

GEA NEWSLETTER

January 2017

News from the President

Regina Sullivan

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2016-2017

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GEA

16-17 Dues

Full Time Faculty
GEA: \$125
CEA: \$494
NEA: \$187
TOTAL: \$806

.5 - .26 Faculty
GEA: \$65
CEA: \$247
NEA: \$105
TOTAL: \$417

.25 - .01 Faculty
GEA: \$65
CEA: \$247
NEA: \$62.25
TOTAL: \$376.25

Happy New Year!



I hope you and your family had a very joyous and relaxing holiday break. I wish you a very happy and healthy 2017.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all members who contributed to our annual Holiday Bear project. Each school helped at least one family in need this past holiday season. What another great success this year!

Have you ever asked yourself, "WHAT CAN I DO?" There are many ways to get involved with GEA. I encourage each you to visit www.CEA.org to stay up-to-date on important issues. It's helpful to attend your building's "10

minute" meetings each month. We need to all stay informed!

As you know next year, we will have a new contract. Copies of the contract will be coming soon. Also, as promised, informational; meetings on new insurance will also be coming. Once dates are finalized, your building rep will share this important information with you.

Call all NEW teachers (teaching six years or less): SAVE THE DATE. CEA's annual New Teacher Conference will be April 1st at a new location - Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa in Groton.

Please do not hesitate to contact your building representative if you have any questions or concerns. The GEA is here to serve and protect you, our hard working teachers!

GEA News

Preparing for Taxes:

Are you already thinking of gathering the necessary information for your income taxes? Just in case you are looking for your 2015-2016 dues amount, here's the breakdown. Full Time = \$797.00; .50-.26 Faculty = \$412.50 and .25-.01 Faculty = \$372.75. **For the most accurate calculations,** look at your last December 2016 paystub for the year to date deductions for dues.

NEA-RA and CEA-RA:

The CEA Representative Assembly (RA), held each May, is CEA's highest policy-making body. During two days of business, approximately 500 delegates take action to decide Association policies, including adopting amendments to the CEA RA Standing Rules, the CEA Constitution and Bylaws, approving revisions to the CEA Resolutions, and voting on new business items.

Delegates - elected from CEA's more than 160 local affiliates - also vote to approve CEA's fiscal-year budget. The budget is proposed by the CEA Finance Committee and then sent to the CEA Board of Directors prior to adoption by the RA. The budget amount approved at the RA determines the amount of annual CEA membership dues for the fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30. The budget supports all the

strategic objectives, programs, and services provided to members. This year's annual CEA-RA meeting will be held May 5th and 6th at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The NEA-RA's annual meeting will be held at the beginning of July. If you are interested in attending either event, let your rep know ASAP.



SARAH Read-a-thon:

Grades K-6 will kick off the SARAH read-a-thon event between the end of January through March! Look for more information from your rep! We look forward to another successful year and appreciate all of your support with this event! GHS will also be contributing, but instead of a fundraiser will do another event at GHS such as last year's Guilford Police Department verse student volleyball game.

County Forum Meeting:

Meet state officers and other teachers! Let Regina Sullivan, Patty McLaughlin or your building representative know if you are interested. Each dinner meeting starts at 5:00pm and concludes at 7:00pm. This is a great way to get informed. The next meeting for Middlesex County is February 1st at Baci Grill in Cromwell. You can check all county's dates at <http://www.cea.org/workshops/>.

What Teachers Need to Know About the New Student Data Privacy

A law protecting student data privacy went into effect October 1, and Connecticut districts are required to make sure they're in compliance.

The public act that passed the Connecticut General Assembly last spring protects classroom data by restricting how student information may be collected and used by certain websites, apps, and board of education contractors that handle student data.

The implementation of this act addresses the over-collection and potential misuse of student, teacher, and classroom-level data. In many cases, this work will ultimately save money by reducing duplicative purchases of technological tools—however coming into compliance is a challenge for districts right now and will continue to be until these tools are all inventoried and their terms of service vetted.

Teachers should check with their department chairs or building administrators to find out what steps their districts have put in place to securely use technology tools available to students.

As a best practice, districts should collect the names of online programs and apps being used by staff and then produce, post, and communicate a list of vetted apps and services. Some districts are already doing this to provide parents with information and teachers with peace of mind and access to new tools.

Districts should check to be sure that the terms of service and any signed contracts include the protections required by the new law. For a

list of what is required, see the [Public Act](#) or [a summary of the Act from the Office of Legislative Research](#).

The state is working directly with larger service and app providers, including Google and Microsoft, to develop a statewide template contract for all districts—and will subsequently work to develop similar templates with smaller providers.

As districts inventory and review contracts and terms of service, it will become clearer which apps and services are in compliance with the new law. Companies that want to continue to have their apps and services used by schools in Connecticut will simply have to come into compliance.

For more information check out: [A Student Data Privacy Toolkit from the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology](#). This document offers definitions and general best-practice guidelines as well as communication templates, tools to check compliance, and other resources to help school leaders. It is updated frequently with new resources and findings.

[Operationalizing Public Act 189: Insights, Best Practices, and Tools for Connecticut Schools](#) A presentation by the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology delivered at the state data privacy forum on September 8.

Important Reminders

- **GEA online!** Visit www.gea.yolasite.com.
- **Retirement workshops** are being offered. The CEA offers workshops which help teachers understand the teachers' retirement system and aid in planning for the future. Benefits are fully explained and questions can be answered. **Be sure to register online or call CEA to register.**
- We want to hear from you, our members! Do you have an entry for the "Spotlight" area? Please share ideas for upcoming newsletters by contacting Patty McLaughlin through e-mail or inter-school mail (BMS).

~ Benefits ~

NEA Benefits: Discover all we have to offer you by downloading our Programs & Services booklet. Inside you will find a complete listing of what is offered from NEA Member Benefits as well as other valuable services made available through NEA. Link = <https://www.neamb.com/cps/xbcr/neamb/DOC-SID-C1B46B2E-8625A175-001.pdf>

CEA Benefits:

[Killington Resort - Killington, VT](#)

[Pico Mountain - Killington, VT](#)

Members can access dynamic pricing calendars on the Killington and Pico Mountain websites. Use promo code: **CTEDU17** to save on 1-day and multi-day tickets.

[TicketsAtWork.com](#)

Discounts on hotels, theme parks, attractions, movie tickets, events, car rentals, and more. Visit the website, click "Become a Member" to set up an account, and enter company code CEA.



Spotlight: Recognizing Our Members for a Job Well Done



The GEA would like to recognize our President, Regina Sullivan, and Vice President, Kristie Whitcomb for their countless efforts. Not many members may realize the amount of time and energy these two individuals put forth to help us behind the scenes to maintain a positive working relationship with administrations and BOE. In addition, this past year during our rounds of negotiations, Regina and Kristie spent hours representing our membership to reach a positive outcome with our new contract. THANK YOU!



Please e-mail any newsletter submissions or ideas to Patricia McLaughlin.