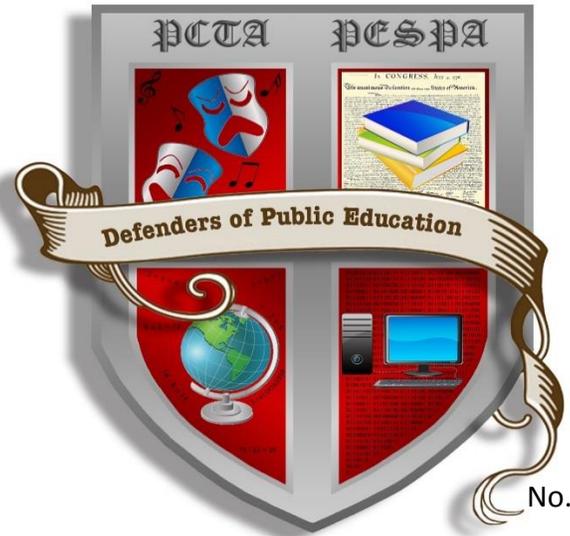


The President's

Solidarity Report



No. 59



In this Issue: FEA Delegates Vote for a Change in Leadership, Our Endorsed School Board Candidates, FEA-Retired Classroom Innovative Grants, Boo Bash, PCTA-PESPA Endorsed Candidates, Restorative Practice trainings, Teacher Lead Money

FEA Delegates Vote for a Change in Leadership.



The 2018 FEA Delegate Assembly promised to be entertaining, interesting, exciting and meaningful for all the delegates who assembled to do the work of our organization. It did not fail to deliver. While important business items and resolutions were debated and resolved, by far the most important item on the agenda was the vote for the officers that would lead our organization.

The result of the election demonstrated an overwhelming desire to change the way FEA has been operating. It was not so much a negative reflection of former President Joanne McCall's tenure but a crushing need for change and victory after a string of legislative and judicial losses. Our Association was gripped by the need for change, just as we hope the voters of our state are ready for change.

Joanne McCall was ever gracious in her concession speech but the new President, Fedrick Ingram stole the show with an acceptance speech that called for unity, solidarity and victory. Both speeches demonstrated the class of the candidates but Fed left the entire Delegate Assembly hopeful and healed after months of divisiveness that usually comes with elections.

As a new President, five years ago, the first to reach out to me and embrace me into the fold were Fed and his new Vice President Andrew Spar. I consider them both close friends and I am glad for PCTA that its President should have access to the ears of both the top officers of FEA. As President of the Volusia County local, Andrew commanded nearly 80% density and is the AFL-CIO state treasurer.

Carole Gauronskas is our new FEA Treasurer and is the first ESP to hold one of the offices of FEA. She has experience in banking and finance before she was called to education. She comes from St. Johns ESP Association where she served as President.

Fed, Andrew and Carole ran as a slate and have a ten-point plan to make changes "*Transforming Action Into Power*", with emphasis on the working the plan to make an impact in the first 100 days. Hard work is ahead for us all and if we wait to see if new leaders can make the difference by themselves, we are doomed to be disappointed. Saving public education and preserving our profession is a fight we all need to contribute to. I am proud to follow our new leaders and I have never felt more hopeful for our future as a Union. I want to thank the PCTA-PESPA delegates for their work at this Delegate Assembly. Each delegate carried a weighted vote representing all our members. They were encouraged to vote for the candidates that they felt would best serve the membership that sent them to the DA. Thank you all for your service.

OUR ENDORSED SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



FEA-RETIRED CLASSROOM INNOVATIVE GRANTS

Each year, FEA-Retired presents two \$100 Classroom Innovation Grants to educators in FEA-R District 5, composed of Pinellas and Pasco counties. This helps members of PCTA, PESPA, and USEP, to finance programs they would like to do in their work but otherwise might not be able to afford. All members of FEA—teachers and support staff alike—are eligible to apply. The criteria are very broad, and a great variety of projects have been funded in the past.

The application form and simple instructions are on the next page or may be downloaded from the FEA-Retired web site (<https://feaweb.org/fea-r-grant-application>) by interested members. The application and project description should be sent to Allin Turner, FEA-Retired District 5 Director, at 609 N. Glenwood Ave., Clearwater, FL 33755. They may also be emailed (subject line 'FEA-R Grant') to him at atur44@verizon.net. The deadline for returning the application and project description is January 18, 2019.

**WE HAVE A TABLE AT THE BOO BASH,
JOIN US FOR SOME HALLOWEEN FUN!**



HELP US DO WHAT EDUCATORS DO BEST, PUT SMILES ON THE FACES OF CHILDREN.

If you have little ones of your own or just like being able to say yes to candy for kids, come out and join us. It is a safe and fun way for students to celebrate Halloween and see just how much their teachers and support professionals care for them.

