

Dear EACC Members,
Here are the EACC updates as of Monday, December 7, 2015.

Recap of past events:

Building visits: We will be scheduling more building visits in the new year. We will let you know, in advance, when we will be visiting your school!

We come to visit you so that you may ask us questions directly, so that that we can provide you with updates on EACC activities, and so that you can voice your concerns. Please come by when we are in your buildings, because we are there to make ourselves available to you, our members! We love being able to see you face to face!

EACC Retirees/Soon-to-Be Retirees Meet and Greet was held at Martini's on November 12, 2015. There were 70 members in attendance, getting information about retirement.

What's new?

The EACC Membership Committee is having a **Happy Hour** on **December 10th** from 3:30-7:30PM at Martini's in White Plains. So, after your duty day is over, come over and have fun with us! Other Happy Hours have been planned for January 21st, March 17th and May 5th.

Are you concerned with how mandated standardized testing affects our students? We are having a **Less Testing, More Learning Town Hall** to begin a conversation with the community about testing in our schools. This is an informational meeting for parents and community members, as well as a forum for teachers and students to share their experiences. We hope that it will be a positive conversation that will lead to positive outcomes for our students. Please join us on **December 17, 2015, at 6:00PM** in the **Thomas Stone High School auditorium** for our town hall. We are inviting teachers, students, and parents to participate. Please come and share your stories. To provide broader context, we will also have a legislative update from MSEA on how testing issues may be impacted by the upcoming General Assembly session.

To register for the Town Hall, please go to: <http://bit.ly/eacctownhall>

Ruth Ann Hall Champion Student Recognition for middle school students:

The Ruth Ann Hall Champion Student Recognition was established by the EACC as a memorial to Ruth Ann Hall. Ms. Hall was a middle school teacher in Charles County for over twenty years, a former EACC President, and a passionate advocate for children and public education. In her memory, EACC established this award for middle school students in 2001.

The selection process will be simple:

- Nominations for the award will open in December. **Deadline for recommendations is January 29, 2016.**
- A teacher or a team of teachers may nominate a student by completing a brief nominations form.
- Members of the EACC Public Relations Committee will review the nominations forms and decide on the recipients of the recognition. We ask that you recognize a student/s who has shown improvement in areas such as attendance, good citizenship, excellent effort or other related academic reasons. This award is not intended for those students who already do well in school and who most likely receive other types of recognition. This is intended for those students who have worked hard, despite having some difficulties, and have persevered.

Please start thinking about deserving middle school students you would like to nominate!

It is never too early to start thinking about the financial future and retirement. The Instructional and Professional Development (IPD) committee and the EACC-Retired committee are sponsoring 2 financial workshops to meet everyone's needs:

1. For new and mid-career teachers:

"Saving for Retirement"

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

5:00-6:30 PM

Stoddert MS Cafeteria

2. For those veteran educators 5 years or less to retirement:

"Understanding Your Retirement"

Thursday, March 31, 2016

5:00-6:30 PM

Stoddert MS Cafeteria

Both workshops will be presented by Damion N. Dengler, CFP, CPA of Integrated Financial Solutions, Inc.

Coffee and Chat with Linda

- Sunday, December 13, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM – Panera, La Plata
- Sunday, December 20, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM – Panera, La Plata

The **EACC Government Relations Committee** has met and has been making plans:

- The **EACC Legislative Breakfast** will be on January 9, 2016 (snow date Jan.30, 2016) at North Point High School
- The GR Committee is sponsoring a **Town Hall** in January on "**How and Why to Lobby**". More information soon.
- We want you to come to Annapolis and lobby our legislators with us! Your stories will resonate with your elected officials! Our **Lobbying Dates** are:
 - February 8, 2016
 - February 22, 2016
 - March 7, 2016
 - March 21, 2016
 - April 4, 2016

EACC Committees

We would love for more members to become active on our committees! Please contact the committee chairs listed below if you are interested in joining. Committee notes will be posted after each meeting on the EACC website, www.teameacc.org

Membership – Chair: Kathy Reamy

Next meeting date January 20, 2016, 4:30 PM, EACC office

The Membership Committee helps grow the membership of the Association by planning and running member social activities.

Government Relations (GR) Committee- Chair: Veronica McFadden

Next meeting- Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 5:00 PM, EACC office

The GR Committee is involved in political activities and helps members become strong advocates for public education.

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:00PM, EACC office.

Other meeting dates: Jan. 7, 2016, Feb. 9, 2016, March 8, 2016, April 12, 2016, and May 10, 2016

Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Committee – Chair: Heather Hartman-Jansen

Next meeting – Tuesday, Feb 2, 2016, 5PM, EACC Office

The IPD Committee plans and implements Professional Development and Member Wellness workshops and activities.

Public Relations (PR) Committee- Chair: Joe McMahan

Next meeting – TBA

The PR Committee promotes and advocates for the education profession in a positive manner in all manners of media outlets in the community.

Minority and Human Civil Rights Committee – Margot Savoy

Next meeting- Monday, December 21, 2015, Mattawoman Middle School Cafeteria, 5:00 PM

The Committee helps make ALL members feel that they are part of the union.

NEA Member Benefits Updates:

***Challenge to End Student Hunger* campaign** by NEA Healthy Futures (formerly the NEA Health Information Network). From now until December 4, 2015, NEA members have the opportunity to support the cause and **help raise \$50,000—without spending a dime of their own money!**

NEA Member Benefits, Bank of America and NEA Healthy Futures have teamed up on this unique fund-raising effort. Here's how easy it is for you to participate:

- **Visit neamb.com/FightStudentHunger**
- **Sign in or register** to verify that you're an NEA member
- **Hit the "CLICK HERE" button** to have a \$1 contribution made on your behalf by Bank of America. For every click-through to the page, Bank of America will contribute \$1, up to \$50,000, toward NEA Healthy Futures' student hunger project.

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