

THE ADVOCATE

Inside this issue:

<i>ESP Council</i>	2
<i>January 12th Meeting</i>	2
<i>Just the Facts</i>	2
<i>In the Know</i>	3
<i>Scholarship Information</i>	3
<i>ESP's Make a Difference</i>	4
<i>Retirement Seminars</i>	4
<i>PWEA Calendar of Events</i>	4

Tuesday Talk Live– On the Road!

Beginning January 27th, the PWEA President and staff will bring Tuesday Talk LIVE to selected buildings. Tuesday Talk is usually transmitted via email to members every week on Tuesdays. We will continue this practice; however, we will also be visiting buildings in order to update employees on the impact of the current

budget crisis. In these buildings, we will ask members to complete postcards which will be hand-delivered by President Bonnie Klakowicz to the Board of County Supervisors. Additionally, we will again this year attend all school board meetings and hearings related to the school budget. The PWEA and VEA will advocate in Rich-



mond our legislative priorities (visit www.veanea.org for the complete list). As always, we encourage you to “Talk Back” to us. Let us hear from you. We look for-

New to the Association? Or just want to understand more about the benefits of your membership?

If so, please join us for one of two scheduled “New Member Orientations” to be hosted at the PWEA office. Topics will include: member rights, FAQ’s, member benefits, review of committees and leadership opportunities, and structure of our organization.

*January 21st at 5 PM
April 28th at 4:30 PM*

Earn Cash and Have Fun,

Dr. Steve Gladis, of Steve Gladis Communications, will conduct three focus groups with PWEA members in an effort to continuously improve membership recruitment and retention goals. The focus groups will be held at the PWEA office on Tuesday, February 3rd (teacher members), Wednes-

day February 25th (teacher members), and Wednesday March 18th (ESP members). All focus groups will begin at 4:45 p.m. and will end by 7:30 p.m. PWEA is looking for volunteers to participate in these focus groups. Dinner will be provided and a \$50 cash stipend will be paid upon com-

pletion of the focus group. You will only need to attend one session. Please contact Christy Sullivan at csullivan@veanea.org or 703.361.2444 if you are interested in participating or need further information. To register, please provide your name, location, job title, years of service in

Newly Formed ESP Council Set to

The PWEA Executive Board approved the formation of PWEA's first Educational Support Professional (ESP) Council. The Council is made up of classified support staff members of PWEA. The ESP Council was established to ensure that the concerns and issues of support professional are heard. So far the council has made plans to increase membership and to get more

members actively engaged in PWEA by attending trainings and conferences. Council co-chairs include Crystal Bivins and Greg Williams and members Ric Clark, Marie Dixon, Theresa Fields, Kim Glazier, Jennifer Golkosky, and Sharon Watts. The ESP Council is still accepting members to the Board. If you are interested in becoming

VEA Senior Staff Attorney to Present at January 12th All-

Please join PWEA for our next All-Member Meeting at Chinn Library from 5 to 6:30 pm. Dena Rosenkranz, VEA senior staff attorney, will present detailed information on member rights and responsibilities after a brief business meeting. If you have never attended a PWEA business meeting, now is the time to become active in your Asso-

ciation. An informed membership equals an engaged membership. Make active membership part of your New Year's resolution! We hope to see you there! Materials, light snacks, and door prizes provided.

"Make active membership part of your New Year's resolution!"

Leave of Absence Requires Action

While on any type of leave of absence or leave without pay, PWEA dues deductions cease and membership and its benefits are terminated. In order to continue to receive all the benefits of membership without interruption, PWEA must receive monthly dues by cash, check or money order on or before the

15th of each month while on leave. Upon return to active status from a leave of absence, employees need to complete a new enrollment form to reinstate payroll dues deductions. Please inform the PWEA office should you go out on any type of leave so that we may ex-

plain your membership options, as well as update our records. Please be advised that should a member discontinue membership while on leave, NEA dues tab insurance will also be discontinued, and upon reactivation, the benefits will be reinstated at the new member benefit level, which



Just The Facts...

Q: How do we know if a PWEA event is cancelled due to snow?

