Solving Strategies For Educators	Mathematics	Mathematical Process	K - Gr. 8
• Problem Based Learning Online	Instructional Strategies\Best Practices	Learning/Teaching Strategies	PK - 12
• Successful Secondary Classroom Management Online	Cross Content/Interdisciplinary		Secondary

**Middlesex County Education Association Privatization Committee
Invites you to attend a Dinner Workshop**

“DYFS”

presented by Jan Witmer ... Joe Tondi

This workshop will provide an overview of the law.

It focuses on the responsibilities and rights of school employees as the accused,
the observer, and as a member of the school family.

October 24, 2005

Camillo's Restaurant

31 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ

Registration: 4:00 – 5:00

“DYFS” Dinner Workshop Registration Form

Return by October 17th, 2005 with a check for \$30 to:

MCEA, 43 Brunswick Woods Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

(Your check will be returned at the completion of the workshop.)

Name:

Local:

Phone# or E-Mail:

Dinner Choice: Chicken Marsala Veal Asparagus Chicken Parmigiani Fried Flounder

Middlesex County Education Association

Invites you and your guest
To the Annual Cocktail Party
At the NJEA Convention

Thursday, November 10, 2005
Bally's
Ballroom – Sixth Floor
4:00 – 7:00

Delegate Assembly

At the May 21, 2005, Delegate Assembly meeting, the Delegate Assembly held provisional Elections for one (and alternate) to the Executive Committee, in accordance with the established rules. As provided in the Constitution, the persons who are provisionally elected does not take office until a determination is made on or after September 1 of the actual number which will be needed for the current year.

The following person was provisionally elected at the May Delegate-Assembly Meeting:

Delegate Assembly EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lois Yukna was provisionally elected as an active-supportive (ESP) at-large member for 2005-2006

Therefore, since one active-supportive (ESP) at large Executive Committee position is required for the current year, Lois Yukna will fill this position.

Attend the NJEA Convention: Enhance your skills, extend your knowledge & network with your peers

Meet your individual professional development needs at the 151st annual NJEA Convention, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 10 and 11, in Atlantic City.

No matter what position you hold in public education, NJEA members can find a wide range of professional and career development activities which meet their needs. More than 250 sessions will be offered at the Convention, the world's largest educational gathering.

Most of this year's workshops will run two hours. Sessions will be offered 9:30-11:30 a.m., noon-2 p.m., and 2:30-4:30 p.m. Some four-hour workshops also will be offered.

All workshops and exhibits are scheduled in the Atlantic City Convention Center at One Ocean Way, adjacent to the Atlantic City Expressway. Professional meetings of affiliated special interest groups are set in the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel, across from the Convention Center.

You can also get updated on and raise questions about key education issues at sessions featuring State Education Commissioner William Librera on Thursday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Convention Center rm. 304, and the State Board of Education on Friday, 9:30-11 a.m. in Hall A.

NJEA's policy-making Delegate Assembly meeting caps off the event on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa.

NJEA Convention Up-Date

Several attempts have been made to deal with the food concession at the convention. Aramark has a history of privatizing public school and public school college/university food services. NJEA opposes the privatization of public school and college/university employee positions. Therefore Kiosk's will be set up from 7:30AAM to 10:00AM at the Convention Center's atrium where you may order a box lunch. You will be given a ticket and may pick up your box lunch from 11 AM to 2 Pm. Bondie's Daughter's Concessions will serve breakfast, lunch and snack items from concessions set up in front of the Convention Center. Tables will be available. There will also be restaurants within walking distance of the Convention Center.

- The All State Jazz Ensemble Concert will perform from 2:30-4:30PM on Thursday in the Music Box Theatre at the Borgata.
- The All State Chorus & Orchestra will perform on Friday at 8:30 in the Adrian Phillips Ballroom at the Boardwalk Hall.
- New Jersey's Acting Commissioner of Education will address Challenges facing Education in New Jersey on Thursday from 2:30pm - 4: 30pm in Room 304 of the Convention Center.
- The State Board of Education Meeting, let by President Arnold Hymdman will be on Friday 9:30 am –11:30 AM in Hall A of the Convention Center.

