

# Marion County Education Association

## Newsletter

### October 2006

#### Marion County Board of Ed Policy Changes

The Marion County Board of Education has made several policy changes that affect you. Here are the most recent:

Sick leave – After 5 days you must have a doctor's excuse.

Days without pay – you may have a maximum of 2 days per year without pay.

Bereavement Leave – for any member of your family, spouses family or those with whom you reside, for a 3-5 day absence you will need to notify you principal, for more than 5 you will need to apply to the superintendent in writing. A review committee will be established if needed.

**MCEA** was instrumental in representing you and providing much of the accepted wording. However, we did not always get what we thought was best for our members. We did not compromise on changing sick leave from 10 to 5 days without a doctor's excuse. However, the board wanted only 3 days and we had to live with this version.

#### **Join Us -Attend Meetings**

MCEA is a democratic organization and like all democracies it is only as strong as its members. Therefore it is important for your voice to be heard. Let us know your issues and concerns.

Our next meeting will be **Nov. 1** at 6 PM in the freshman building of FSHS.

Other meetings are regularly held on the first Tuesday of each month.

#### **Membership is Rewarding**

Our "Membership is Rewarding" grant program continues to be a success. Our first month's winner received a gift certificate donated by Westchester Village. In October Karen Berry won a free presentation for her classroom from Prehistoric Planet. Many members present have received lottery tickets. Next month the drawing for attendance is a gift certificate from Adam's Office Supply.

Each month the name of 3 faculty reps will be drawn and due to their hard work, your school will receive donuts for all of you professional personnel during that month. Check out the discount coupon for all members at the end of this newsletter. This is just a small thank you for your hard work as educators in Marion County.

### *Election Editorial*

This has been a difficult election season for several endorsed candidates. Senator Kerry has been accused of many things from flip-flopping to aiding the enemy. Senator Edwards made his fortune as a trial litigator; so of course, he cannot be trusted. In our own state, Republican Benjamin Bratt's election committee has targeted Justice Darrel McGraw. No one Supreme Court Justice decides anything on his own—let alone could a single justice decide the fate of a convicted rapist and send him to work in a school. Justice McGraw has an excellent record for the working people of West Virginia. He does not have the huge war chest of money needed to answer the allegations against him. However, McGraw has a track record that shows that his heart is in the right place; Benjamin Bratt does not have such a record. Don't be misled by advertising that demonstrates questionable ethics. Ask yourself who benefits from installing leaders who would use the kind of tactics to get elected. Most importantly, exercise your right to vote—if the last election taught us anything, it is that every vote is important and can make a difference.

*Kathy Jacquez*

### **House Bill 4001 – Informal Assessment**

"The indicators for progress in reading and mathematics in grades kindergarten through second grade shall be the informal assessment established by the West Virginia department of education or other assessments, as determined by the school curriculum team. If school fails to meet adequate yearly progress in reading or mathematics for two consecutive years, the county superintendent, the school principal and school curriculum team shall decide whether a different assessment should be used to verify that the benchmarks are being met. If the county superintendent, the school principal and the school curriculum team differ on what assessment is used, then each entity shall have one vote.

### **PEIA Premium Increases Unacceptable**

"The proposed PEIA increases are unacceptable," states WVEA President Tom Lange. "We have not had a salary increase in two years. The salary gap is widening, and PEIA is talking about increasing monthly premiums by 20%. This is completely wrong and unacceptable."

**Public Hearing – November 10  
Erickson Alumni Durett Hall,  
Morgantown - 5:30 p.m.**

*Linda Bond – MCEA President's Newsletter*