

EACC

EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION
OF CHARLES
COUNTY

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **February 4th**
4:45-7:00 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting
- **February 5th**
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Common Core Workshop
- **February 9th**
Lobbying in Annapolis
- **February 10th**
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Coffee and Chat with Linda
- **February 11th**
4:45-6:30 p.m.
Representative Assembly
- **February 13th**
Professional Development Survey ends AND EACC Elections Begin
- **February 15th**
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Coffee and Chat with Linda
- **February 20th**
MSEA Elections End
- **February 25th**
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Member Town Hall

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Beacon

February 2015



Greetings from the President

Happy New Year 2015!

The winter holiday season fills people with joy and good will, nostalgia for the year coming to a close, and anticipation to what a new year will bring. At end of 2014 we saw the swearing in of a new set of Commissioners, and Board of Education members. It's a "new day" in Charles County for many things - 3 of the 5 County Commissioners were EACC endorsed and 6 of the 7 elected School Board members were EACC endorsed. We have a superintendent who will advocate for us, school board members who are concerned about workload and testing demands on both students and teachers, and commissioners who are education-friendly. Just last week, at the January Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent's proposed operating budget was presented. It included funds to provide for our 2 missed steps from FY11 and FY 15, as well the FY 16 step for next year.

We are fortunate to have a stalwart team in our corner, but teachers' and administrators' workloads are still tremendous. There is too much testing and not enough time for teaching. We are still working

through the execution of a brand new evaluation system that is worlds different to what we have known for years in Charles County. Change moves us, many times, in a positive direction, but it is not easy. The EACC is working hard to make sure your concerns are heard and addressed, so that you can continue to do what you prepare and toil for every day - the ability to teach.

We must make sure our needs and concerns are communicated clearly and to the correct targets. Self-advocacy, though sometimes a daunting task, is crucial to creating positive lines of communication at all levels. As educators we must step up and make our voices be heard for our profession, our students, and ourselves. Parents also need to be kept current, because they are also advocates for the needs of their children. Our local and state officials need to hear what is going on in your schools, and in your classrooms - those stories resonate with them and bring life to those very real concerns. We need you, as members and as the people who are on the "front lines" every day, to use your voice. Nothing is more powerful than your own story, coming from you, the one who is experiencing things firsthand. As Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

said, "The power of one, if fearless and focused, is formidable, but the power of many working together is better."

The EACC has *The Beacon* to keep you informed, we are sending out surveys to get your opinions on everything from membership to professional development to negotiations, and we are visiting school sites to meet you face to face. I am also sending out bi-weekly email updates to keep all members informed. On our website, www.teameacc.org, we post information about workshops, events, and activities. There is a calendar, your Negotiated Agreement, your Executive Board, video updates to watch (the monthly "McLaughlin Minute", to begin in late January), and even a list of Resource Books that members can check out to enrich and research educational and professional topics. Our phone line is always open - 301-392-0150 (leave a message if we don't answer- we'll return your call).

As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Greetings Unit II A&S Members!

Over the last six months the leadership of EACC and MSEA have been discussing ways to better represent our A&S members, not only locally, but statewide. On a statewide level, MSEA has assigned one UniServ Director to be the primary representative for A&S units in Allegany, Charles, Frederick, Somerset and St. Mary's Counties. MSEA is working with the NEA in developing a professional development training day on April 25, 2015, in Bowie, Mary-

land. More information will be forthcoming on the courses to be offered.

On the local front, EACC has developed a Professional Development Committee that includes two A&S members. The PD Committee is in the process of developing workshops to not only address Unit I (teachers) member's needs, but also Unit II (A&S) needs on the local level. In the near future the EACC plans on hosting a series of member

"Town Hall" meetings which will be open to all EACC members. Recognizing the special needs of out Unit II A&S members, EACC will also hold Town Hall meetings for Unit II A&S members only. These are some of the first steps that MSEA and EACC are taking to address A&S member's needs. Your local and statewide A&S UniServ Director is Dan Besseck and he can be reached at the EACC office at 301-392-0150.



