

10. President's Report- February 2018

president@readingea.com 610-374-7101

"When given the choice between being right or kind, choose kind." Wayne W. Dryer

➤ Insurance:

- Prescription Grievance: Opening statements were made on 1/10/18 a continuation was needed, the next arbitration date was set for 2/16/18.
- **We had our Joint Healthcare meeting on 1/31/18. One topic that had been brought to REA was concern over massage no longer being covered. Per Capital Blue "A prior authorization would need to be completed, and if it is determined that it meets medical necessity, massage therapy would be covered as an adjunct service to the spinal manipulation therapy session. It has to be billed with additional modalities; it is not eligible as a stand-alone service."**
- **Dental: If you were affected with the \$50.00 co-pay for services at the dentist other than orthodontics, please email Lisa Magrowski with the date of service and who your dentist is so she may help to rectify the situation.**
- Please do not hesitate to contact the office directly with insurance questions. It can be extremely difficult to understand at times and there are many inaccurate pieces of information floating around.

➤ **Janus vs. AFSCME:** The National Education Association and the American Association of University Professors submitted an amicus brief in the case, urging the court to reject the plaintiff's argument, which conflicts with the court's long-established deference to state decisions about their public workforces. PSEA joined that brief. Gov. Wolf, along with several other state and local officials, filed a separate brief in favor of preserving the fees. The justices will hear oral arguments on Feb. 26, and a decision is expected by June.

➤ **Political Institute and Educators for Wolf:** We heard from U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, who emphasized the need for more bipartisanship in Washington, and U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson, who reminded attendees that education is the pathway to opportunity. Both Gov. Wolf and Sen. Casey have been fighting for issues that are absolutely critical to our members. **One thing is clear about this election: Everything we fight for — our students, our schools, our colleagues — is on the line in 2018.** We need to fight for them in 2018. Visit www.psea.org/efw to join Educators for Wolf and get the latest updates on the election campaigns.

➤ **Professional Development Opportunity:** PSEA Eastern Region Continuing Professional Education Committee is offering a workshop entitled, "What's Your STORRI? Educators Using Narrative to Unpack Wobble Moments in Their Practice" on Monday, March 19, at Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center (Berks County). Please see attached for details and registration information. **1 1/2 Act 48 hours Pre-registration is required! Deadline for registration is March 9**

➤ **Childline:** The calls have begun. Please note that building reps, officers, President, and our Uniserv are not able to hear details of occurrences since we are mandated reporters. A building rep may be present during the initial meeting placing a teacher on leave. All dues paying members are entitled to PSEA legal should a claim be made against them. The number for the PSEA Eastern Region office has been given to all reps.

➤ **Conferences:** Conferences are a great way to start to get involved with little obligation. I would like to see more of our Reps and Members start to attend conferences. Lodging and travel is paid for by the REA. The following are dates and locations of conferences coming up in the new year. If you would be interested, please send an email to me at president@readingea.com. Participation will be limited to the first 5 people that express interest.

- May 10-12, PSEA House of Delegates, Pittsburgh

➤ **Spirit Wear:** Our spirit wear store is up and running. All proceeds from the sale of shirts will go to the REA scholarship fund. You may place your order by going to the REA website and clicking on the link. www.rockhoundapparel.com/rea