A: PWEA follows the Prince William County School calendar including snow delays and closures. Therefore, if schools are on a delayed opening or early closure schedule, the PWEA office hours will reflect that change. If

In the Know—Evaluations

Certified Employees: Probationary teachers and part-time teachers with three years or less of experience should receive their final evaluation report no later than March 1, 2009. If non-renewal of contract is anticipated for probationary or part-time teachers, final evaluations

should be completed no later than February 1, 2009. Continuing contract teachers and part-time teachers with more than three years of experience should receive their final evaluation report no later than May 1, 2009. Continuing contract teachers with a “NI” must receive their

mid-year evaluation no later than February 1, 2009. Teachers should initial notes and all other data collected and retained for purposes of evaluation. Initials and final signature do not indicate that the teacher has seen the materials.



Classified Employees: Classified employees shall be evaluated annually prior to the conclusion of the initial probationary period, within six months from the effective date of transfer

Scholarship Information to Be Launched on Web

PWEA offers four scholarships annually to members, member dependents, and PWCPS students. PWEA believes everyone should enhance their professional growth by continuing their education. This year's scholarship information and applications will be available via the PWEA website at

www.pweaveanea.org beginning in February. The following scholarships are available:

1. **Member Dependent Scholarship:** applicants must be accepted to a two or four year program at an accredited institution and the applicant must be a dependent of an active PWEA member.
2. **Shelby J. “Nettie”**

Attkisson Education Support Member Scholarship: applicants must be enrolled in coursework to enhance their career path and also be an active PWEA Educational Support Professional (ESP).

3. **Member Scholarship:** applicants must be accepted to a teacher preparation program at an accredited institution of higher learning and must be an active PWEA

member.

4. **Deloris C. Hampton Future Teacher Scholarship (\$500 4-Year Scholarship):** applicants must be accepted to a teacher preparation program at an accredited institution of higher learning and the applicant must be a Prince William County Public School senior or graduate.

Applications are screened by the PWEA scholarship committee

NEA Member Benefit Spotlight

Works4Me is an online forum that highlights “ideas and tips by teachers, for teachers.” It is a free instructional vehicle for members to share information with one another. Find practical classroom tips on recently posted topics such as: going green, recommended readings, balanced behavior and reward incentives, organizing a



career day, preparing for parent teacher conferences, teaching Shakespeare, taking lunch counts, and more! To find more instructional tools, visit www.nea.org; click “Members and Educators”, “In the Classroom”, then “Works4Me”. Search teacher-posted tips, re-

ESP's Make A Difference

The Annual Educational Support Professional (ESP) Conference will be held on Monday, January 26, from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM at George Mason University, Student Union Building II. This year's theme titled, "ESP's Make a Difference", will be presented by NEA's 2008 ESP of the Year, Laura Vernon, School Safety Assistant from Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts, Milwaukee, WI. The conference is



Educational Support Professionals impact the success of our children everyday.

open to all ESP members in Northern Virginia. Pre-registration is required. Registration, parking, materials, and lunch are free for members. The following sessions will be offered:

- *How to Get the Job You Want: Resume Writing & Interviewing Techniques*
- *Managing Differences: Dealing with Difficult People*
- *Member Rights*

Retirement Seminars

Thinking of retiring this year? Join us for one of PWEA's popular retirement seminars.

**February 10th at 4:45 PM,
PWEA Office**

**March 3rd at 4:45 PM,
PWEA Office**

VEA staff liaison Carol Donohue will present detailed VRS information & answer questions. Dinner and materials provided. Please RSVP to Jennifer Wells at 703.361.2444 or jwells@pweaveanea.org. Hurry...seminar spots fill up very quickly!

PWEA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 7 PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Ind. Hill
- 8 PWEA Board Meeting, 4:45 PM, PWEA office
- 12 All-Member Meeting, 5 PM, Chinn Library
- 14 General Assembly Session Begins, Richmond
- 21 New Member Orientation, 5 PM, PWEA office
- 22 PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Kelly Bldg.
- 26 ESP Conference, 7:30 AM -3:30 PM, George Mason University
- 27 "Tuesday Talk Live- On the Road" begins

February

- 2 Lobby Day, Richmond
- 3 PWEA Focus Group, 4:45 PM, PWEA office
- 4 PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM

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