



Spring/Summer 2013

Professional Educators of North Carolina Newsletter

Someone to Help You Through

by Michael Telesca



In today’s political climate, being a teacher could be comparable to being a juggler in a circus: we are carefully attempting to balance so many distinctly different needs and the wishes of so many separate entities (students, parents, administration, legal requirements, etc.) along with our own individual professional beliefs. Sometimes when these needs converge, we are pulled in different directions like a Stretch Armstrong action figure. When this happens, it is imperative to have someone to help you through it. For me, PENC is that “someone.” I constantly expound how valuable of an asset PENC has been for me over the past several years. I truly believe that I would not currently be teaching if it hadn’t been for the support they have provided me.

As a beginning teacher, I believed that life was fair. I believed that if I worked to the best of my abilities I would be rewarded for choosing education over a more lucrative and prestigious private sector career. I had come into the teaching profession with a business background and also after serving in the United States military where I earned a commission as an officer. To me, education is one of the most noble of all professions and I was proud to join the ranks in a field I respected so much.

Within seven years of entering the profession, I earned five different Teacher-of-the-Year distinctions, and my teaching practices were featured on television, print news and education portals. I worked with some of the best educational leaders in the state and in several school systems where my teaching was considered progressive. As a professional, I followed both the written and unwritten rules of self-regulation. I was highly motivated and eager to succeed, and I always did what I felt best for my students.

After having such success, I was recruited to a school system just a few miles away to bring these same skills to a new legion of students. Soon, however, the exact same teaching practices which previously enabled me to succeed were, “not how we have always done things here,” and the list of infractions that were levied against me would have seemed unbelievable to me years earlier. These included being punished for “wanting to work more,” and also for “enforcing academics.” I quickly learned that what works with one administration may actually damage your career in another.

This lesson was learned in an unthinkable way: I wanted to put in extra work on a Saturday morning working on school-related activities. As crazy as it seems, that one event started a three-year ordeal

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The Importance of Belonging

by Carol Vandenberg



When I first entered the classroom as a teacher in New York, I had automatic access to a support system – the teachers' union – I could call on when employment related issues or questions arose.

While I only utilized them a handful of times, I knew they were there for me if I needed them. Upon moving to North Carolina, I quickly learned that the environment and culture here

for educators is much different than in many other states. One of the unique aspects of teaching in North Carolina is that you are not required to join a professional organization. The downside is there's no automatic support system in place to help you navigate your career in North Carolina. The upside is you are not forced to join an organization that may promote politics or tactics with which you may not agree. You have a choice.

Although not required in North Carolina, membership in a professional organization is one way in which you can demonstrate that you are a leader and are striving to improve the profession according to the NC evaluation standards. Not only does it demonstrate evidence of leadership, but it allows you access to resources and information that will support you no matter where you are in your career.

PENC works very hard to ensure that each of our members feel cared for and supported in whatever they are dealing with. We pride ourselves on the quality of the individualized service we provide. We served hundreds of members this year on issues ranging from simple questions about leave policies to complex issues involving suspensions and dismissals. Our dedicated member representatives facilitate communication between members or prospective members in over 1,000 schools and the PENC office. They work diligently to make their colleagues aware of PENC and the benefits of belonging to a professional organization. We are pleased to know that these efforts have helped strengthen our reputation. During the 2012-13 membership year we welcomed over 1,200 new

members, and saw a 150% increase in student membership. It is clear that students and professionals are recognizing the importance of engaging in the profession beyond their school and community.

Membership in PENC isn't just about employment support and representation. It is evidence of your contribution to education beyond your classroom and your school. It demonstrates a desire to advocate for positive change in policies and practices that affect student learning.

During the 2012-13 membership year we welcomed over 1,200 new members

PENC works on your behalf to ensure that lawmakers and policymakers know the will of educators and understand educators' need for support,

resources and a reasonable and fair salary. The thousands of laws and policies that affect educators are constantly changing, and it is nearly impossible for an individual to keep up with the ever-changing landscape of education law. PENC makes this information available and easy to assimilate for our members.

We hope that every North Carolina educator makes the choice to belong to a professional organization. Each year, I speak with educators who are not members but are seeking help in dealing with a preexisting issue. Much like auto insurance, you cannot get into a car accident and then call Geico and expect coverage. It makes for a difficult conversation when I have to explain that professional organizations cannot provide representation if an incident occurred prior to membership. This is why we try to impress upon educators the importance of belonging – it is better to pay for coverage and not need it than to need it and not have it. We encourage members to join or renew early in the membership year so they will have full access to all of the support and guidance we provide.

