

JCAE OPEN DOOR NEWSLETTER

October 2011
www.jcae.com

President's Message

Greetings! On behalf of the Johnston County Association of Educators, I want to welcome everyone back to what is certainly to be an interesting school year. As educators, we are constantly asked to do more with less, but never before has the disparity between what is asked of us and what is given to us been as great. This summer has seen an all-out assault on public schools by our General Assembly and their efforts to balance the state budget on the backs of school children has resulted in North Carolina dropping to 49th among the 50 states in per pupil expenditure. In addition, the budget slashed appropriations to the North Carolina Center for the Advancement on Teaching, pulled funding for the North Carolina Teacher Academy, and killed the highly regarded North Carolina Teaching Fellows program. This budget, supported by all three members of Johnston County's legislative delegation, resulted in the elimination of over 6,300 education positions statewide, including 172 positions in Johnston County. Overall, North Carolina's public schools have lost nearly 17,000 positions since 2008-2009, and 2/3s of those positions have come from the classroom, and marks the first time since the Great Depression that teacher positions have been cut during times of enrollment growth. What's saddest of all is that had the General Assembly voted to maintain the 1¢ sales tax enough revenue would have been generated to fully fund public schools, a position all three of Johnston County's legislators opposed. The good news - if there is any - is that the bad news is not worse news. Through the efforts of NCAE Masters' pay, NBCT's pay and longevity were saved from the chopping block. NCAE was instrumental in getting a waiver provision inserted into the bill lengthening the school year by five days and we made sure that the 70/30 health insurance option was at no cost to employees. For its efforts, NCAE saw both the House and the Senate pass legislation designed to silence its voice and restrict the right of educators to speak out for public schools - legislation that was later vetoed by Governor Perdue.

To respond to this assault it is essential that all public school educators stand together. There are those in the legislature who believe that schools should be for profit rather than for children. Only by speaking with **one voice** can we hope to fend off the well-financed efforts to dismantle public schools. For those of you already members of your professional organization, I thank you. Your membership and your advocacy make a difference. For those of you who are not yet members, I extend an invitation. This is going to be a long, relentless struggle to protect public schools and to regain what we've lost, but NCAE is in it until the last dog drops. Join us today!

Need more information about our Associations? Email us at JCAE27504@aol.com or visit our website at www.jcae.com.



Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- Member News
- Member Opportunities
- Dates to Remember
- Member Opportunities
- NCAE-PAC
- McGee's Middle
- Order of Long Leaf Pine
- Liability Insurance



Sympathy to:

Anna Massenburg, SSHS, on the loss of her father, James "Speed" Massenburg on July 27, 2011.

Tanja Aldridge, BMS, on the loss of her father, Garland H. Sewell on August 6, 2011.

Martha Debevec, SSHS, on the loss of her father, Dwight Brantley on Sept. 19, 2011.

Congratulations to:

Brianna White, daughter of **Ann White**, Cooper, who was inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society at Appalachian State University.

Paige Barnes, SSHS, and husband Wil on the birth of Finley Grace, May 28, 2011 weighing in at 7lbs, 15oz.

Stacey Blue, Cleveland Elem., who married John Sawyer on June 20, 2011.

Mary K. (Lane) Jones, SSHS, and Kendall Jones on their marriage June 26, 2011.

Brookie Honeycutt from WJHS, **Michael Mills** from SSHS, **Kyle Stephenson**, from BMS, **Wendy Barbour** from FOE on their retirement from JCS.

Gwen Johnson, Polenta Elem., selected as JC rep for the NC Council of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teachers.

Anna Westergard, SSHS, and husband Clint on birth of son George born July 17, 2011 weighing in at 8lbs 6oz.



MOVED LATELY?

If you have moved lately, don't forget to send us your new address so you will continue to receive your membership newsletters and other important information. Send an email to JCAE27504@aol.com to update your address.



Dates to Remember

October 4 NBC Webinar on Reflective Writing

October 6 NBC Webinar "Unpacking the Standards"

October 11 NBC Webinar on Videotaping Tips

October 13 NBC Webinar "Working With Documented Accomplishments"

October 15 NBC Webinars: "Jumping in With Both Feet", "Videotaping Tips" and "Unpacking the Standards"

October 18 NBC Webinar "Unpacking the Standards"

October 20 NBC Webinar on Reflective Writing

October 25 JCAE R/A

October 25 NBC Webinar "The Science Entry for ECG/MCG"

October 27 NBC Webinar "Critiquing Your Videos"

October 31 Halloween

Member Opportunities

Each of the following committees has openings and could use your participation. If you are interested, contact your building's Association Representative or contact Rich Nixon at RNixon.JCAE@gmail.com.

