

Leaders Meet To Screen Freeholders

In early October, UCEA leaders met to discuss some of the county issues that Freeholders control concerning mainly Union County College and Union County Vocational Technical School. The presidents of UCC and UCVTS, Madeline Santoro and Frank Furino, attended the meeting. Four of the six Freeholder candidates joined us. Angel Estrada, Rick Proctor, John Russitano and Michael Yakubov met with the committee. They shared their ideas about the role of the County Freeholders, as well as the concerns the county will have considering the state of the world financial crisis. It was encouraging to hear from all of the candidates that education is a top priority. The committee voted to endorse Estrada and Proctor.



As public education employees, it is our responsibility to continue to teach the importance of community responsibility. We have the opportunity each year to elect local, county, state, and national leaders. Also, we have the right to communicate our opinion on current topics in education as well as the world. Make sure that your elected officials know what you are thinking. NJEA has created Cyberlobbying. By going to www.njea.org, and clicking on Legislative, then click on Cyberlobbying, you will have access to all those elected officials that represent you. Just a few clicks and a few words can make a difference in a vote in the county, the statehouse, and Congress. Be an active participant in the process.

Morris-Union Jointure Joins UCEA!

At the September UCEA representative council meeting, we welcomed the Morris-Union Jointure CEA as an affiliate. In addition, they have also become affiliated with NJEA and NEA. It is always a time to celebrate when we add members to our organization. Increased membership can translate into power. We have the ability to change the climate in education through our involvement in our local, county, state, and national organization. Welcome and congratulations!



Save the Date
Union County Reception
at the NJEA Convention
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008
3:30-5:30 PM
Atlantic City Sheraton
Crown Ballrooms III

UCEA at Summer Arts Festival



Through the NJEA Pride in Public Education grant program, UCEA was once again able to sponsor one of the concerts in the park. The group "Verdict" performed for a hill full of enthusiastic listeners. This was the first concert in weeks that had not been relocated to Cranford High School due to rain, so the crowd was exceedingly happy with the outside venue. There was plenty of dance space for all!

Prior to the concert, volunteers representing the members of UCEA distributed water bottles that were also provided through the PRIDE program. Our continuing support of this county program promotes the great public schools that we have in Union County and across the state of New Jersey. Join us next summer in our support of the concerts in the park.

2008 Official White House Ornaments for Sale

UCEA has the official White House ornament available for purchase - \$20 each. This official White House ornament honors the twenty-third president of the United States, President Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901). This ornament is a glimpse of the first Christmas tree to ever have been documented in the White House. The Christmas tree is full of white streams and garland while decorated with many gorgeous toys and treats. At the foot of the Christmas tree there are presents for all of President Harrison's grandchildren; Benjamin, Mary, and Marthana. Quantities are limited, so contact the UCEA office if you are interested.



UniServ Update

The attack by Aflac salespeople is intensifying. Aflac is appearing in more districts, usually by way of an insurance agent or the business administrator. They claim to be “complementing” the NJEA-sponsored disability insurance program (Prudential). The truth is that they are directly competing with our product and ONLY insuring the healthy members by requiring health questions in the application. They claim that they offer specialized indemnity products for cancer, accidents, and hospitalization that we do not offer. The NJEA/Prudential plans cover disability – pure and simple – whether caused by a disease or accident, whether at home or in a hospital.

We ask that you share this information with your members to reinforce the superiority of the NJEA disability program. Importance of NJEA-sponsored Disability Insurance: Employees of public schools typically do not have state-mandated disability insurance. That is why the NJEA-sponsored disability insurance program has been in effect for over 50 years. NJEA crafted the current program and selected Prudential to be the carrier.

