

Dear EACC Members, Here are the EACC updates as of Monday, November 9, 2015.

Recap of past events:

**Building visits:** Recently we have visited Neal and Stone, with Ryon and Somers visits soon. We will let you know, in advance, when we will be visiting your school!

FYI: When we visit schools, we typically set up in the teachers' lounge and have snacks and give-aways for members and potential members who come visit us. We also have information about money saving opportunities available to members through NEA Member Benefits.

We come to visit you so that you may ask us questions directly, so that that we can provide you with updates on EACC activities, and so that you can voice your concerns. Please come by when we are in your buildings; because we are there to make ourselves available to you, our members! We love being able to see you face to face!

**Annapolis News Conference-** On Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Maryland lawmakers, parents, teachers and students joined at a news conference in Annapolis, once again calling upon Governor Hogan to release the \$68 million in GCEI funding that he held back from schools. Linda McLaughlin, Laura Duffy and Heather Hartman-Jansen were there, representing teachers in Charles County.

Lawmakers showed that the state's "structural deficit" has been closed, and there are enough surplus funds to add to pensions and restore the GCEI funding to schools. Yet again the governor has said no; giving possible future structural deficits and pension liabilities as his reasons. We were hopeful and felt the news conference was purposeful, but were not successful in convincing Governor Hogan.

**Commissioner Amanda Stewart's Fundraiser-** On November 7, 2015, Amanda Stewart had a fundraiser at The Prime Street Grille. Veronica McFadden and Cazie Pitts represented EACC at the fundraiser. We appreciate Amanda's hard work and continuing support.

### **What's new?**

**EACC Retirees/Soon-to-Be Retirees Meet and Greet** at Martini's on November 12, 2015, from 4:30-6:30 PM. There will be an NEA member Benefits Representative there to answer questions about member benefits to retirees.

### **Ruth Ann Hall Champion Student Recognition for middle school students:**

The Ruth Ann Hall Champion Student Recognition was established by the EACC as a memorial to Ruth Ann Hall. Ms. Hall was a middle school teacher in Charles County for over twenty years, a former EACC President, and a passionate advocate for children and public education. In her memory, EACC established this award for middle school students in 2001.

The selection process will be simple:

- Nominations for the award will open in December. **Deadline for recommendations is January 29, 2016.**
- A teacher or a team of teachers may nominate a student by completing a brief nominations form.
- Members of the EACC Public Relations Committee will review the nominations forms and decide on the recipients of the recognition. We ask that you recognize a student/s who has shown improvement in areas such as attendance, good citizenship, excellent effort or other related academic reasons. This award is not intended for those students who already do well in school and who most likely receive other types of recognition. This is intended for those students who have worked hard, despite having some difficulties, and have persevered.

Please start thinking about deserving middle school students you would like to nominate!

### **Coffee and Chat with Linda**

- Monday, November 9, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM – Panera, La Plata
- Monday, December 7, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM – Panera, Waldorf
- Monday, December 20, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM – Panera, La Plata

The **EACC Government Relations Committee** has met and has been making plans:

- The **EACC Legislative Breakfast** will be on January 9, 2016 (snow date Jan.30, 2016) at North Point High School
- The GR Committee is sponsoring a **Town Hall** in January on *“How and Why to Lobby”*. More information soon.
- We want you to come to Annapolis and lobby our legislators with us! Your stories will resonate with your elected officials! Our **Lobbying Dates** are:
  - February 8, 2016
  - February 22, 2016
  - March 7, 2016
  - March 21, 2016
  - April 4, 2016

The **EACC Membership Committee** is planning a **Happy Hour in December**, and some other throughout the year. Stay tuned for more details! Future plans include a Member Discount Card, and activities for Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

### **EACC Committees**

We would love for more members to become active on our committees! Please contact the committee chairs listed below if you are interested in joining. Committee notes will be posted after each meeting on the EACC website, [www.teameacc.org](http://www.teameacc.org)

Membership – Chair: Kathy Reamy

Next meeting date **January 20, 2016, 4:30 PM, EACC office**

The Membership Committee helps grow the membership of the Association by planning and running member social activities.

Government Relations (GR) Committee- Chair: Veronica McFadden

**Next meeting- Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 5:00 PM, EACC office**

The GR Committee is involved in political activities and helps members become strong advocates for public education.

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:00PM, EACC office.

Other meeting dates: Jan. 7, 2016, Feb. 9, 2016, March 8, 2016, April 12, 2016, and May 10, 2016

Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Committee – Chair: Heather Hartman-Jansen

**Next meeting – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 5PM, EACC Office**

The IPD Committee plans and implements Professional Development and Member Wellness workshops and activities.

Public Relations (PR) Committee- Chair: Joe McMahan

**Next meeting – TBA**

The PR Committee promotes and advocates for the education profession in a positive manner in all manners of media outlets in the community.

Minority and Human Civil Rights Committee – Margot Savoy

**Next meeting- Monday, November 16, 2015, Mattawoman Middle School Cafeteria, 4:30 PM**

The Committee helps make ALL members feel that they are part of the union.

### **NEA Member Benefits Updates:**

***Challenge to End Student Hunger campaign*** by NEA Healthy Futures (formerly the NEA Health Information Network). From now until December 4, 2015, NEA members have the opportunity to support the cause and **help raise \$50,000—without spending a dime of their own money!**

NEA Member Benefits, Bank of America and NEA Healthy Futures have teamed up on this unique fund-raising effort. Here's how easy it is for you to participate:

- Visit [neamb.com/FightStudentHunger](http://neamb.com/FightStudentHunger)
- **Sign in or register** to verify that you're an NEA member
- **Hit the "CLICK HERE" button** to have a \$1 contribution made on your behalf by Bank of America. For every click-through to the page, Bank of America will contribute \$1, up to \$50,000, toward NEA Healthy Futures' student hunger project.

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