



# GCEA Update

A Publication of the Gloucester County Education Association

www.gloucestercountyed.org

VOLUME 9 — ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2009

## IMPORTANT GCEA EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

### October:

27-30 Phone Bank (3-8)

### November:

2 Phone Bank (3-8)

3 Phone Bank (12-4)

10 Exec. Comm. (4:30)

12 Managing Stress (4:30)

17 Rep Council (4:30)

18 ESP Dinner (Nicolosi's)

### December:

1 Exec. Comm. (4:30)

7 Supt's Dinner (4:30)

## ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER:

### October 27:

Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot application by mail

### November 2:

Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot application in person—by 3 p.m.

### November 3:

General Election Day: Polls open 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### December 1:

Board of State Canvassers certify the election of state officers

## President's Message

When I first learned to type- on a Royal manual typewriter a very long time ago- our typing teacher insisted that we practice the same sentence repeatedly. . . "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." I couldn't help but think of this lately as we began our work on the Corzine Campaign. NOW IS the time for all of us to come to the aid of our state, our county, and our local associations.

The importance of re-electing Jon Corzine as New Jersey's governor can

not be overstated; it means the difference between working with the governor's office over the next four years and fighting to maintain our livelihoods. (Please refer to information elsewhere in this newsletter for information on Corzine's positions on educational issues.)

If you are asked to help on the campaign- to make phone calls, to write post cards, or to distribute literature, please say "YES! I WOULD LOVE TO HELP!" You and your positive actions will make a difference in this election.



**DON'T FORGET to vote on or before NOVEMBER 3**

Remember to vote for Jon Corzine, Paul Moriority, Bill Collins, Celeste Riley, John Burzichelli, and Angel Fuentes - the NJEA -PAC endorsed candidates in the November election.

**Sue Clark**

## Chris Christie: Not a Friend of Public Education

The educational professionals of NJ are many things: leaders, nurturers, creators, scientists, musicians, explorers, and writers. Above all we truly believe that children in NJ deserve an outstanding education. Because of our dedication, NJ's students have a safe place to come where they are challenged to be better people each day. We work for, and deserve our pensions, benefits, and respect.

Unfortunately, NJ's educational professionals are in danger. We will not be recession proof if

Christie gets elected this November.

Our NJEA Vice President, Wendell Steinhauer, urgently explained our current situation when he said,

"Don't think of it as the most important election of your lifetime. Think of it

as the most important election of your career." If we do not live up to our responsibility and get involved, we only have ourselves to blame for the struggles that will surely come if Christie is elected.

The word has been spread: Chris Christie is not a friend of education. In case you are still not convinced on this or you just need a refresher course, below are the main things you need to know—

**"Think of it as the most important election of your career."**

and to share with your colleagues.

Remember, the following is detailed on his own website, as well as documented in newspapers and radio interviews. Go ahead...turn the page...read for yourself.



**Dare to take action.  
Vote for what you  
believe in and what  
you deserve.**

**Contact Information**

**Office Hours:**  
Mon. to Thurs. 11:00-7:00  
**Telephone:**  
(856) 853-6673  
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Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

Our office is on the 2nd floor of the West View Professional Campus

# Chris Christie (continued from page 1)

- **Christie wants to eliminate pensions.** He wants to do away with the current pension system, and force school employees into a 401(k) type plan, exposing their retirement savings to the mercy of the stock market. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie wants to cut health benefits.** He wants to require teachers, support staff, and retirees to pay more in premiums, and would eliminate health benefits for part-time employees. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie wants to end collective bargaining.** He wants to eliminate the law that gives your local the right to negotiate salaries and benefits. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie wants to cut school spending.** He wants to cut all the revenue streams that fund public schools, and would even have refused the \$2 billion in federal stimulus money that has prevented massive layoffs in our schools. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie calls preschool government funded “babysitting”.** Rather than acknowledge the proven value of preschool, he would prefer to insult those who teach it. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie wants taxpayer-funded vouchers.** He wants to strip resources from public schools, and use tax dollars to send students to unaccountable private and religious schools. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie wants more charter schools.** He wants to lift the cap on charter schools, draining even more resources from public schools. (christiefornj.com)
- **Christie doesn’t respect us.** He didn’t even complete the NJEA Political Action Committee’s questionnaire, and refused to participate in NJEA’s candidate screening process. Given the positions outlined above, it’s no wonder.

**We know where Chris Christie stands—not on education’s side.  
Where will you be standing on November 3?**



## Reducing Stress Through Laughter



**Event:** Reducing Stress Through Laughter Workshop  
**Date:** November 12, 2009  
**Time:** 4:30 PM  
**Place:** GCEA office  
**Presented by:** Wil Watson—a stand-up comedian, motivational speaker, and laughologist

.....  
 Call **853-6673** or email **Jacqui.prescott@gloucestercountyed.org** to reserve your spot now. First come! First served!



## Deptford Education Association Up for Award

Congratulations to Deptford Education Association for their outstanding efforts negotiating their last contract. Because of their hard work and focus, they are up for the **NJEA Jim George Collective Bargaining Award**. This award is present annually to the local association which has accomplished one or more of the following: 1) Bargained one or more new contractual provisions not already found in another affiliate’s contract, 2) Conducted an extraordinary community organizing effort that resulted in a settled agreement, 3) Use the bargaining process to propel new members into association involvement and leadership positions, or 4) Achieve a good settlement in comparison to state averages. **Great job and good luck Deptford!**