



# The EASMC Extra

*"One Voice for Public Educators"*



## Election 2010 Review

Election 2010 is behind us and the new elected officials will be taking office in December and January. EASMC/MSEA/NEA were successful in helping to get many of our recommended candidates elected. Our successes were Congressman Hoyer, Governor O'Malley, Senator Dyson, Delegates Bohanan and Wood, Commissioner President Russell and Board of Education member Dr. Sal Raspa. We look forward to working with these public education friendly officials for the next four years.

We were not successful in getting Chris Davies elected to the House of Delegates in District 29C or in getting our other commissioner candidates elected. They were all great candidates and ran really good campaigns. They were articulate and professional and really got out to the public with their messages. We were disappointed at the results, but know that these candidates put everything they had into running their campaigns. The candidates should be proud of what they were able to do and for stepping up to run for public office.

During the campaign, EASMC was busy behind the scenes working for our candidates. We gave them Teacher Recommended stickers for their signs, wrote letters to the Editor, attended campaign fundraisers and rallies, participated in planning meetings, delivered and picked up signs, held a candidate meeting and forum, organized workers for the polls and to put up our banners at the polls, delivered food and snacks to poll workers, attended other voter forums, canvassed neighborhoods and dropped literature, completed 60 hours of phone banking, created ads for the newspaper and the radio, sent letters to voters in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Commissioner district supporting our candidates, distributed Apple Ballots at the polls, kept the EASMC website updated with the latest election information, visited many schools to encourage staff to vote for our recommended candidates, sent multiple emails to members reminding them of the importance of voting, and we voted!

Special thanks are deserved by Anna Laughlin EASMC VP, LMS and Melissa Kiernan, LHS the co-chairs of the EASMC Legislative Committee. They worked diligently on this election to get our recommended candidates elected. On many occasions when others were home with their families, Anna and Melissa were out working the campaigns. They also planned and organized our first ever candidate meeting where every one of our recommended candidates attended and answered questions from the audience. Much of our success is owed to them for their work behind the scenes. We also thank Mr. Ron Grosche and the Culinary Arts students, Mr. Ed Carney and his Horticulture students, and Ms. Bonnie Kelly and her Hospitality students at the Forrest Center for making that event all the more special.

We also need to publicly thank the members who helped us at the polls on Election Day. While many of us use that day off from work for doctors appointments or other personal business, about 30 of you volunteered your time to distribute Apple Ballots at the polls and to show our support for our recommended candidates. This is such an important way for us to show we support our candidates and that we know the importance of the election. EASMC is sincerely grateful to those of you who gave some time on November 2 to work the polls. Thank you!

The years ahead will be difficult ones because the economy has not improved as quickly as many had predicted. But, we here in St. Mary's have been shielded to a degree from the worst because of the Navy base and the federal funding it brings. We will be working with our elected officials to ensure proper funding of education at the state and local levels and to try to influence the reauthorization of the ESEA (formerly NCLB) at the national level. EASMC will continue to be involved in the political process since so many decisions that affect our livelihoods are made by politicians or people appointed by politicians. We thank all of you who voted for our recommended candidates!



### Inside This Issue

Legislative Breakfast	2
EASMC Victory	3
Pension	4
Membership Drive Winners	4
Retired Membership	5



### BOD Contacts

- Wanda Twigg- President, wtwigg@mseanea.org
- Anna Laughlin- Vice-President, amlaughlin@smcps.org
- Mike Soly- Treasurer, masoly@smcps.org
- Linda Miedzinski- Secretary, lsmiedzinski@smcps.org
- Melinda Kearns- Elementary, mmkearns@smcps.org
- Bonnie Skinner- General, bjskinner@smcps.org
- Billy Breslin- Secondary, wfbreslin@smcps.org
- Michael Loughran- A&S, msloughran@smcps.org
- Liz Morris- Retired, emorris@md.metrocast.net
- Liz Purcell Leskinen- MSEA UniServ Director, lleskinen@mseanea.org
- Jennifer Tippett, Admin. Assistant, jtippett@mseanea.org

## Legislative Breakfast 2011

All members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Jen Tippett at [jtippett@mseanea.org](mailto:jtippett@mseanea.org) or call 301-737-2500 x300 by December 17, 2010.

