

## 10 President's Report- March 2018

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

### ➤ **Insurance:**

- Prescription Grievance: After two days of testimony, the arbitrator met with the attorneys to discuss the case and explore whether the matter can be resolved. We plan to reconvene with the arbitrator within the next week or two.
- Vision: Concerns have been resolved. If you encounter any problems, please contact the REA office.
- 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.

➤ **March for Our Lives:** There are several marches being planned over the next few weeks and months. REA is working with the district for the "Walk-Out" on March 14th. We want to find a way to have ORGANIZED activities that do not interrupt the learning process while still allowing students and staff to take a stand for their safety. I have also been in touch with Jane from Indivisible Berks. A student from RHS is organizing a march on Saturday March 24. You can find more information about this event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1922800051094655/?ti=cl>

➤ **Educators for Wolf:** PSEA will engage 215 members from across the state to be Advocate Partners in our Educators for Wolf issue advocacy program. Each Advocate Partner will have 200 conversations with voters about Gov. Tom Wolf's investment in our schools via door-to-door canvassing, followed by phone calls reminding contacts about the importance of voting. Participants will receive a **stipend of \$1,000!** Visit [www.psea.org/efw](http://www.psea.org/efw) for more information.

➤ **Direct Dues:** In light of the Janus vs. AFSCME case PSEA is implementing a Direct Dues program. At this point in time we have contract language stating that the district will collect our dues. We will be working closely with John McKiernan to start the process to move over to PSEA collecting our dues. As a member you will have 2 options for dues deduction through the Direct Dues Program; 1. Automatic draft from a checking account with dates aligned specifically to our pay days beginning in the month of October 2. Two credit card payments, the first being November 1 and the second being March 1. Currently dues are taken over 24 pays, with this program it will go down to 18 pays for the automatic draft or 2 pays with the credit card.

➤ **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](mailto: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](http://www.rockhoundapparel.com/rea)