If you itemize your taxes, don't forget to take advantage of deductions for dues and educator expenses!

There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.

—Indira Gandhi

How Are Your Dues Working for You?

nea *Click & Save*

NEA Click & Save, the online discount buying service for NEA members, highlights select retailers and merchants each month. Check out these featured “Buy-lights” for February!

Sephora (cosmetics): Free 3-day shipping on orders of \$50 or more.

PerfumeWorldwide: Take 10% off

Manhattanite (trendsetters): Save 15%

Old Navy: Free shipping on orders of \$50 or more

MyJewelryBox.com: Get 25% off the latest styles

Zales: Save \$50 on orders over \$300

Shoes.com: Get 15% off site wide; enjoy a 60-day return period and pre-paid return shipping

Sports Authority: Save up to 70% off; free shipping on orders of \$49 or more (conditions apply)

Be sure to check C&S often for unadvertised, limited time offers, including discount dining certificates from Restaurant.com. Go to www.neamb.com/clickandsave or www.neamb.com/shopping-discounts/nea-click-and-save-retail-discounts.htm and start saving today!

Save on Tax Preparation with H&R Block—Until March 31!

Special pricing on tax preparation for NEA members:

- \$20 off in-office tax preparation services through March 31, 2015
- Special pricing on tax preparation software and online tax preparation programs

To take advantage of this discount, visit www.neamb.com/hrblock.

Surprise Your Sweetie with a Beautiful Bouquet or Gift from 1800FLOWERS.COM or 1800BASKETS.COM!

With Valentine's Day just

around the corner, express your feelings to the one you love with gorgeous floral arrangement or tantalizing gift basket from 1800Flowers.com or 1800Baskets.com. NEA members save 20%! For more information and to place your order, go to www.neamb.com and look for 1800Flowers.com under the “Discounts” and “Everyday Discounts” tabs.

Save 15% on Carson-Dellosa Classroom Essentials and Get Free Standard Shipping on Orders of \$35 or More!

Carson-Dellosa offers NEA members a discount on their premium classroom decoratives, innovative hands-on materials, and engaging books for Pre-K through grade 8. NEA members automatically get 15% off on any regular-priced products (discount applied at checkout). Plus, shipping is *FREE* for online orders of \$35 or more!

Visit www.neamb.com, click on the Professional tab, and find Carson-Dellosa under Classroom Resources.

Update on EACC Membership Events

The EACC Membership Committee has been working hard to meet the membership wants and needs of our association. The survey we conducted in the Fall has given us many great ideas to implement over the course of the next year.



So far this school year we have held

two happy hour events and an ice cream social. All three events were well attended and we've gotten great feedback from our members who were in attendance.

Coming up we are planning another happy hour social to be held before Spring Break and several exciting events to be held during Teacher Appreciation Week, the first full week in May. Be on the look out for details about another ice cream

social, a night at the James E. Richmond Science Center, a county-wide scavenger hunt and a family picnic.

Committee Chair:
Kathy Reamy

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Courtney's Corner



Courtney Dowling is the full-time MSEA UniServ Director and Chief Negotiator assigned to the EACC. Courtney is originally from the mid-west, South Dakota and Nebraska, and she taught Special Education in Omaha, Nebraska before coming to work for us in June of 2007.

Prior to coming to Maryland, Courtney was an involved member of her local association and was selected as a participant of the NEA UniServ Intern Program for Women and Minorities where she was trained as a UniServ Director by NEA for five solid weeks in Alexandria, VA and then assigned as an intern in Portland, OR

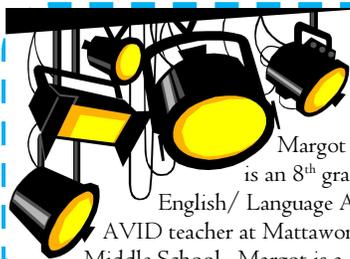
for three months.