Here are some of the reasons why NJEA’s solution for disability insurance is the right choice:

1. True open enrollment periods – There are open enrollment periods at the start of your career and periodically thereafter where members may enroll without having to answer health questions.
 2. Choice of plans – There is a plan designed for younger members and two plans that are more cost-effective for senior members.
 3. NJEA member advocacy – You are not alone in this program. Over 44,000 members are covered.
 4. Stable rates – Since 2002, when the plan transitioned to Prudential, there have been no rate increases.
 5. Comprehensive plan – You do not have to consider purchasing additional riders. Some companies promote separate coverage for cancer, accident, and hospitalization. The NJEA program protects you from loss of income regardless of the cause of disability.
 6. Non-commissioned sales – The representatives who visit schools on behalf of the NJEA program are not compensated based on how much premium is paid. Competing companies are likely to compensate their sales force based on a percentage of the premium.
 7. Liberal pre-existing condition limitation – Prudential uses a pre-existing provision that is less restrictive than competing providers.
 8. Tax-free benefits – As long as you pay the premium with after-tax earnings, your benefits are tax-free.
- For more details about the NJEA program, you may go to the Member Benefits page of NJEA.org or call 800-727-3414.

Thank you for supporting the NJEA solution to income protection.

Your Region 15 Field Representatives:

Jack Spear

Al Ramey

Mary Lou Mitchell

George Huk

UCEA WEBSITE!

Visit us at
unioncountyea.com.

Our webmaster, Ken Betros,
has been working hard to
create the site.

Now, we will need your help to
keep it up-to-date. Please send us
reports on events and activities that
your local sponsors.

Let’s show the rest of the counties
what we are doing here
in Union County.

NJEA Member Benefits

NJEA Member Benefits seeks to
enrich the lives of all members and
their families by offering programs
designed to **save money and increase
buying power.**

Through NJEA Member Benefits, there
are over 250 opportunities
to save in New Jersey.

Through ACCESS, members have
170,000 opportunities to save money.
**DON’T FORGET ABOUT THE WEB
GIVE AWAY EVERY MONTH ON
WWW.NJEA.ORG!**

Our state and national organization work
hard to provide opportunities. Take a
look on the website and see how much
you can save!



UCEA TRIPS

Mamma Mia!
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat; dinner.

\$125 per person
Lv. 11 AM Ret. 7PM

Amish Trip **\$79 per person**
Saturday, April 4, 2009 **Lv. 7:30 AM Ret 9 PM**
 Includes: Bus; Quest for Freedom Tour; From One-Room to "Rumspringa" tour; stop at Farmer's Market; Amish Country Homestead tour; Amish farmlands; "Jacob's Choice" film; dinner at Plain & Fancy.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular
Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008
 Includes: Bus, dinner, 2nd mezz seat

\$107 per person
Lv. 4PM Ret.11PM

Karen Mason at NJPAC **\$130 per person**
Saturday, May 16, 2009 **Lv. 6 PM Ret. 11:30PM**
 Includes: Bus; intimate cabaret setting; dinner.

Shrek
Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat

\$130 per person
Lv. 11 AM Ret. 7PM

West Side Story (not confirmed yet) **\$130 per person**
Sunday, May 17, 2009 **Lv. 11 AM Ret. 7 PM**
 Includes: Bus; orchestra or front mezzanine seat

Jersey Boys **\$120 per person**
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 **Lv. 4 PM Ret. 11:30 PM**
 Includes: Bus; orchestra or front mezzanine seat

Billy Elliott **\$135 per person**
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 **Lv. 4 PM Ret. 11:30 PM**
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat

Circle Line Cruise/Statue of Liberty **\$59 adults;**
\$52 seniors(62+); \$40 children (4-12)
Sunday, May 3, 2009 **Lv. 8:30 AM Ret. 7 PM**
 Includes: Bus; ferry to and from Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island; 3 hour fullisland cruise around Manhattan Island.

Fiddler on the Roof (NJPAC) **\$130 per person**
Sunday, March 15, 2009 **Lv. 4:30PM Ret. 10:30 PM**
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat; dinner

Over the River and Through the Woods **\$80 per person**
at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse **Lv. 1 PM Ret. 8PM**
Sunday, May 31, 2009
 Includes: Bus; dinner; show.

