

St. Johns Education Association

The Coronavirus Email Edition

SJEA Officers finally
got to go outside...

**DID YOU GET A
SIGN?**



Moving Forward in a COVID-19 World

MICHELLE DILLON, PRESIDENT

What an unusual year it's been! Although I am not teaching remotely, the changes in our world have been felt at the union office as well. I miss seeing our building representatives and members in person. I struggle with technology, so the world of Zoom and Teams has been a challenge. What hasn't changed is our union's advocacy and representation at the local, state and national levels.

SJEA has been at the forefront of the rapid changes COVID-19 has presented to our work environment. Our negotiating team met with district (six feet apart, of course) to bargain an MOU to protect teachers as we began remote teaching. The MOU offers paid leave for COVID-19 -related illnesses, protects the employee's right to accomplish classroom close-out tasks from home, and requires our district to provide PPE for employees.

Continued on page 2.

President's Message, continued from page 1:

SJEA continues to meet with our human resources department to monitor safety concerns, CDC compliance, and certification issues. We have represented members for disciplinary actions throughout the school shutdown. Our union will be participating in re-opening task forces alongside district personnel.

At the state and national level, our leaders have been engaged with legislators to ensure the safety of educators and students. The Florida Education Association was the first to call on Governor DeSantis to close schools for the remainder of the year, and they continue to meet with the education commissioner to advocate for further extension of certification deadlines.

Now more than ever, our unions at all levels are standing up and speaking out. The safety and well-being of our members and students is our number-one priority. However, the contract must be protected and our rights be kept intact as we navigate the ever-changing world of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges of Zoom, Teams and social distancing, we encourage you to stay active and involved. Visit www.feaweb.org for ways to make your voice heard. We have opportunities for every level of engagement, from signing a petition to tele-town halls with legislators.

SJEA will continue to advocate, represent, and bargain over the summer. We will send updates via school email, social media, and our website: www.sjeaunion.com Stay in touch and stay involved!

Thank you for going above and beyond in these stressful times. Your patience, creativity and teamwork is greatly appreciated.

in solidarity,
Michelle

From FEA President, Fedrick Ingram:

This week the commissioner of education issued a new emergency order that includes key provisions that you have been advocating for:

- All temporary and professional certificates that would have expired June 30 are extended to Dec. 31 to allow teachers to complete certification courses and tests.
- Teachers may be placed out of field for intensive reading instruction through Dec. 31 to allow teachers to complete their certification or endorsement. School districts have also been granted an extension of their Reading Plan submissions, which will allow our locals to advise districts of other models for delivering intensive reading that do not require so many elementary reading teachers.
- Districts have been granted flexibility for meeting deadlines for completing IEP/EPs and ELL student assessments and other documentation.
- In addition to those provisions, this order reaffirms the requirement for annual teacher evaluations has been suspended.



And in
Tallahassee...

Membership Matters!

Congratulations, SJEA Retirees!

Nadine
Bernstein
GRMS

Helen
Heffernan
LPA

Barbara
Maier
SAHS

Nicole
Thompson
FCMS

Sarah
Jane
Todd
PCES

Dana
Benton
PCES

Allan
Baker
MMS

Jeannie
Kazmierski
OMES

Although
you can't
retire from
being
GREAT!

Moira
Catches
OPES

Yolande
Apel
HES

Carlton
Barber
SMS

Debra
Bonvallett
PMHS

Celeste
Bowker
PMHS

Cheree
Brennan
SAHS

Susan
Davis
RB HUNT

Cathy
Gurick
PCES

After climbing the
mountain,
you can finally
enjoy
the view!

Deborah
Hagenbuch-
Reese
SMS

Retirement
just means
its time for a
new
adventure!

Jane
Jens
BTHS

E. Stanley
Jones
PMHS

Walt
Kennedy
SAHS

Dorothy
Kirby
JCES

Bob
Larkin
MCA

Laverne
Love-Saar
HCES

Linda
Meyer
SJTHS

**The best
is yet to
come!**

Alison
Moody
HCES

Joanne
Noseworthy
PMHS

Brian
Radaker
GRMS

Sheryl
Salmi-
Nelson
WES

H.A.
Smith
NHS

Sharon
Tilner
CCES

Rhonda
Williams
HCES

Thank
you for
your
service!



**WATCH THE SJEA FACEBOOK
PAGE FOR A TRIBUTE TO
THESE OUTSTANDING
EDUCATORS!**

Non-reappointed? Call SJEA asap!

Watch for the SJEA Principal/Climate Survey in your email.

We still have some yard signs! Get yours today!

Special Summer Virtual Enrollment

More than ever, taking time to review your benefits and making sure your family has the coverage it needs is important for your overall financial wellness.

Despite restrictions due to COVID-19, an American Fidelity account manager can meet with you virtually to review your benefits and help you plan for the future.

AMERICAN FIDELITY 
a different opinion

American Fidelity Assurance Company



St Johns Education Association
SJEA Benefits Enrollment starts
May 18, 2020

[To learn how to schedule an appointment scan the QR code below:]



<https://americanfidelity.com/sjea/>



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St. Johns Education Association

Michelle Dillon, President; Kate Dowdie, 1st Vice President; Megan Young, 2nd Vice President;
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