These pictures reflect what a great time was had on our 1st Annual Yankee Stadium Bus Trip held on Thursday, June 23, 2005. We left at Woodbridge High School and had sandwiches and soft drinks on the bus. Everyone that attended had a great time and look forward to going again. Since the response was so overwhelming, we've decided to run another one for next year.

- Colleen Barcellona

These are some activities/trips in the workings for the 2005/2006 school year:

Holiday Party (December) at Rugs and Riffys' date to follow
Bus Trip to Atlantic City (February/March)
Pass The Budget Rally (April)
Bus Trip to a Mets Game at Shea Stadium (April/May)
Bus Trip to Yankee Stadium (May/June)
Bus Trip to Dorney Park (July)

If you are interested in any of the above activities/trips please call me at ext. 8445 to be put on the list.

-Colleen Barcellona, Social

GET OUT THE VOTE! NJEA PAC-Endorsed Candidates Middlesex County

Jon Corzine (D) For Governor

For the Legislature:

LD #13 - OldBridge

- Samuel D. Thompson(R)

LD #14 - Cranbury Twp. Jamesburg Boro, Monroe Twp., So. Brunswick Twp.

- Bill Baroni(R)
- Linda R. Greenstein(D)

LD #17 - Highland Park Boro, Milltown Boro, New Brunswick City, North Brunswick Twp., Piscataway Twp.

- Upendra J. Chivukla(D)
- Joseph Egan(D)

LD #18 - East Brunswick Twp., Edison Twp., Helmetta Boro, Metuchen Boro, South Plainfield Boro, South River Boro, Spotswood Boro

- Peter J. Barnes(D)
- Patrick Diegnan, Jr.(D)

LD #19 - Carteret Boro, Perth Amboy City, Sayreville Boro, South Amboy City, Woodbridge Twp.

- John S. Wisniewski(D)
- Joseph Vas(D)

LD #22 - Dunellen Boro, Middlesex Boro

- Jerry Green(D)
- Linda Stender(D)

NEA-RA 2005, Los Angeles

Lynn Torra, 1st VP & Head Delegate

NEA President, Reg Weaver, set the tone for this year's RA with his Six-Point Covenant aimed at creating better schools for our nation's students. He believes these points will pave the way for better working and learning environments through:

- 1.) Professional development opportunities for teachers
- 2.) Increased parental involvement
- 3.) Increased funding
- 4.) Ending privatization of educational support professionals' jobs
- 5.) Fixing & funding the "so-called" No Child Left Behind initiative
- 6.) Professional treatment for all educators.

During the 4 day assembly, close to 10,000 delegates from all 50 states discussed & voted upon 91 new business items, the NEA Strategic Plan & Budget, Legislative Amendments as well as Amendments to the NEA Standing Rules, By-Laws and Resolutions. A variety of issues were deliberated ranging from NEA participation in Operation Iraqi Children; Promoting research on women & heart disease through the NEA Health Information Network; NEA support for the education of former & present prisoners; Strategies to battle curriculum & practices which attack gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender students & staff in public schools; Charter School issues and Technology just to name a few! Please refer to the NEA Today and the NJEA Review publications for specific details on these and other business items.

Joining me at this year's RA were WTEA members Linda Casey, Marquerite Ciraky, Mary Sue Fisco, Eileen Mason, Mary Ann Miller, Michele Portman, Mike Yannazzo and Lois Yukna. Meeting, speaking with and hearing from educators and support staff from across our country, provided an opportunity to appreciate the variety of problems and successes faced by our members; some of which we have in common and others very different from our own issues. Although we are up at 5:30 am, spend hours on uncomfortable chairs and often eat lunch from our laps, the experiences as a delegate more than compensate for the inconveniences.

