

ACTION

Affiliated with NEA and KEA

JEFFERSON COUNTY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

1941 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218 ♦ 454-3400 ♦ 452-2794 (fax) ♦ www.jcta.org ♦ September 1, 2010

WHAT'S HAPPENING

All meetings are at the JCTA office unless otherwise specified.

WED, SEPT. 1:

⇒SBDM Training; 4:30-7:30 p.m.

⇒Speech Language Pathologists Caucus; 4:30-6:30 p.m.

MON, SEPT. 6:

⇒Labor Day at the Zoo; 10:00-5:00 p.m.

WED, SEPT. 8:

⇒SBDM Training; 4:30-7:30 p.m.

THURS, SEPT. 9:

⇒JCTA Board Meeting; 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

MON, SEPT. 13:

⇒Diversity Training for PR's only; 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

New Survey on Website

We are putting a new survey on our website. We're asking our members to evaluate Dr. Berman. Has he done the job he was hired to do? Do you support renewing his contract?

This poll is completely confidential!

Go on the members only portion of our website, log on (username: first initial and last name; password: last four digits of your social security number) and take our survey!

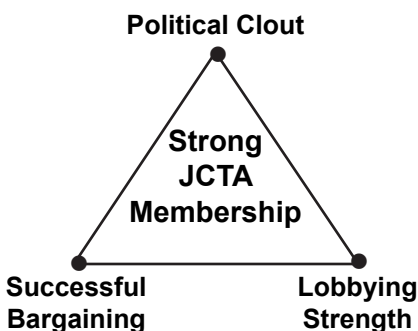
SBDM Training

SBDM Training Part 1 will be held Wednesday, September 1, 2010 and Part 2 will be held Wednesday, September 8, 2010, both nights from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at JCTA. Dinner will be served both nights. You must sign up on PD Central and with Rose Watkins at JCTA. The training is free to members and parents.

If you are returning to an SBDM position and need your 3 hours of training, either night of our training qualifies for the 3 hours you need.

Space is still available for the September 8 training!

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'll never forget when I first came to work in Jefferson County. I was assigned to Waggoner High School, and after that first week of school, the staff pulled together and headed out to a local restaurant. There was a sense of camaraderie, a sense of belonging that really made me glad I was at Waggoner. We were a team. We continued to have these gatherings throughout the year to share with each other, to decompress from the long and hectic weeks, and to just connect to one another on a level that didn't just revolve around school. It was our opportunity to recognize each other as individuals and to get to know one another. The best thing was that it was like this at most schools, so as time passed and transfers were had, I was always able to have that connection with the people I worked with. However, as the years passed on and KERA began to take effect, the gatherings started to slow down. People were so inundated with assessments and whatnot that they tended to put the collegial side of teaching on the back burner.

In recent years, JCTA has seen a definite decrease in involvement. As I shared with you last week, we are working hard to provide you with ways to make JCTA your JCTA. I briefly mentioned our committees and encouraged you to join. One committee that deserves some special attention, and a committee which I think might help to bring back some of the collegiality that has gone astray from our profession, is our Social Affairs Committee. The Committee began its revitalization efforts during the 2009-10 school year, and since then has begun planning social events for our membership. In June, they hosted "A Day at the Downs" event. Active and retired members joined together at Churchill Downs to enjoy a lunch together and to watch the horses run. It was a great opportunity to relax and to network. Although our retired members no longer walk the halls or teach students, they are a wealth of knowledge just waiting to be tapped. Just last week, members came together at Slugger Field to watch the Bats play! Members received free tickets, and guest tickets were at a discounted rate. It was well attended, and from those who did attend, they shared that it was a nice opportunity to sit, talk and enjoy an evening with colleagues outside of the school setting.

It's really hard to get to know the teacher across the hall when your class of kindergartners is trying to learn to walk in a straight line, or when the person who teaches in the classroom next to you teaches English while you teach Science, and your only interaction is during hallway duty. Events like these that our Social Affairs Committee plans provide the social aspect that JCTA believes our teachers really need in order to connect to one another. As I wrote last week, we are only as strong as our membership feels, and I can't imagine any stronger feeling than the one of connection and unity.

Our next event is planned for October when we will gather to visit and tour the River City Winery. I hope that you will take this opportunity to come out and meet the people who are teaching across the hall, in the next room, in the school down the street and in the school across town. We are all JCTA, but I want each member to be able to say, "I am JCTA," and I believe this could be a good first step.

