

The LMEA

# Apple Core



*The officers publish the Apple Core for LMEA members*

January 2021

## **It's a New Year!**

2020 is really over, and we have turned the page on the calendar. We hope the new year brings resolution to some of the many issues that made 2020 unpopular, and you should know the LMEA will continue to work on behalf of our members as we deal with the ongoing impact of an ongoing pandemic. Vaccines are being administered, and we hope to return to normal in 2021.

## **Testing, One-Two. Testing.**

You recently received an email from Terry Quinlan that included some detailed information regarding the district's participation in Ace-It, a program that makes weekly testing available for district staff. Ms. Quinlan's email is one of those I'd recommend saving someplace prominent in your folders so you can examine it carefully and refer to it later if necessary. It's important to know the testing program is voluntary, but that the LMEA welcomes this opportunity. It enables our members to get fast, reliable information about their own health, respond to it quickly, and reduce the likelihood of viral spread within our buildings.

## **Outreach Announcements**

Hi there! Happy New Year!

LMEA Outreach is looking for videos, pictures, & testimonials of what LMEA members are doing to make these days bearable. If you see something great happening (as I do EVERY DAY!), please encourage your colleagues to share that with me (Andria Johnson) at [lmeaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:lmeaoutreach@gmail.com) so we can highlight that on the website. Also, if you have anything within your building that you would like to promote district-wide, please let me know.

## **Important Dates in the Contract**

February 1, 2021—applications for the Conference Committee

April 1, 2021—applications/paperwork for sabbaticals beginning in fall 2020

May 1, 2021—applications for retraining/study leave

May 1, 2021—deadline for using all but one of your IEP days

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## PSEA Mideast Region—Upcoming Events

Even amid the chaos of a pandemic, the PSEA continues to conduct its important regular work. Below is a list of some upcoming events you might want to consider attending (virtually). To register, please visit the Region website: <https://www.psea.org/regions/mideastern-region/>

- Monday, January 11—Educators of Color  
Hosted by our region Minority Affairs Committee, this event is the beginning of an important conversation about recruiting and retaining educators of color to our profession.
- Tuesday, January 12—Pre-Retirement Workshop, 5 pm  
As your retirement nears, it's time to consider which PSERS monthly income options to choose as well as how to handle your contributions and interest account. Our workshops are designed for members who are within five years of their retirement date.
- Wednesday, January 13—Epilepsy Training, 5:30-6:30pm  
The training will present an overview of epilepsy/seizures and acquaint school staff with new seizure classifications, seizure first-aid, medical treatments, and medications to allow them a better understanding of epilepsy and implications for care.
- Thursday, January 14—Special Ed Meeting and Workshop, 5-7pm  
This workshop consists of a practical discussion and explanation for how school entities may deal with special education students that exhibit violent and/or disruptive behavior within the confines of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Following the presentation, our members will have an opportunity to network and speak to the various challenges they have encountered at their jobsite this school year.
- Tuesday, January 19—Department of Pupil Services Meeting and Workshop, 5-7pm  
This presentation will discuss the effects of virtual learning on students' mental health, highlighting research regarding the pandemic and learning, as well as tips for supporting students and families during these times. The one-hour presentation is eligible for Act 48/Chapter 14 credit. Following that, we will have an update on advocacy efforts in Harrisburg as well as time for members to network with their colleagues across the region.
- Wednesday, January 20—ACE Training, 5-7pm  
ACEs are educators - teachers, bus drivers, school nurses, counselors, secretaries, paraprofessionals, aspiring educators and retirees. ACEs strengthen PSEA's ability to persuade legislators to pass strong, pro-public education legislation and stop legislation that will negatively impact our children and our public schools. If you want to learn how to build positive relationships with elected officials to amplify the voices of educators, this event is for you.
- Thursday, January 21—Organize a Winning School Board Campaign, 5-7pm  
The spring primary for municipal elections will be here before we know it. This event will help our members learn about the process by which an individual runs for school board and how to organize a winning campaign. Attending the event does not mean that you are necessarily the person who may run for school board, but it could be useful information for you to communicate to a labor-friendly candidate in your circle.