Carol Vandenberg, Executive Director

MESSAGE

by Tim Barnsback



The need to belong is one of the most essential aspects of being human. Our friends, family, churches, communities, co-workers and the pursuits of our passions build the qualities of our

character. We also look to these groups to find support and courage when it is most needed; share joy and success when it is found; and focus abundant energy strengthening the ties that bind us together. This belonging is vital to creating who we are as individuals.

For teachers, it is somewhat different. What we do *is* who we are. Our professional values and principles are rooted in the very personal desire to do work that is all for the benefit of others. We share a relentless ambition to succeed despite obstacles that are created beyond our control. According to Helen Caldicott, "Teachers... are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth." We have no choice but success, and we must work together to achieve it.

In 2009 I felt the future of education in NC was at a crossroads. I believed that my contributions in my classroom, school, and community were having a positive impact on those I could reach. My concerns were with those who were out of

touch. I felt the voice of the teacher had been ineffectively outsourced, and that the politics of education were driving policy in the wrong direction. I wanted to affect the institution that had given me a purposeful career, steadfast friends, and a love of learning that still drives me today.

When I joined PENC I knew I had found where I belong. In PENC I have discovered an organization driven by 7000 caring, ambitious, successful educators who are absorbed in doing work that is good. PENC has provided me with knowledge and professional support that impacts my students, a means for my thoughts to be heard, and has reenergized my passion for the profession. When the opportunity to join the Executive Board was presented, I could not pass up the chance to serve.

As you wind down the school year, take time to consider what you want for the future and how you can be a catalyst for change. The future will come, one way or another. Together we can do great things for education.

PENC truly is the voice for educators in North Carolina. Don't just join. Belong.

Tim Barnsback, President

that could easily have driven me out of teaching. It was during this trying time that I realized just how important it was for me to belong to a professional organization. I didn't truly realize the value of my membership until I needed someone on my side, someone who knew the intricacies of the legal system and knew how to respond to the challenging situation. That someone was Professional Educators of North Carolina. It is invaluable to have someone that you can call at a moment's notice who is there to give you the guidance you might need. In my case I felt that every person I dealt with at PENC treated my issue, even something as seemingly insignificant as it was, with the same importance that I did, something almost unheard of in our bureaucratic society.

Recently, I had the pleasure of having a long conversation on the topic of tenure with a gentleman who was running for the North Carolina House of Representatives. As he was against tenure, he kept referring to the concept that a "good" administrator should have total discretion to determine if an educator was qualified or not and worthy of continued employment. When I questioned him about a situation where there is a highly qualified and experienced educator whose vision conflicts with that of an administrator, what protection do teachers have then? He had no answer for that situation. When teaching is discussed, particularly along political lines, the fact that teachers' livelihoods are at stake is often forgotten. Unfortunately, teaching is a very unique situation where an experienced educator who has sacrificed the most valuable years of his working life can be replaced by a beginning teacher simply because they warrant less than half of the salary, an issue which has long-lasting ethical implications to our educational system. For a variety of reasons, teachers have come under fire throughout the country and have become the scapegoat for politicians and others who want a quick fix of the educational system. The principles of "professionalism" are being stripped away and teachers are becoming replaceable components more resembling an hourly worker than a professional. Who is there to stand up for a teacher when they are in this type of situation? Again, I regularly thank PENC for being that someone.

Leo Tolstoy wrote, "The oppression of a majority by a minority, and the demoralization inevitably resulting from it, is a phenomenon that has always occupied me and has done so most particularly of late. The reason for the astonishing fact that a majority of working people submit to a handful of idlers who control their labor and their very lives is always and everywhere the same." While being a teacher struggling to deal with administration might not be the same as Tolstoy's examples of political servitude, handling the complexities of a legal system seemingly pitted against classroom teacher who has to answer to unfair assumptions can be a scary concept and should be of great concern to everyone considering staying in education today. As an individual I began to feel like a voiceless cog rather than a unique creative instructor possessing the skills necessary to thrive in a field where flexibility, creativity, experience and unique problem solving skills should be benefits rather than negative traits.

If it were not for the knowledge and support of PENC, I would have seriously considered leaving the teaching profession. At each turn they were there to give me guidance, assistance and most importantly, prompt, factual, pertinent information. Almost daily, I extol the virtues of being a PENC member and anyone considering entering the education field should not even consider doing so without PENC firmly there from the beginning. Thanks to PENC, my faith has been restored and I believe that it is possible to be a true professional in a field which deserves to have the best and most highly motivated individuals retained for the benefit of all constituents. 

