

GEA NEWSLETTER

October 2017

News from the President

Regina Sullivan

GEA Officers

2017-2018

President
Regina Sullivan
GHS
314-9837 (cell)

Vice President
Kristie Whitcomb
GHS
453-2741

Treasurer
Diane Hall
GHS
453-2741

PR Recording Secretary
Patty McLaughlin
BMS
457-0222 ext 443

Membership Secretary
Anne Lombard
BMS
457-0222 ext 446

GEA

17-18 Dues

Full Time Faculty
GEA: \$145
CEA: \$499
NEA: \$189
TOTAL: \$833

.5 - .26 Faculty
GEA: \$85
CEA: \$249.50
NEA: \$106
TOTAL: \$465.50

.25 - .01 Faculty
GEA: \$85
CEA: \$249.50
NEA: \$64.75
TOTAL: \$465.50

WELCOME BACK!

I hope you had a relaxing summer and that your school year is off to a wonderful start.



Who is your building representative? Elections occurred in each building this past June. Please be aware of your assigned building representative(s) and the executive board members for the 2017-2018 school year. Your building rep looks forward to seeing you at ten minute monthly meetings this school year.

Have you located your GEA bulletin board yet? I encourage all members to take the time to locate this important

area in their school. On this board, you will find contact information for your GEA Executive Board, as well as each school's building representative(s). The meeting minutes are available for any GEA member, just ask your building rep and they will be happy to share them with you!

Stay connected! I encourage everyone to log on to the CEA webpage for professional development opportunities, discounts/benefits for teachers, and much more! Also, don't forget about the GEA website too! (Website address is on the back of this newsletter.)

Here's to another great school year!

GEA News

Guilford Teachers Endorse Matt Hoey for First Selectman

Press Release from GEA

Part of the GEA Executive Board's job involves sifting through the political issues, positions and dialogue as they relate to our members. The members of the executive board have been chosen by you, our membership, to represent the interests of our membership in a representative form of governance approved by the membership.

On Thursday, October 5th, members of the GEA Executive Board met with both Matt Hoey and Ken MacKenzie as in the past we have considered an endorsement for candidates. Our endorsement process is nonpartisan, democratic and focused exclusively on who we think will best represent the voice of public school teachers in Hartford. In this case, the executive board considered issues most important to teachers, and decided make an endorsement based on our findings after hearing from both candidates for First Selectman.

The GEA Executive Board would like to inform you that we have endorsed Matt Hoey for the November 7th election.

The Guilford Teachers' Association (GEA) has endorsed Matt Hoey for First Selectman. Regina Sullivan, local president of the GEA announced the decision on October 12, 2017. After the GEA governing board interviewed candidates for the position on 10/5/17, the board voted unanimously to endorse Matt Hoey. "Matt has been a steadfast champion of our school system and our teachers," stated Sullivan. "As Board of Finance Chair, he has fought hard to provide the financial tools the Guilford Public Schools needed to become one of the top ten school systems in our state." The GEA Board also recognized Hoey's history of support, the implementation of foreign languages at the elementary level, literacy & math coaches, all-day kindergarten and the new high school.

"A superlative school system and prudent spending are not mutually exclusive, as evidenced right here in Guilford," Hoey stated. "Year after year, we improve the education environment our children learn in, and at the same time spend far less than other communities like us. I am deeply honored that Guilford teachers have endorsed me. They helped my wife and I raise our three successful children, and I am deeply grateful to them for that."

Matt Hoey is the Democratic candidate for First Selectman. He has lived in Guilford since 1985. The election will be held on November 7.



GEA News

Dues Update:

Did you know that just your dues have increased? This summer at the NEA-RA, their dues were voted upon and increased by two dollars. CEA dues increased by five dollars this year. The following amounts have been established for this school year. The total full-time dues for the year is **\$833.00**. Any GEA member that is 0.51 or less can see their dues breakdown on the front of this newsletter. Remember these dues include membership in not only the GEA, but also the CEA and NEA. These deductions are taken from two monthly paychecks starting at the beginning of October. If there is a month that has three pay periods, dues will not be taken out of your third monthly paycheck.

County Forum Meeting:

Meet state officers and other teachers! There is no cost to members. Your building representative should have informed you of the October meeting. Please log in to CEA and register for any of these meetings you are planning to attend. Each meeting has registration begin at 4:30, and then the meeting runs from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This is a great way to get informed about your Association. The first meeting for our county is Wednesday, October 25th at Baci Grill in Cromwell.

Reminder - Change in Degree Status:

Donna Costello sent e-mail in September about the change in degree status form. Please refer to her e-mail for specifics, but remember that according to Article 37B-5, there is a stipulation that anyone who anticipates a **change in salary status** during the next school year, due to the expected completion of a graduate degree or program, must inform the Central Office in the school year *preceding the year in which the change is to occur*. Completion of this form will satisfy requirements under Article 37B-5 regarding proper notification of anticipated change in degree status.

Membership - Active or Agency?

Ever wonder the difference between full active membership and agency fee? Well, here you go! Don't forget even Agency Fee members pay 80% of dues. These agency fee dues are determined in December and paycheck deductions begin in January.

| Issue | Active Full Membership | Agency Fee Membership |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grievance assistance | Yes | Yes |
| Contract Administration | Yes | Yes |
| Statutory terminations* | Yes | No |
| Nonrenewals | Yes | No |
| DCF Investigations* | Yes | No |
| Workers' Compensation* | Yes | No |
| Advice on Certification | Yes | No |
| Advice on Retirement | Yes | No |
| Unemployment* | Yes | No |

Important Reminders

- **GEA online!** Visit www.gea.yolasite.com.
- Do you know about all the **discounts and deals** you can get from being a member of CEA? Check out CEA online, click on "Members" and scroll down to "Benefits and Discounts."
- **Retirement workshops** are being offered. The CEA offers workshops which help teachers understand the teachers' retirement system and aid in planning for the future. **Be sure to register online or call CEA to register.**
- Interested in attending a County Council meeting? Visit <http://www.cea.org/workshops/#county-forums>.
- 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).



Spotlight: Recognizing Our Members for a Job Well Done



Welcome New Guilford Teachers!

The GEA would like to recognize our NEW TEACHERS (those that attended orientation are pictured on right) for this newsletter's spotlight section! We hope you are enjoying your transition to teaching in Guilford. If you have any questions regarding our education union or contract, please swing by and talk with your building representative. Always remember what David McCullough said, "Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love."



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