Membership

Scholarships and Awards

Read Across America

Communication

American Education Week

Legislators Return to School

Elections (canvassing)

Minority Arts Contest



NCAE-PAC

Most of the decisions that affect educators' jobs are decided by elected officials or by people appointed by elected officials. As public school employees, we have to build a strong political voice by joining our Political Action Committee (PAC) to win on the issues that matter to us like improving working conditions, reducing class size, and protecting our jobs. We need you and every NCAE member you know to start giving to PAC through payroll deduction. It's \$40 a year, \$4.44 a month or \$.02 cents an hour. We're not waiting for any super heroes to save our schools, we're waiting for a say and it's time we start giving our two cents to improve public education." For info regarding contributing to PAC contact us at JCAE27504@aol.com.

McGee's Middle 8th Grade JCAE Member Attends Teacher Institute at the Home of George Washington:

Bethany Meyers, 8th grade LA and SS teacher at McGee's Middle, attended the George Washington Teacher's Institute at Mount Vernon for middle school teachers July 31-August 6th. Twenty teachers from 11 different states spent the week living on the estate and immersing themselves in the life of George Washington. It is a highly competitive program with an application process that includes an essay and two letters of recommendation. The program offers five different weeks for elementary, middle or high school teachers to reside on the estate and learn with other educators of the same grade level. The program requires that teachers complete a lesson plan they will use in their classroom and provide in-service to their district or state. Five teachers from NC are funded by the Keenan Foundation to attend this program each summer.

Beth states that, "It was a wonderful experience. I have come back with a new zeal for teaching this part of our history. I cannot wait to share what I have learned with my students and fellow teachers at McGee's Middle. I am looking forward to planning an in-service to share with other teachers in the state. We were provided with some wonderful teaching ideas and tools to use in the classroom, including many primary resource documents."

Member Recognized by Order of Long Leaf Pine

On Friday, June 10th, Johnston County Schools celebrated the career of a wonderful teacher, person, and role model for children throughout Johnston County for over 32 years. Mrs. **Cynthia Lee**, WSES, was recognized for all of her accomplishments over the past 32 years by receiving the **Order of Long Leaf Pine**. Mrs. Lee announced her retirement earlier this year much to the sorrow of her colleagues, students and parents. She officially retired from West Smithfield Elementary School on June 14th, where she was a top educator for 5 years, and has been teaching in Johnston County for 32 years. Throughout the county, Mrs. Lee has been looked at as a mentor to her fellow teachers and also a leader within the school. She has been an example for anyone on the West Smithfield Elementary staff to look to for guidance.



Do you Facebook? If you want to join JCAE's group go to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=168177527231>.

What You Need to Know About Protection

DPI Coverage

Control of policy rests with the school board

Liability coverage protects employee in less than 1% of cases

Does not include protection of professional rights

Coverage is limited and is on a first-come/first-served basis



NCAE-NCAE Coverage

Why NCAE matters:

The NCAE-NEA coverage is considered an excess policy over any all other valid and collectible insurance the member may have.

The NCAE-NEA supports the employer providing you with insurance to protect you from personal financial liability; however, in today's "suit happy" society those liability cases that do occur are very small per year, and often exceed the school board policy limits.

No Conflict of Interest:

NCAE-NEA represents the interest of the members not the local school board

Immediate access to representation

Does Not Cover 99% of Employee Issues Covered by NC Membership

Liability Protection does not cover 99% of member employment under the NCAE/NEA Legal Service program. This program includes the protection, within the context of professional employment, of basic citizenship rights including free speech and assembly, due process, and equal protection by the law. It includes protection against discrimination in employment practices and the fair application of licensure, salary, evaluation, tenure, dismissal regulations and other employment matters.

To read the whole policy go to www.ncae.org, login, click legal and then click.

JCAE OFFICERS 2011- 2013

President—Rich Nixon

Vice-President—Angela Csider

Secretary—Beth Marcom

Treasurer—Jack Chrismon

NEA News

Are you receiving your **neatoday** magazine? If not, contact us at JCAE27504@aol.com.