*Michael Telesca, Computer Technology Teacher
Granite Falls Middle School, Caldwell County Schools*

Annual Meeting

On April 27, PENC held its Annual Meeting in Raleigh. Each spring, we conduct this open meeting for our members to hold elections for new officers and regional board seats, to vote on any bylaw amendments and to celebrate scholarship and grant winners. Check out our Continuing Education Scholarship winners on page 11. Some of the accomplishments of our New Teacher Grant winners, recognized in the Winter 2013 Voice, are highlighted on page 8.

We extend sincere congratulations to the following newly elected PENC Board members: Tim Barnsback, President; Vann Lassiter, Vice President; Tinger Purvis, Treasurer; Tammy Flynn, Region 1; Mandi Baggett, Region 3; Peggy Dickey, Region 5; Tammy Beach, Region 7; Janice Burtner, At-Large 1. We also welcomed Presidential Appointee Muriel Wright. We look forward to working with these Board members for the next two years!

This year, attendees were graced by the presence of Mr. Rob Jackson, the 2011-2012 NC Principal of the Year. A special thanks to Mr. Jackson for sharing his thoughts and experiences with our group.

PENC would like to thank all of our members who came to Raleigh to participate in our Annual Meeting. We hope to see many more of you at our Annual Meeting next year on May 3, 2014. Details for this meeting will be available in the Winter 2014 Voice.



From left: Tim Barnsback, Tamara Morgan, Tammy Flynn, Muriel Wright, Janice Burtner, Peter Bobbe, Mandi Baggett, Beth Brabble, Vann Lassiter, Peggy Dickey, Tammy Beach, Tinger Purvis, Ashton T. Griffin

PENC Board

President: Tim Barnsback
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Vice-President: Vann Lassiter
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Treasurer: Tinger Purvis
Wake Co., Tinger@pencweb.org

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Region 2: Ashton T. Griffin
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Region 3: Mandi Baggett
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Region 4: Wallace Hardwick
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Region 5: Peggy Dickey
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Region 6: Ella Booth
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Region 7: Tammy Beach
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Region 8: Peter Bobbe
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At-Large 1: Janice Burtner
Lee Co., Janice@pencweb.org

At-Large 2: Tamara Morgan
Rowan Co., Tamara@pencweb.org

Presidential Appointee: Muriel Wright
Orange Co., Muriel@pencweb.org

New Opportunities!

by Sandy Cyr



I know it has been awhile since you have heard from me in *The Voice*, but I can assure you I have been very busy behind the scenes working to improve our communications and developing

some exciting changes coming for the 2013-14 Membership Year!

One of the biggest changes you will see this summer will be an updated website. Our website provider will be migrating us to their new system, one we anticipate will provide more robust offerings for our users. We will keep you posted throughout the process, but in the mean time do be sure to log into your account at www.pencweb.org and make sure all of your profile information is correct. Also, if you have any suggestions on how we may improve our website, please do not hesitate to send them directly to me at sandy@pencweb.org.

Here at PENC, we are constantly looking for ways to provide more benefits, expand our offerings, and make belonging more meaningful for our members. We have made great efforts to reduce our expenditures - in the past year alone we have done such things as brought our design work in-house, reduced our print materials, and made significant changes to how we do our mailings and outreach - while continuing to provide personalized care to each and every one of our members.

One way in which we give back to our membership is through our scholarships and grant opportunities. Each year, we offer 32 New Teacher Grants, 2 Continuing Education Scholarships, and 1 Teacher Assistant Scholarship. While we continue to see a strong pool of applicants, we have found our application numbers dwindling despite doing our best to promote these opportunities throughout the year.

Our staff and board decided to use this decline to our advantage and open up new offerings to our membership. Throughout the fall and winter, we have been working to develop new opportunities, in an effort to provide options for a broader audience.

Starting in the 2013-14 Membership Year, we will now be offering 16 New Teacher Grants and 2 Continuing Education Scholarships. Because of the dramatic decline in Teacher Assistant Scholarship applications, down to zero applicants for the 2012-13 cycle, we have decided to do away with this opportunity entirely. The funds freed up from these changes will go toward funding the new opportunities. This allows us to work within our existing scholarship budget, without increasing the amount allotted. This is just one way we are striving to be good stewards of your membership dollars.

