

Stress Reduction



Intro to Pilates – HCEA members (l-r) Janice Kubiak (Cradlerock), Sheree Powell (Bonnie Branch MS), Marilyn Hunter (MSTA/HCEA staff), Linda Rinier (The Pilates Center), Ann De Lacy (HCEA president), Jennifer Marciano (Elkridge ES), Angel Lloyd (Elkridge ES), and Pam Winkelman-Etue (Cradlerock) took advantage of a free Pilates introduction class in December. If you'd like to find out more about how to beat stress, go to the HCEA web site or call HCEA for information.

Social Security Changes Needed

December's Rep Council meeting heard a report on NEA's efforts to improve Social Security for educators and other public employees. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of government employees who don't pay into Social Security. This doesn't affect Maryland educators, but HCEA members could be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefits of an individual who also receives a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security. Maryland educators who move to and teach in a state where educators are not covered by Social Security could find their Maryland-earned Social Security benefits reduced. NEA, MSTA and HCEA want to see these unfair penalties eliminated. Find out more on the HCEA web site.

Job Surveys Due

HCEA's Job Satisfaction Survey is the clearest expression of the experiences of both teaching and support staff throughout the system. Responses are completely anonymous and provide an overall and school-specific reflection of just how well the school environment supports student learning.

This year's survey asks for specific information on harassment issues— a focus for both HCPSS and HCEA. Last year's Job Satisfaction Survey made a real difference, providing information to both HCEA and Superintendent Dr. Cousin. HCEA members can help by urging all teachers and support professionals, whether they are HCEA members or not, to return their surveys to HCEA by January 16th.

HCEA Election Schedule

HCEA members will be electing officers, five Board of Directors members and convention delegates to the 2007 MSTA and NEA Conventions over the next several months. Twenty NEA delegates and 90 MSTA delegates are to be selected. HCEA funds stipends

Dr. Cousin to be Honored at Breakfast

Dr. Sydney Cousin will be presented with MSTA's Leadership in Education Award at the MSTA Martin Luther King Breakfast on Saturday, January 13th.

Read Across America



The Radical Readers Contest is part of Read Across America 2007. Middle school students can win one of three Sony PlayStation3's or a Visa Shopping Card of comparable value and more by reading 10 books between February 1 and March 31, 2007, and answering three questions per book. Get info and an entry form at www.mstanea.org.

for all NEA delegates and 35 MSTA convention delegates. During February and March, HCEA members will also receive ballots for MSTA elections. Information on MSTA elections is available in MSTA ActionLine. HCEA elections will be held on the following schedule. The HCEA election schedule is below.

HCEA Election Schedule

Friday, January 5, 2007	Election Information Published in "Works"
Tuesday, January 9, 2007	Nominations Open at Rep Council
Friday, February 2, 2007	Nominations Close [Due into HCEA by 4 pm.]
Tuesday, February 13, 2007	Candidates' Remarks at Rep Council, (Candidate's option)
Friday, February 23, 2007	Ballots in Schools
Friday, February 23, 2007 to Friday, March 9, 2007	Reps Conduct Elections
Friday, March 9, 2007	Last Day to PONY Ballots to HCEA
Monday, March 12, 2007	All ballots are due at the HCEA office by 4:00 PM. No ballots will be accepted beyond this date and time.
Tuesday, March 13, 2007	Election Results Announced at Rep Council

Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA for information.

General Assembly Opens MSTA Open House

Wednesday, January 10, 4 – 7 PM
MSTA Headquarters, Annapolis

Public Testimony on Proposed Legislation

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 PM
Banneker Room, Geo. Howard Bldg.
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City

Martin Luther King Breakfast

Saturday, January 13, 10 AM – Noon
Holiday Inn Inner Harbor

Job Satisfaction Surveys Due

Tuesday, January 16
Due at HCEA by 4 PM

HCEA Legislative Breakfast

Saturday, January 20, 9 AM – Noon
Linden Hall, Dorsey Srch. Vill. Cen.