When Courtney began working here for MSEA, she was assigned to Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties. She has represented support staff, teachers, and administrators and also sat on all three counties' association bargaining teams during her time here. Courtney is passionate about her work as a UniServ Director. She has always been an advocate for public education and individuals in need.

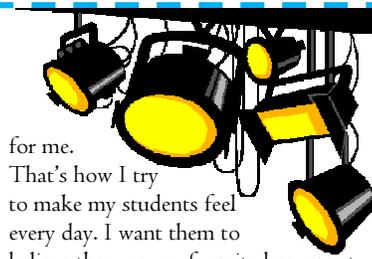
Courtney is truly vested in Charles County and cares about Charles County Public School. She not only works for the EACC members, but she has two daughters who attend Gale-

Bailey ES (Rykah, 10) and Lackey HS (Amayah, 16). Courtney is also a Junior Girl Scout troop leader and is the host family to a foreign exchange student from Japan this school year.

As the Chief Negotiator for the EACC, Courtney will be sending out a negotiations survey and updates through the EACC reps. Please watch for those. The **entire** contract is open or negotiations for FY 16 (July 1, 2015 - ...). We hope that each and every EACC member will take the time to complete the survey so that the information can be used in preparing negotiations proposals. The actual negotiations session are anticipated to begin in early spring.



Member Spotlight



"...it is not what you teach, but how you interact with your students."

—Margot Savoy

Margot Savoy is an 8th grade English/ Language Arts/ AVID teacher at Mattawoman Middle School. Margot is a super dedicated teacher who sets high standards for her students and works hard to make sure they are ready to move on to high school. She has served on the EACC Executive Board as a member-at-large and is currently the EACC Secretary. She is active in association activities and serves on many committees. Thank you for your dedication to our profession and the EACC, Margot!

We asked her, "If you could give a piece

of advice to a new teacher, what would you say?"

Here's Margot's answer: "Teachers really do leave a lasting mark on their students. I model my teaching after my first grade teacher, Mrs. Gladys Franklin from Accokeek Elementary School. She taught me that it is not what you teach, but how you interact with your students. It is your responsibility to model how and why citizens should act towards each other. She fed me when I was both physically and mentally hungry. I knew that she was there for me. Even though there were other students in the classroom, I truly felt like she was there only

for me. That's how I try to make my students feel every day. I want them to believe they are my favorite because at that moment they are. Once they truly believe, the A's will follow. I brought this belief to CCBOE almost eight years ago and I still believe it today.



By the way, I grew up disliking Oxon Hill, Maryland because that is where Mrs. Franklin lived and I thought it was so far away. Now, I could almost walk there — almost."

Are You Ready to be Empowered?

There's a new committee in town and it may be bringing something new to a school near you! The IPD (Instructional Professional Development) committee's vision is to create opportunities to build communities that inspire, energize, and positively em-



power the educators of Charles County. We are working on ideas for professional and personal development that meet the needs of Charles County teachers. One of our first actions was to create a survey to see what EACC members are interested in so that we can create development opportunities to meet your needs. Please take a moment to fill in our survey and let us

know what you are interested in. The survey can be found at: <http://goo.gl/SP9zpU>

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Government Relations (GR) Committee Corner

Recently there have been major changes made to our educational system: changes that are good and others that aren't so good. These changes have been made at the federal, state, and local levels and they affect all students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Often it is said, "People who make the laws don't care," or "... there is nothing that I can do," about the educational reforms. These statements are also frequently followed with the statement, "I don't want to be political." If you are a public school teacher

then you are political. The people, who make the laws, do care, and yes, you can do something about them. It can be something as simple as voting or sending an email. The link to the article *So, Teacher, You Don't Want to be "Political"? That's No Longer An Option* below explains how you, as a public school teacher, are involved in politics whether or not you acknowledge it.

<http://www.brettdickerson.net/so-teacher-you-dont-want-to-be-political-thats-no-longer-an-option/>

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