



The Spearhead

A Newsletter for the Jefferson Federation of Teachers

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Elections Matter

David Shearouse, TJ VP

One of the highlights of summer vacation is having the free-time for activities you usually do not have time for during the school year. For me, this meant attending the Jim Gaffigan comedy show at Consol Energy Center on a *weeknight*. While Gaffigan was funny, I was more struck by his opener, who joked about how *bad* the options were for president this year and how, after 200+ years in existence, America “had a good run.”

While the comedian may be correct, this election remains an important one; however, I’ve struggled with choosing between one of the two unpalatable options. Needless to say, out of a country of 300+ million people, it’s unfortunate that these are the two people from which the country has to choose for president.

So, in thinking about how to make a decision for whom to vote for, I’ve instead chosen to ignore the candidates and focus on what each stands for. In so doing, the choice is easy because only one candidate (and her party) promises to protect public education, teacher tenure, seniority, teacher pensions, and teacher collective bargaining rights.

Now, I don’t presume to tell anyone who to vote for, but when the inevitable literature arrives in the mail from PA AFT, I’d recommend every JFT member seriously consider it, remembering that your vote shouldn’t be for the person but instead for what they stand for in terms of protecting your profession. Elections matter, and that’s no joke.

Fall News: New JFT Website

Over the summer, JFT President Jim Benedek met with PA AFT officials and, in so doing, discussed establishing a JFT website with PA AFT Director of Communications Barbara Goodman. JFT TJ Vice President David Shearouse attended a virtual training with Goodman, and the JFT website was established. The address for the JFT website is:

<http://jft.pa.aft.org>

The website will prove to be a terrific resource for quickly distributing information to JFT members, including newsletters, important dates, and other items. Please consider visiting the website regularly and, if you have any ideas for other types of information that can be shared via the website, don’t hesitate to contact David Shearouse at davidshearouse@hotmail.com.

Contract/Union Knowledge

According to the Contract, did you know?

Section 8.B.9. (Page 39): Individualized Education Programs: Teachers required to participate in the development of Individual Education Programs (IEP) shall do so as part of their teaching responsibilities. The District shall not pay comp-time or additional compensation for such work if the meeting is held within the confines of the regular work day.

Section 4.V.1. (Page 22): Lesson Plans: Teachers will make a copy of their weekly lesson plans and submit them to the building office at check-in on the first work day of each week.

Section 8.F.2. (Page 42): All pre- and post-teaching day duties shall be assigned teachers teaching twenty-five (25) periods or less per week before assigning any teachers who teach more than twenty-five (25) periods per week.

Section 8.F.4.A and B. (Page 42): A. Members of the Federation assigned to teach twenty-five (25) periods or less of instruction per week may be scheduled for any A or B list duty, as such duty is categorized in Appendix A. AND B. Members of the Federation assigned to teach twenty-six (26) periods of instruction up to thirty (30) periods of instruction per week may only be assigned to any B list duty, as such duty categorized in Appendix A.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, November 3, 2016- General Membership Meeting at Middle School

Friday, December 16, 2016- Christmas Party

Tuesday, January 24, 2017- Winter JFT TJ Building Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2017- Spring JFT TJ Building Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2017- General Membership Meeting at Middle School

Recognitions

Weddings:

Michael Medved- PHMS

Aly Bowser- MES

Shauna Rometo- MES

Brooke Froehlich- GHES

Births:

Logan Hasselhoff- PHMS

Chris Dulavich- GHES

Steve Lauso- GHES

Julie Tipton- TJHSD

Have a marriage or birth to celebrate? Tell us about it! E-mail: jjakubowski@wjhsd.net