Monday Night Lobbying

Every Monday beginning Jan. 22
HCEA 4:15 PM, Return 9 PM

HCEA Elections Nominations Close

Friday, February 2
Due at HCEA by 4 PM

10% Discount, Free Shipping From Education Superstore

A new pilot program will give NEA members an additional 10 percent off Classroom Direct's low warehouse prices for innovative classroom materials and learning tools. Shipping is free on orders of any size (except orders shipped directly from manufacturers). Most orders are processed within 24 hours for three-day delivery. Check out Classroom Direct and other discounts on books, music and DVDs, etc, at www.neamb.com/discount/classroom.jsp.

What is "Fair Share"?

State and federal law requires that any union provide certain services and contractual benefits (including salary and fringe benefits) to non-members as well as members. "Fair Share" or "Agency Fee" is a charge for the cost of a union's activities in representing employees. Under "Fair Share," employees who choose not to pay union dues pay this fee, which is calculated from an audit of union finances. In Maryland, special legislation is necessary to allow a local education association to negotiate the collection of such a fee. HCEA will be pursuing this legislation in the 2007 General Assembly. Find out more in next month's WORKS.

Considering Retirement?

As you plan your retirement, don't forget to consider the cost of medical insurance. After 25 years of service, HCPSS group medical covers the retired employee fully, thanks to HCEA's negotiations and advocacy. If you have fewer years of service and/or want spousal coverage this will mean some additional cost. Talk to the Board about your options.

Thanks from Help-A-Child

Response to Help-A-Child's recent request for support was outstanding! Thank you for doing all you do for students in need.



Howard County Education Association

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HCEA Marketplace

For Sale

2004 Honda Accord EX Sedan: Loaded - navigation system, XM radio, sunroof, red with gray leather seats. Very clean and less than 27k miles. 35+ MPG. \$18,950. Call Pam @ 410-531-9508.

Rentals

One- BR Apartment: Lovely, lower level, walkout with view of woods. W/D. \$490. Near How Co General Hospital. Quiet single person. Non-smoker. Sorry, no pets. 410-629-9232.

Columbia Townhouse: Village of Longreach. Two master bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, den, W/D. \$1,800 per month. Call Janet @ 443-413-7513.

Vacation Rentals

Myrtle Beach Golf Villa: 3 BR, sleeps 8, 2 BA, swimming pool access, bus to private beach. Located right behind Barefoot Landing in Barefoot Resorts. 3 golf courses on premises. Call Kim @ 757-646-1202 or email kimberly_colaiacovo@hcpss.org.

General Services

Computer Repair and Service: PC/Server repairs, upgrades, installations, virus/spyware detection and removal. Free pick up and delivery. HCEA discount. Call Gordon @ 410-544-4060.

Beechwood Contracting: Licensed, remodeling/home improvements, small-medium jobs, bathrooms, tile, decks etc. Call Al at 410-381-9211 or aburgoon2@verizon.net.

Employment

Spend Summer in the Sun: DRD Pool Management, Inc. is accepting resumes for summer job openings as swimming pool field supervisors and swimming pool managers. No experience necessary. For more information, call David Watts @ 410-785-7665, or email dwatts@drdpools.com.

Camp Seeks Head Counselors, Instructors: Boating, campcraft, drama, singing, nature, physical education, art and swimming. Beth Tfiloh Camp in Owings Mills runs Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm for 8 weeks (June 25 – Aug 17). Visit our website at www.btcamps.org or phone 410-517-3451. Your child attends free!

To advertise in HCEA Marketplace visit our website at www.hceanea.org/publications.php or send e-mail ad to editor_marketplace@hceanea.org. Deadline for next issue: **Thursday, January 18.**

For more information on these items, visit www.hceanea.org. Inclusion in Marketplace does not express or imply endorsement by HCEA or HCEA responsibility for price or quality. HCEA assumes no liability for nor makes any warranty as to the condition of any article advertised in Marketplace.