Members of the Transportation Department volunteered at the 11th Annual Hand in Hand Festival on Sunday, September 25th, 2005 at the Club at Woodbridge. Hand in Hand is a unique day for peoples with disabilities and their families. It is an afternoon of fun and games staffed by volunteers from the community and area corporations. This is the 4th year the Transportation Department has volunteered to assist at this event.



NJEA President Joyce Powell and Jon Corzine

Congratulations to the newly elected NJEA officers:

- President: Joyce Powell
- Vice President: Barbara Keshishan
- Secretary Treasurer: Wendell Steinhauer

NJEA calls for Committee of 1000

“You heard me right; a committee of a thousand!” With those words, at August’s Summer Leadership Conference, incoming NJEA President Joyce Powell (*shown left with Senator Jon Corzine*) sent out the call for NJEA members to give at least three hours to the gubernatorial campaign during the critical weekend leading up to Election Day.

“We are going to conduct an unprecedented Get Out the Vote effort that will put this race solidly in the win column for Jon Corzine. This is going to be a grassroots effort that involves at least one thousand members from across the state. We are going to elect Jon Corzine, because we want to work with him to keep our public schools the best in the nation.”

The weekend before Election Day may be the most important time in a candidate’s campaign. Everything turns on getting out the vote on that Saturday, Sunday, Monday—and, of course, Election Day Tuesday. The leafleting and phone banking that is done on those days have often placed a candidate over the winning line. This is why NJEA has created The Committee of 1000.

What is The Committee of 1000?

The Committee of 1000 consists of a thousand (or more!) NJEA members and leaders who volunteer to work in an NJEA-endorsed candidate’s campaign for three hours some time between the Saturday morning before Election Day and Tuesday evening when the votes are counted. This year, the Committee of 1000 is focusing its efforts on electing Jon Corzine governor.

Through the Committee of 1000, NJEA members will be highly visible and the Corzine campaign will see the true strength of the Association.

Sign up today and make a difference tomorrow

To volunteer for the Committee of 1000, simply fill out [this form](#) and return it to your local president. As a token of the NJEA Political Action Committee’s gratitude for working the Corzine campaign at least three hours between Saturday, Nov. 5, and Tuesday, Nov. 8, volunteers will receive a \$25 Borders gift certificate. Work may include phone banking, leafleting, or other tasks as assigned. Applications to volunteer should be submitted to the WTEA office.

GET OUT THE VOTE!

Together we can make a difference!
NJEA PAC-ENDORSED CANDIDATE

(NJEA’s 11 member Gubernatorial Screening Committee – a subcommittee of the entire political action committee – interviewed Jon Corzine and Republican candidate Douglas Forrester on July 25. Based on those interviews, the candidates’ records, and their responses to a detailed questionnaire on education issues, the screening group voted to recommend Jon Corzine to the entire committee.)

Jon Corzine (D) has a 96% voting record on the legislative report card of the NEA!

The Corzine Education Plan

- **Early Education:** Make full-time kindergarten available to every New Jersey child by 2009 and make high-quality pre-kindergarten programs available to 14,000 more children every year.
- **After Hours:** Double funding for state-sponsored after-school enrichment programs.
- **Curriculum:** Require four years of high school math, including algebra by the end ninth grade; encourage better students to take Advanced Placement courses in all areas; and require rigorous courses throughout high school, with no slack during senior year.
- **Career Development:** Create partnerships to prepare students for jobs in high-growth areas; make a pre-engineering elective in high schools; and triple the number of languages used in the world economy.
- **Real Life:** Teach personal finance so children understand credit scores and 401(K) investments.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 1, 2005 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot through the mail for the General Election
- November 7, 2005 Last day person may vote in person or have an absentee ballot picked up via authorized messenger in the County Clerk’s office until 3:00 p.m.
- November 8, 2005 General Election Day
Polls open 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.