PCTA-PESPA Political Action Committee

Recommendations

School Board, District 2 Jeff Larsen

School Board, District 3 Nicole Carr

School Board, District 6 No Endorsement

Senate District 16 Amanda Murphy

Senate District 24 Lindsey Cross

House District 65 Sally Laufer

House District 66 Alex Heeren

House District 67 Dawn Douglas

House District 69 Jennifer Webb

Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Ring

Attorney General Sean Shaw

GOVERNOR

Andrew Gillum

Recommendations on Constitutional Amendments:

Amendment #1: Oppose

Amendment #3: Oppose

Amendment #4: Support

Amendment #5: Oppose

Amendment #7: Oppose



*** *The PAC Committee urges everyone to read through each amendment in its entirety. They are very misleading and convoluted. They can sound like you are voting for something good but then include items entirely unrelated to each other. It is possible to be voting for something you are against because it is titled on behalf of an issue we can all agree on. Make sure you understand exactly what you are voting for.*

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE MAKE-UP TRAININGS

For questions please contact Johannes Jaspers, MTSS Specialist, jaspersj@pcsb.org 727-588-6349

Upcoming Restorative Practices Trainings

| #27899 Restorative Practices and Using Circles Effectively (12 hrs.) | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| Section # | Section Title | Dates | Time | Location |
| 91690 | Discovery Room - 9/22/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (6 hrs.): Saturday, 9/22/18 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (6 hrs.): Saturday, 11/03/18 | 8:30-3:30 PM | Discovery Room |
| 91670 | PCTA Building - 9/25/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (first 3 hrs.): Tuesday, 9/25/18 Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (second 3 hrs.): Wednesday, 9/26/18 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (first 3 hrs.): Tuesday, 10/23/18 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (second 3 hrs.): Wednesday, 10/24/18 | 4:00-7:00 PM | PCTA Building |
| 91698 | PCTA Building - 1/30/19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (first 3 hrs.): Wednesday, 1/30/19 Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (second 3 hrs.): Thursday, 1/31/19 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (first 3 hrs.): Tuesday, 2/26/19 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (second 3 hrs.): Wednesday, 2/27/19 | 4:00-7:00 PM | PCTA Building |
| 91700 | PCTA Building - 2/02/19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1 - Intro to Restorative Practices (6 hrs.): Saturday, 2/02/19 Day 2 - Using Circles Effectively (6 hrs.): Saturday, 3/02/19 | 8:30-3:30 PM | PCTA Building |

Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program, F/K/A Teacher Lead & A/K/A CSA Program

Teacher lead money has been an issue in recent years. We have done our best to inform teachers to keep receipts only to have to make deals at the end of the year to keep teachers from getting

into trouble when the District complained about not getting the receipts. Apparently they live in fear of an audit. Since a District in northern Florida was the victim of such an audit, the District has been trying to find a way to comply with IRS regulations.

In truth, the uploading of receipts is not time consuming or difficult. The issue is that while this effort may be considered as light as a straw by the District, it is being viewed by some teachers as one more straw to break the camel's back. We understand that, but Lead money comes from the Government and is not considered wages so it is not subject to collective bargaining. They can't make you take the money if you prefer to write off classroom expenses on your itemized taxes. However, if you can use the \$300 for your classroom, we need to find other things to take off our plates and comply with the process to get the money. The following is the rule in Pinellas:

In accordance with instructions from the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and guidance from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the district is required to collect receipts from all eligible teachers participating in the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program. The District's Technology and Information Systems department (TIS) has created a new process for uploading receipts into the Employee Self Service (ESS) website for the 2018/2019 school year. All teachers must upload receipts in ESS in lieu of submitting receipts in a sealed envelope to the secretary or bookkeeper. This year's deadline for receipt submission is Friday, March 8, 2019.

Beginning mid-October, teachers will be able to electronically complete a Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program Documentation of Expenditures form (CSA form) which **must** be used for documenting expenditures when uploading receipts into ESS. Once logged-in to ESS from the district's website, teachers will see Classroom Supply Assistance located towards the bottom of the left hand vertical sidebar menu. Teachers will click on Classroom Supply Assistance and follow the prompts for completing the CSA form, and for uploading receipts. Once the CSA form and receipt(s) submission is complete, teachers will be able to print a completed copy of the submitted form. Teachers can submit receipts multiple times, or all at once. Each receipt submitted will be deducted from the total funds allocated to each teacher. In order to assist with this new process, a monthly email reminder will be sent to teachers to remind them of the dollar amount they still need to submit.

This year's allocation is **\$300.00** for full-time teachers and **\$150.00** for teachers that job-share. Submitted receipts will be randomly selected for review by the Auditing department for accuracy and appropriateness.

Teachers are directed to purchase only classroom materials and supplies for student instruction; reminder, under the program's guidelines, food and equipment may not be purchased.