

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core
for LMEA members.

February 2012

Will Governor Corbett [Again] Remove Funding From Public Education to Balance the State Budget?

By the time you are reading this Governor Corbett will have announced his proposed state budget for the 2013 fiscal year. Last year at this time the governor announced deep cuts in public education in the Commonwealth, and so far, those reductions have amounted to over \$860 million. The pain of these cuts have been felt statewide with thousands of teacher and support staff layoffs, and increases to class size and elimination of entire programs in some schools like art, music, and physical education. Corbett's ludicrous "pledge" to Grover Norquist (who?) not to raise taxes of any kind has meant that the gas industry still has not paid one dime in severance tax to the state. Estimates of that lost revenue top \$300 million and counting. Meanwhile, in nearby Chester-Upland schools the staff worked for weeks without pay and the district is on the verge of bankruptcy. Thanks to sensible investment in public schools, Pennsylvania made great strides in education, as measured by increasing test scores, under Governor Rendell. Governor Corbett apparently answers to a different constituency than the 70% of Pennsylvanians who oppose his budget cuts to education. In the days and weeks ahead we will need to once again make our voices heard in Harrisburg, or face the gradual loss of all that we have worked to achieve in the past decade.

Community Service on behalf of Treats-for-Troops

Our six elementary schools will finish their Treats-for-Troops drive on Thursday, February 16th. All the collected **material will be packed for shipment overseas on Wednesday, February 22nd at Lower Merion HS cafeteria**. Any and all staff are welcome to join in this part of the service. We anticipate packing at least sixty 40 lb. boxes, and there is a significant amount of organizing and sorting before the boxes are even filled. This is a great way to demonstrate the LMEAs commitment to service and our troops overseas. We start at **4pm**. Feel free to bring family and friends to help. It's an evening well spent!

Communication - Thanks for your Patience!

We are in the process of improving our communication with all staff. In order to do that, we need personal email addresses from each of you. Last winter, some of LMEA's personal email lists were created without any names attached to them, and this needs to be rectified as there will be some emails that will need to be "targeted" to certain groups of members. If you already receive LMEA BLASTS you are clearly on the list. However, you may receive a request to provide your name because we do not have it attached to your email. Also, if a BLAST is bounced back, you will be contacted to provide your new email list. In the future, when you change your personal email address, please let us know by sending an email with your name, position, and building to lmeaoutreach@comcast.net.

Former LMSD Teacher and LMEA President To Run For State Office

Steve McCarter, a former social studies teacher at LMHS and former president of the LMEA, has thrown his hat in the ring to run for state representative in the 154th Legislative District. Steve is hoping to succeed Hon. Lawrence H. Curry (D) and take his deep interest in education and public affairs to Harrisburg. In his letter announcing his candidacy Steve writes “*Who in our community hasn’t had to cut back, make sacrifices or fear for jobs and pensions? One of Harrisburg’s top priorities should be creating good family sustaining jobs instead of attacking our public schools and advancing a radical party agenda.*” We need people like Steve McCarter in Harrisburg. If you want to donate to his campaign, or help out in any other way, you can make contact at friendsofstevemccarter@gmail.com.

Important Presentations about Contract Bargaining Are Underway

With negotiations now [again] upon us every member needs to have a good understanding of the current bargaining environment and what to expect in the months ahead. We have been to all six elementary schools and both middle schools so far. **Every member is strongly encouraged to attend these meetings.** If you cannot make the date scheduled for your building, you are welcome to attend any of the others. Please mark your calendars for the remaining presentations:

Harriton HS.....	Feb. 28 @ 2:45	Transportation – Harriton.....	Mar. 15 @ 1:00
Lower Merion HS.....	Feb. 29 @ 2:45	Transportation – LMHS.....	Mar. 20 @ 1:00
Technology/Operations....	Mar. 8 @ 12:00	Administration.....	Mar. 21 @ 12:00
Transportation – Mats.....	Mar. 13 @ 1:00	Night Custodians (LMEA Office)..	Mar. 27 @ 1:00

Retirement Presentation And Seminar Coming Again to the LMEA Office

Dom Pendino, a former LMEA president and certified financial advisor at Lincoln Financial, will conduct a free presentation on the PSERS retirement options and strategies for maximizing your retirement benefits on **Thursday, March 29th at our office in Bala Cynwyd.** No sales pitch – just good information for those who may be retiring in the next ten years. Bring your latest PSERS statement. Space is limited and this popular seminar fills up fast so please RSVP by email to: dpendino@lincolninvestment.com

Mark Your Calendar for LMEA Spring Banquet!

This year the annual LMEA Spring banquet will be held on Thursday, May 31st, at the McCall Golf and Country Club in Highland Park. Please avoid scheduling events that will conflict and mark your calendars to attend what promises to be a spectacular event. Please come and celebrate the end of another year and honor our departing retirees as they embark on life’s next great adventure. Anyone attending who plans to retire at the end of this year should inform Terri Tyler at Cynwyd ES so that the LMEA can make arrangements to honor them at the banquet.

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