

## Politics and Legislation:

**Election:** Once again, Bergen County Educators took action to elect pro-education legislators. Members made calls, wrote letters, and campaigned door-to-door. We screened and endorsed candidates from local B.O.E and Mayor and Council to Freeholders and Assembly. Some of these candidates were members themselves.



### Chapter 78 Relief and ESP

**Bills:** Assembly Speaker Coughlin and Senators Cryan and Vitale are working with NJEA Leadership and Government Relations to write and pass bills to provide Chapter 78 Relief. These bills, A5814/S4114, were introduced in the fall. Bergen County Education Association Delegate Assembly members took an active role in reading the legislation and asking very specific questions. We invited Kevin Kelleher to come and speak with our local leaders and LAT representatives to explain the bills and the impact on our members. NJEA believes that these bills provide the best relief to our members, while addressing the need for a sustainable program. In



addition, this should protect us against further movement on Sweeney's Pathway to Progress, which would reduce our benefits.

Our two ESP Bills passed in the Assembly but we need them to be posted in the Senate. Please contact your representatives to post and pass S296 and S3089, which protect our para-professionals.

**ESP:** The BCEA Educational Support Professional Dinner was well attended. James Frazier joined our dinner. James is running for Secretary-Treasurer of the National Education Association. He is an ESP



from New Jersey and currently represents us as an NEA Director, along with Sue McBride and Robert LaMorte. Keep your eyes out for the ESP Overnight workshop, scheduled for April 3-4, with topics on Legal Issues and the XYZs of Pensions.

## Events to Date:

The Early Career Fair hosted members, who are new to their districts.



The HR Dinner Workshop on LGBTQ Inclusion in the Curriculum gave our members tools to implement this important information.

Almost 100 members attended the PD on Parent Conferences and Communication.



The BCEA co-hosted a program for Superintendents on suicide. The presentation was from the Codey Fund with Governor Codey as the special guest.



BCEA hosted a table at the NJEA Family Day at Turtle Back Zoo

## Our Members in Action

We are a force when we work together for our students, for our members, and for our schools.

Argine Safari, former NJEA Teacher of the Year, came to our Council Meeting to share her experiences from her Fulbright Scholarship. Argine spent several months in Finland, learning about their educational programs and philosophy.



Congratulations to Catherine Slutzky, Northern Valley Education Association, on her award of a Hipp Grant to implement a golf program for students with autism spectrum disorders. She, along with the other Hipp Grant recipients, was recognized during the NJEA convention.

Almost 300 members joined the Paramus Education Association's rally!



BCEA Secretary/Treasurer Jenn Clemen stood with Governor Murphy and NJEA Leadership as they announced the Amistad Journey, a program designed to allow educators to travel to some of the historic sites of the trans-Atlantic slave trade from Africa to the United States.



2nd Vice President, Esther Fletcher, is honored by WEDO and Emerge NJ for her contribution to empowering women.



Julia Guttilla, Bergenfield EA President spoke out in support of all students and the need for LGBTQ inclusive Curriculum. She, along with members of the Hackensack Education Association, attended the Hackensack B.O.E. meeting after one of the Hackensack B.O.E. members made negative references to the legislation and the need for LGBTQ inclusion.

Hundreds of Bergen County Education Association members presented and attended the professional development workshops at the NJEA convention. BCEA hosted lunch for our members.

