



www.psea.org/dispatch

# Dispatch

P E N N S Y L V A N I A   S T A T E   E D U C A T I O N   A S S O C I A T I O N - E S P

Summer 2022

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

## Message from your president

### WE ARE BACK – TOGETHER

Recently, PSEA’s ESP Region held its annual House of Delegates and workshops. It was so nice to see members at the first in-person ESP event - since 2019.

We are back together again with a stronger mindset. This year’s theme was, “Learning from the Past, Building for the Future.” Please keep in mind, we must not only learn from our past mistakes, but also celebrate our successes and remind ourselves what has worked, as we build a better future for our members.

We all know that the last couple of years have been very tough on us both physically and emotionally. It is vital for you

to take time for yourself and be mindful of the stresses in your life. Your wellness should always be your number one priority.

We all must be physically and emotionally healthy, and we all need healthy local unions. Best practices for union membership show us that having an up-to-date constitution and bylaws, a yearly budget, a sound fiscal policy, an election process, and regular meetings will lead to a stronger union. All these tools will allow your local to be effective, help build solidarity, and keep members engaged.

We all need a unified, engaged, and active membership to combat the many career threats



**Rudy Burruss**  
ESP Region President

and union attacks we are facing.

Please step up when you can, defend our rights, and promote a strong and unified front because our locals, students, schools, and communities are counting on us.

Thank you for all that you do to help our public school students be successful. Enjoy your summer, and I hope you get a chance to relax and recharge for the next school year by taking care of yourself.

## Dates to Remember

- **NEA Representative Assembly**  
July 3-6  
Chicago, IL
- **ESP Member of the Year Application**  
Deadline - Sept. 12
- **Gettysburg Leadership Conference**  
July 24-29  
Gettysburg College
- **PSEA Collective Bargaining Conference**  
Oct. 28-29  
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

# ESP Region Election Results

**E**lections for ESP Region officers and committees were held during the ESP Region House of Delegates on April 22. The following members were elected to serve two-year terms from Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2024:

## Region Officers

Vice President - Marc Howshall  
Officer at Large- Peg Rockwell

## PSEA Committees

### **Resolutions**

Diane Crocco  
Angela Pope

## **Resolutions Alternate**

Michael Dodaro

## **Legislative**

Jennifer Marmeleira  
Sergio Marmeleira



*ESP Board of Directors*

# Nominations for ESP of the year

**M**any of our members are doing incredible things within their job classifications, in the community, and for their local associations. You can recognize their hard work by nominating a member for the 2022 Dolores McCracken PSEA ESP Member of the Year Award.

Nominations are now being accepted for the award, which is presented to a PSEA member who demonstrates the many contributions ESPs make to public education and to the community. PSEA's recipient is

then nominated for the National Education Association ESP of the Year Award.

Please take the time to consider all the outstanding ESPs you know. A nominee must have been a PSEA member for at least three years as of September 2022. Any PSEA member in good standing, any PSEA local, or the ESP Executive Board can make a nomination for the award.

Nominations should be forwarded to Candace Kuba at [ckuba@psea.org](mailto:ckuba@psea.org) or mailed to her attention at PSEA, 400

North Third St., P.O. Box 1724, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1724. They should be postmarked no later than Sept. 12.

For nomination forms, contact your division or region president or visit [psea.org/espoftheyear](http://psea.org/espoftheyear).

If you have questions regarding the nomination process or need assistance with the application, please contact Nate Greenawalt in PSEA Headquarters at [ngreenawalt@psea.org](mailto:ngreenawalt@psea.org) or 717-255-7104.

# Two New Member Benefits Programs!

## Aetna Dental Access® - Discount Dental Program

Smile brighter with savings at over 262,000\* available dental practice locations nationwide. Use your card repeatedly to keep your teeth sparkling clean!

For one flat household rate of just \$8 per month, PSEA members, their spouses, and their legal dependents up to age 26 can access dental savings through Aetna Dental Access.

In most instances, save 15% to 50% per visit.\*\* Save on dental services such as cleanings, X-rays, crowns, root canals, and fillings. Need specialty dental care? Save on orthodontics and periodontics too!

For more information, to find a provider, or to enroll in the program, please visit [www.psea.org/dentaldiscount](http://www.psea.org/dentaldiscount).

## Health PERX Tele-Therapy Program

For only \$23.99 per month, PSEA members, their spouses, and any dependents age 18 up to and including age 25 can get access to unlimited tele-therapy sessions. There is no copay for the sessions. No insurance needed. No contracts. Cancel anytime. The program includes a 30-day money back guarantee!

For more information or to enroll in this program, please visit [www.psea.org/tele-therapy](http://www.psea.org/tele-therapy).

\*As of April 2020.

\*\*Actual costs and savings vary by provider, service, and geographical area. The discount program provides access to the Aetna Dental Access® network. This network is administered by Aetna Life Insurance Company (ALIC). Neither ALIC nor any of its affiliates offers or administers the discount program. Neither ALIC nor any of its affiliates is an affiliate, agent, representative, or employee of the discount program. Dental providers are independent contractors and not employees or agents of ALIC or its affiliates. ALIC does not provide dental care or treatment and is not responsible for outcomes. (Not available to VT and WA residents.)

# Planning to Retire? With PSERS, You're on Your Way!

**T**he Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) offers free in-person and online small group Retirement Exit Counseling sessions to every PSERS member who is ready to retire. Counseling sessions are for every member, regardless of position.

If you plan to retire within the next 12 months, contact PSERS at 1-888-773-7748 to request a staff-prepared estimate before scheduling your counseling session. A Request

for Retirement Estimate (PSRS-151) form is also available on the PSERS website ([psers.pa.gov](http://psers.pa.gov)) and in the Member Self-Service Portal.

At these meetings, you'll receive personal assistance from a PSERS Retirement Representative in reviewing your PSERS staff-prepared retirement estimate, Application for Retirement (PSRS-8), PSERS group health insurance, and when and how your retirement benefit will begin. Their

sessions are designed to help you avoid making mistakes that may permanently impact your retirement benefit.

*Keep in mind: To retain a retirement date of the day following your termination date, you must file your Application for Retirement within 90 days of your termination date.*

PSERS is available to answer questions and assist its members in taking this first step toward retirement. PSERS staff look forward to hearing from you.

**Summer 2022**

*Dispatch is a publication for  
education support professionals of the  
Pennsylvania State Education Association  
400 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1724  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

**Richard W. Askey** - PSEA President  
**Aaron F. Chapin** - PSEA Vice President  
**Jeffrey D. Ney** - PSEA Treasurer  
**James G. Vaughan** - PSEA Executive Director

**Rudy Burruss** - PSEA ESP Region President  
**Marc Howshall** - PSEA ESP Region Vice President  
**Cindy Lawn** - PSEA ESP Region Secretary  
**Holly Harrington** - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer  
**Peg Rockwell** - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



*PSEA ESP Vice President  
Marc Howshall presents a  
certificate of recognition  
from the PSEA ESP Region  
to Colonial Food Service  
ESP President Diane Crocco  
for having “100% local  
membership.” The award  
was presented during the ESP  
Region House of Delegates.*