*The Education Associations of St. Mary's  
and Calvert Counties*

*Invite you to attend their  
7th Annual Legislative Breakfast*

*Saturday, January 8, 2011  
8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.*

*Lenny's Restaurant  
23418 Three Notch Road  
California, MD 20619*

*Enjoy a breakfast buffet and discuss educational  
legislative issues before the start of the  
2011 session in Annapolis.*

*Please RSVP to EASMC by December 17, 2010  
by calling the EASMC office at 301-737-2500, x 300  
or emailing [jtippett@mseanea.org](mailto:jtippett@mseanea.org)*



*Have You  
Checked Out Our  
Website?*

The EASMC website is packed with important information including:

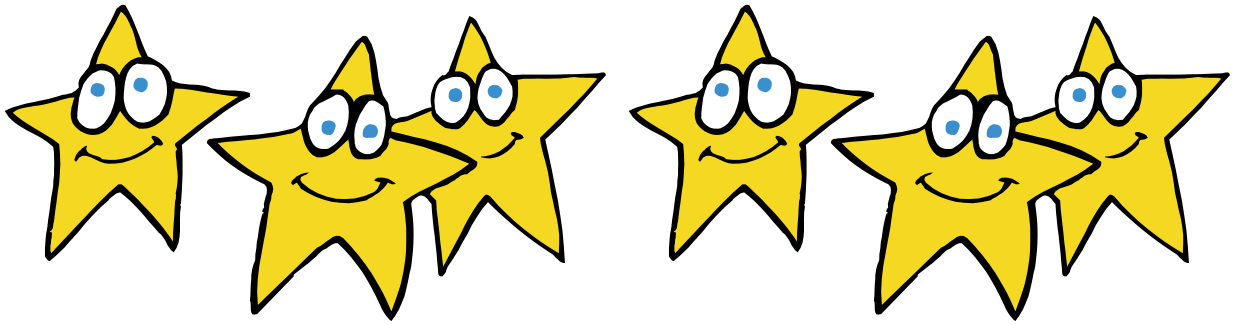
- EASMC Leaders
- Negotiated Agreement
- Legal Assistance
- Criminal Accusation Info
- Legislative Topics
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Calendar of Events
- Photo Gallery
- And Much More!

Want to know what's going on in your Association? Check us out!

*Visit us at  
[www.easmc.net](http://www.easmc.net)*



The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.



## Certificated Evaluation Regulation Victory

Many of you have been following the progress of the State Board of Education's proposed regulations that would have put into COMAR that 50% of a teacher and principal's evaluation would be based on student growth and that this 50% would actually be 100% of the evaluation every other year. This regulation was published in April and many local presidents including yours testified at the State Board meeting in May that this was out of compliance with the Education Reform Act of 2010. The Education Reform Act says that student growth will be a "significant component" of our evaluations with no single measure being more than 35%.

The State Board was to vote on the proposed regulation in September, but the AELR (Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review) Committee of the General Assembly pulled the regulation for review before the vote. The AELR Committee held their hearing on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is chaired by Senator Paul Pinsky of Prince George's County. Dr. Grasmick, the President of the State Board and their attorney testified for over an hour. Superintendent Alonso of Baltimore City also testified in favor of the proposed regulations. Then, MSEA President Clara Floyd, VP Betty Weller, and others including your president, testified against the proposed regulations.

The Committee members asked many pointed and clarifying questions that seemed to support the position that the regulations had over-stepped the law. At the end of the day, the committee voted 12 to 3 (non-partisan) that the regulation was indeed out of compliance with the law and that it should be sent back to the State Board to be rewritten. This is a huge victory for our members!

The chief complaints that caused the Committee members to reject the regulations are as follows:

1. The State Board was to "solicit information and recommendations from each local system and convene a meeting" to discuss the issue prior to proposing regulations and the State Board had not done this.
2. The Ed Reform Act charges the State Board with developing "general standards," but gives authority to local school boards and systems to develop the specifics around our evaluations. The rejected regulations usurped local control by attempting to dictate the specifics.
3. The General Assembly explicitly rejected and removed any language equating the student growth portion of evaluations to a specific number. MSDE tried to revise history, and ignore both legislative intent and Maryland state law, by writing its own version in these proposed regulations.

EASMC has been saying these things since the regulations were proposed and we asked you to tell the State BOE the same thing and many of you have.

We have repeatedly asked for the support of the SMCPS BOE and most recently asked them to ask the State Board to rewrite the regulations to be in compliance with the law since the AELR Committee made its decision. We do not know if the SMCPS BOE has done this on our behalf.

EASMC would like to continue to collaborate with SMCPS to develop an evaluation system that incorporates student growth as needed by the law, but which does not unfairly penalize any teacher or administrator for factors outside of our control. We asked in our testimony that we be allowed to continue this collaboration and the legislators heard us. They agree that the good work we are doing here in St. Mary's should be encouraged and supported. Now we will see if the State Board of Education follows the direction of the AELR Committee.



If you would like to take action on this issue, please email the State Board of Education members at [stateboard@msde.state.md.us](mailto:stateboard@msde.state.md.us) and ask them to please rewrite the Certificated Employee Regulations so they comply with the Education Reform Act of 2010 and to adhere to the recommendations of the AELR Committee.