The new opportunities are:

- Professional Development Scholarship: PENC is offering four scholarships of up to \$250 each to Support level members who plan to pursue professional development opportunities.
- National Board Scholarships: PENC is offering 2 scholarships of \$500 each to members who are pursuing their initial National Board Certification. Checks will be made out directly to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Scholarships for Children of PENC Members: A unique opportunity for our members' children to earn a college scholarship. Two scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to applicants who graduate from a high school or GED program, and are enrolled as a full-time college student by the fall semester of the calendar year in which they earn the scholarship.

We hope you find these beneficial, and we encourage you to apply to any and all that you may be eligible for. For more information on all of our scholarship and grant opportunities, visit www.pencweb.org/scholarships. As always, if there are other ways we can serve you, please do not hesitate to let us know!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Cyr'.

Sandy Cyr, Director of Communications

Renewal Reminders

by Annette Thomas



Can you believe summer is almost here? This means it is also time to start planning to renew your PENC membership for 2013-14. Hopefully you've had a wonderful

2012-13 school year and everything with your PENC membership has been smooth.

My goal is to respond to members in a timely manner, and I hope you have found that to be true this year. As for the 2013-14 renewal year, there are several payment options for you to choose from:

- Pay in full with check or credit card
- Installment Payment plan:
 - Draft from your checking account
 - Draft from your credit card
 - Draft from your debit card
- Payroll Deduction

Remember, if you are currently on the Installment Payment plan or Payroll Deduction your membership will automatically renew. However,

if you currently take advantage of either of these options and wish to switch to a different method of payment, please contact me by email at Annette@pencweb.org for instructions on how to proceed.

In June, you will receive a renewal notification in the mail. Please be sure to renew your membership as soon as possible in order to ensure continuous coverage. You may choose to renew online or by returning the renewal form (with any necessary corrections made) to us in the self-addressed envelope included with the notification.

I am always here to answer any questions and help you in anyway, so don't hesitate to call on me. Best wishes for a relaxing summer!



Annette Thomas, Office Manager

Renew your membership online at www.pencweb.org/renew

Summer Discounts

Looking for summer fun? PENC discount park tickets are now available!

Adventure Island

Dollywood

Six Flags over Georgia

Aquatica

Great Wolf Lodge

Universal Studios

Biltmore Estates*

Kings Dominion

Water Country

Busch Gardens

Sea World

Wet 'n Wild

Carowinds

Sesame Place

Tickets for all parks (except for the Biltmore Estates) must be purchased through the Discounts and Deals section of the PENC website. As always, you can contact us by phone (1.800.542.8844) or contact our Office Manager, Annette Thomas, by email (Annette@pencweb.org) if you have additional questions. Be sure to order tickets far enough in advance of your travel date to allow for delivery, if necessary.

*Tickets for the Biltmore Estates must be purchased by calling our office at 800.542.8844.

MEMBER NEWS

New Teacher Grant Spotlight

In December 2012, PENC awarded 14 New Teacher Grants to members in their first three years of teaching. Here are updates from some of the recipients on how those grants have been used to impact student learning in North Carolina.



Sarah Cornette used her grant to fund stools in her art trailer at Southern Middle School. Her working area is very small, and the chairs that were supplied had legs and backs that stuck out very far into the traffic areas of the space, making it difficult to navigate the studio. Ms. Cornette's core teaching philosophy is based in independent use of materials, and many times her students have tripped or spilled their materials getting from supply cabinet to work surface because of the crowded space.

The students are so happy with the new stools, and it has already made a big difference. Ms. Cornette hopes to replace all of the chairs over the next few years, but the New Teacher Grant has made a great start for her.



Anna Hammond used her grant to purchase Common Core Math Standards Learning Centers for her fourth and fifth grade students at Guideway Elementary School. The students are utilizing the materials daily in not only the new centers, but also as manipulatives in all areas of math. These materials are making learning for the students more relevant and meaningful. The centers allow for differentiated instruction on all levels, allowing Ms. Hammond to better reach her students' individual learning needs.

Rebecca Hinkle used her grant to purchase materials to help bring the Social Studies and English Language Arts curriculum to life in her classroom at Shadybrook Elementary School. The supplemental aids have helped her students to discover the many places and rich history our state has to offer to its people.



Tia Hughes used her grant to begin to develop a Farm to School program at Hiwassee Dam Elementary/Middle School. Her first step was to create a classroom garden. Raised beds were built by volunteers and filled with compost, and Ms. Hughes' fourth and fifth grade students participated in planting a variety of vegetable seeds. This project not only teaches her students about planting and growing their own food, but also gives them the opportunity to be involved in hands-on learning experiments. Her students will be monitoring and recording the garden's progress, and the vegetables grown will be picked and then eaten in the classroom. Ms. Hughes hopes that eventually the project will grow in coming years to allow for field trips to area farms and a salad bar in the school's cafeteria.