Harlem/NYC **\$75 per person**
Sunday, March 22, 2009 **Lv 9 AM Ret. 6 PM**
 Includes: Full day tour of Harlem & NYC; gospel brunch

Bronx Zoo **\$35 adults, \$30 senior & child (2-12)**
Sunday, June 7, 2009 **Lv. 9 AM Ret. 6 PM**
 Includes: Bus; Zoo package

Wicked **\$130 per person**
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 **Lv. 4 PM Ret. 11:30 PM**
 Includes: Bus; orchestra seat

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE.
STUMPED FOR A GIFT? GIVE A UCEA TRIP!

Make check payable to: UCEA (Separate check for each trip)
We cannot accept cancellations for theater trips, unless we have a waiting list.

NAME _____ DISTRICT(if applicable) _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____
 TRIP# _____ TRIP NAME _____

Welcome Back UCEA Rep Council!



Workshops

All workshops held at UCEA office unless otherwise noted.

To register: Send \$10 check, payable to *UCEA*, to the UCEA Office, 77 Central Ave., Suite 201, Clark, NJ 07066. The check will be returned to you at the conclusion of the workshop. Some of these workshops may qualify for professional development hours. In order to receive a certificate, you must arrive on time and remain till the end. Unless stated otherwise, workshops will be at the UCEA Office and run 4 - 6 PM

November 18, 2008 5 - 8 PM ESP: Team Building - Westwood	January 20, 2009 Gangs	March 31, 2009 Pensions
December 2, 2008 Successful Secondary Classrooms	February 3, 2009 Guidance Counselors	April 20, 2009 5 - 8 PM Secretaries - Westwood
December 16, 2008 Alternative Assessment	February 10, 2009 Math Problem Solving	April 28, 2009 ADHD
January 13, 2009 Non-Violent Crisis Intervention	February 24, 2009 Differentiated Classroom	April 30, 2009 Advocacy
January 15, 2009 Advocacy	March 24, 2009 Special Education	May 5, 2009 Nurses - Westwood

Money for Your School or Classroom

NEA Foundation Grant Opportunities

Do you have a BIG IDEA? The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education is now offering bigger and better grants up to \$5,000 per project. Applications are accepted on an ongoing, year-round basis. Visit www.NEAFoundation.org for guidelines and an application. **There are changes to the guidelines. Make sure you check out the website!** The next review date of the 2008-09 school year is February 1st, so organize your ideas and get them in today!

The Theater Project at UCC

The Theater Project is Union County College's professional theater company. This ensemble produces new works as well as contemporary classics. As members of the Union County community, we should know about this project. It was brought to our attention because of a new play that was produced and dedicated to Union County College on their 75th anniversary and to teachers. The play was a fantasy inspired by the 1986 Challenger mission and teacher Christa McAuliffe. The play focused on McAuliffe's daughter years after the disaster.

It explored the sacrifice made by Christa and the effect it had on her daughter, and humanity's constant striving for something greater.

The experience was unique, and enhanced by the conversation with the actors following the performance. As a member of the UCEA community, I thank The Theater Project for their dedication of this play to teachers. In addition, I would encourage others to attend their productions. Also, the company sponsors a young playwrights competition for NJ students in secondary schools. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2009. See the website for further information: www.thetheaterproject.org.

American Education Week

Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility

16 **Open House Day**
 17 **Parent Day**
 18 **Educator Support Day**
 19 **Student Support Day**
 20 **Music in the Classroom Day**
 21 **School Safety Day**
 22 **School Improvement Day**

NEA
 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
 1201 16th Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20036
 www.nea.org

For more information, visit www.nea.org/awew

NOVEMBER 2008

**UNION COUNTY
 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**
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www.unioncountyea.com

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