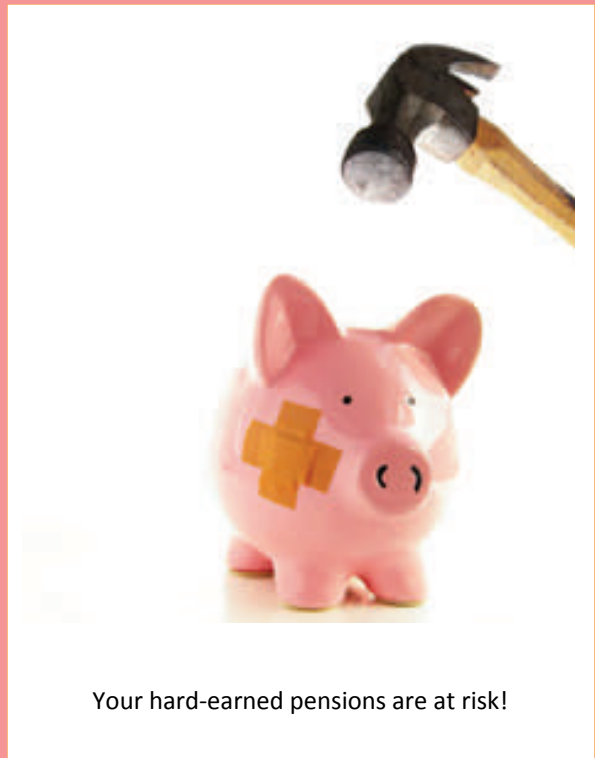
## Pension, Pension, Pension

Just when we thought we were going to be able to retire with a half decent pension, the State is looking to balance their 1.6 billion dollar deficit by changing our pension funding. Hopefully, you been reading up on what's happening in Annapolis related to our pensions. Last year there was a move in the General Assembly to Shift a portion of the cost of our pensions back to the counties that passed the Senate (not our Roy Dyson, though!), but failed to make it through the House. The result is a committee on pensions called the Public Employees' and Retirees' Benefit and Sustainability Commission that has been meeting to examine ways to sustain the pension system. No idea is off the table. They are to report to the General Assembly in December.

Here are three things being considered by the Commission:

1. The age of retirement. We may have to work more than 30 years to receive a full pension.
2. Our contribution. We may have to contribute more than the 5% per paycheck we do now.
3. The multiplier. We just got the multiplier up to 1.8% in 2006. The talk is to change it again to a lower percentage.

They are also looking at how the system got into the financial trouble it is in and how to fix the funding of the system itself. Simply shifting the cost of the pensions back to the counties will not solve the funding issue. Our pensions are a STATE benefit and we will be working hard to keep them that way. EASMC will need your support throughout the General Assembly session to protect the meager pensions we have. The fight is on! Check out the MSEA website at [www.marylandeducators.org](http://www.marylandeducators.org) to email your legislator today!



Your hard-earned pensions are at risk!



### Membership Drive Winners

**Congratulations to our Membership Drive Recruitment winners! Zenia Wallish of EES, Melissa Kiernan of LHS, and Bryan Clapp of CPCS have won the three \$100 gift cards to a place of their choice.**

**Thanks to those of you who participated!**

## Calendar

- November 17 SMCPs State of Schools
- November 23 SMCPs BOE
- November 24-28 Thanksgiving Break
- November 29 Governor's Ed. Eff. Council
- December 6 Swearing in ceremony BOCC
- December 7 EASMC BOD
- December 8 SMCPs BOE
- December 10-11 NEA BOD
- December 13 Governor's Ed. Eff. Council
- December 14 SMCPs Legislative Breakfast
- December 14 EASMC RA and Holiday Party



## Put your MSEA/NEA Retired Membership on layaway!

Are you an active member in MSEA planning to retire soon?

Worried about maintaining your membership on a retiree's income?

Looking for continued advocacy and support after retirement?

Your professional Association's commitment to you continues even after you've retired! Invest in your future by joining the MSEA Retired Advisory Council's new Continuous Membership Program. You can continue to receive the valuable benefits MSEA and NEA offer by prepaying your Association Lifetime Membership while you're still working. You'll be adding your voice to thousands of MSEA retirees speaking out on retirement, health care and education issues.

- Get a jump start on your retirement planning
- No break in services or membership
- No payments after retirement

### Contact MSEA today!

**Carole Masciarelli**  
cmasciarelli@mseane.org, 800/448-6782, x3611

**Herman Whitter**  
hwhitter@mseane.org, 800/448-6782, x3654

*Email is preferred.*



140 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 800.448.6782 | www.marylandeducators.org

# Happy Holidays