Thanks for all you do,

Know Your Contract Training

JCTA will be holding two Teacher Contract Trainings on Thursday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 22 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the JCTA Office. Example topics include teacher assignment, taking leave, evaluations and lesson plans.

The training is limited to 30 JCTA members, and dinner will be provided. Contact Associate Darlene Harless (darlene.harless@jcta.org) to register. If you have any questions, contact UniServ Director Michelle Yeager (michelle.yeager@jcta.org).

Early Childhood Caucus

The Early Childhood Caucus will meet on Wednesday, September 15 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the JCTA office. This meeting is to discuss current issues within the Early Childhood program. For more information, contact UniServ Director Chanda Hornback at chanda.hornback@jcta.org or at 454-3400.

New Teacher Picnic

JCTA is hosting a New Teacher Picnic on Thursday, September 23 at George Rogers Clark Park, 1024 Thruston Ave., beginning at 4:00 p.m.

New teachers bring your families and come out and meet JCTA Board members, PR's and staff as well as other teachers new to the district! Food, fun and games will be provided.

Please RSVP to Jennifer Lawson at jennifer.lawson@jcta.org or 454-3400.

11th Annual Greater Louisville United Labor Picnic

JCTA will once again be giving away limited tickets to the 11th Annual Labor Day at the Zoo on Monday, September 6, 2010. Food and drink will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with zoo hours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be union and vendor booths, a car show, labor music and cash giveaways to ticket holders.

JCTA members can receive up to 2 tickets each, given away on a first come, first served basis. Please visit Darlene Harless at the JCTA office during regular business hours to pick up tickets. Additional tickets can be purchased ahead of time from the Teamsters, 3813 Taylor Blvd, Louisville, KY or at the zoo for \$7 on the day of the event.

All Committee Saturday

Our next All Committee Saturday will be Saturday, September 25. The following committees will meet on that date:

Human and Civil Rights: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Social Affairs: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Membership: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Spotlight: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served at noon.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact the appropriate UniServ Director, listed in the article below.

National Board Certified Teachers

We have good news for you! Earlier this summer there was some talk and concern that the state legislature had reduced the amount of the NBCT stipend from \$2000 to \$1800. JCTA went to bat for you, and JCPS has agreed to pay the additional amount. Every National Board Certified Teacher should receive the full stipend amount.

Committee Openings

JCTA has five active committees that do a considerable amount of work for the Association. From planning an outing to a Bats game to coordinating the Martin Luther King, Jr. contest, these committees work hard throughout the year to meet the needs of our members. The committees that are currently looking for members are:

Credentials and Elections – carries out the voting process in all three JCTA elections. Contact UniServ Director Sandy Harris (sandy.harris@jcta.org) if you are interested.

Human and Civil Rights – plans activities for women, minority and GLBT members of JCTA and coordinates the MLK contest and dinner. They also oversee the Diversity Training and other NEA trainings. Contact UniServ Director James Hughley (james.hughley@jcta.org) if you are interested.

Membership – creates an annual membership recruitment plan, organizes recruitment activities and new teacher events, and implements the KEA membership grant. Contact UniServ Director Sandy Harris (sandy.harris@jcta.org) if you are interested.

Social Affairs – plans social events for JCTA members throughout the year and plans the retirement dinner. Contact UniServ Director Michelle Yeager (michelle.yeager@jcta.org) if you are interested.

Spotlight – creates *The Spotlight* publication three times a year and plans the annual Spotlight Awards event. Contact UniServ Director Liesa

Diversity Training

We are very lucky to say that for the next five years we will be able to offer NEA's Diversity Training to all of our members and all of your staffs. We have nine certified trainers who will offer trainings at the JCTA office and who are available, by request, to come to your school and present the training to your staff. There are four modules in the training that can be presented individually or all together for a 2 hour to an 8 hour training. The modules are Understanding Cultural Diversity, Developing Cultural Identity, Reacting to Differences and Valuing Diversity. To see a full description of each module or to print a request form, visit our website at www.jcta.org.

The first training session will be for PRs only on September 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Association Leave will be given in order to attend. **The deadline to register is Friday, September 3.** There are only a few spots left, so if you are interested, please register today! To register, contact Rose Watkins at rose.watkins@jcta.org or 454-3400. Stay turned to *ACTION* and our website for more upcoming sessions.