Cynthia Long used her grant to purchase a variety of tools from the Kaplan Early Learning Company, including an alphabet flip chart (pictured below) to enhance the Literacy Program in her Pre-Kindergarten classroom at Hayesville Elementary School. Ms. Long was happy to report that her students were so very excited about all the new literacy materials, and use them in her classroom daily. These materials are helping her students develop language acquisition, learn letter recognition and phonemic awareness, develop their pre-writing skills, learn sign language, and acquire pre-reading skills. With these materials, Ms. Long will be able to help her students gain a better understanding of literacy.



New Teacher Grant Spotlight continued on next page



Cyteria McSwain used her grant to purchase 25 books apiece for each of her 15 students at Jones Elementary School. The books were given to each student so that they may have their own personal library at home in order to help them become better readers. She reported that the students were really excited to receive the books and have been sharing their favorite stories. A community center found out about the project and donated an additional box of books for her in-class library. Ms. McSwain's students had very little access to books at

home, and since receiving the grant she has seen an increase in reading taking place within her class.

Katie Owen used her grant to purchase a Science Instant Learning Centers set and the Can Do! Motion Discovery Kit for her kindergarten students at Candler Elementary School. Ms. Owen's students love hands-on learning. With these science materials, her students will grow to a greater level of independence while gaining knowledge in the area of science.

Karen Swain used her grant to purchase science books to coordinate with the new North Carolina Essential Standards for her third grade students at EJ Hayes Elementary School. Ms. Swain reported that her students were so excited to receive the books.

Kristen Wilson used her grant to purchase an iPad for her K-6 students in WSFCS/Hospital Homebound. According to Ms. Wilson, "we are so grateful for the grant to purchase our tablet; we use it daily. It puts the navigation of many educational sites and applications directly in the hands of my students. We are able to access information that caters to the Common Core Standards, and it is a wonderful tool for differentiation."

Congratulations once again to all of our 2012-13 New Teacher Grant recipients! PENC is proud to support such amazing educators as they strive to engage students and promote academic success in their classrooms and beyond.

Are you in your first three years in the classroom? Do you need additional resources? Be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity. Look for the 2013-14 New Teacher Grant application on our website this fall!

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2012-2013 Continuing Education Scholarship Recipients! The recipients were recognized at the PENC Annual Board Meeting in Raleigh on April 27, 2013. Each member received a check for \$1000 in the name of their respective universities. Each year, PENC awards Continuing Education Scholarships to members who are pursuing further studies in education.



Dana Lee Ayers

Dana Ayers is the Assistant Principal of Instruction at West Lincoln Middle School in Lincolnton. She began her teaching career in 1999, actively seeking positions in several grade levels to gain

additional experience with multiple age groups. She has taught first, fourth, and sixth grades. Ms. Ayers is National Board Certified, has her Masters in School Administration, and an AIG add-on licensure. In 2008, she was named Teacher of the Year. In 2010, she was selected to become an adjunct

faculty member at Western Carolina University in the Elementary and Middle Grades Education Department where she served in a leadership position through the supervision of local interns and student teachers while working with students in online instruction, lesson planning, and discussion.

Ms. Ayers is currently seeking her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Upon obtaining her doctorate, Ms. Ayers aspires to a leadership role that will allow her to impact the greatest number of students. She has completed half of the program and expects to graduate in 2015.



Anna Brooks

Anna Brooks teaches math and science at Central Davidson Middle School in Lexington. Ms. Brooks taught in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for three years before coming to

Davidson County Schools in 2005. She graduated from High Point University in 2002 and since that time, has earned certifications in teaching middle school math and AIG students. Ms. Brooks has served on several district-wide steering commit-

tees, and in 2009, she was named North Davidson Middle School Teacher of the Year and Davidson County School's Math Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Brooks plans to pursue a Masters in School Administration from Appalachian State University. By pursuing this degree, she hopes to continue to make a difference in the lives of students by becoming a 'leader of teachers.' Ms. Brooks plans to impact her school, district, and community, and she would like to continue to serve as an advocate for education in her community, in North Carolina, and across the country.



Kirsten Haswell

Kirsten Haswell teaches English at Charles B. Aycock High School in Pikeville. Even though her hometown is Raleigh, she has enjoyed teaching in this rural town for four years. After graduat-

ing from Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh, Kirsten attended East Carolina University as a North Carolina Teaching Fellow. She obtained her BS in English Education and a BA in Latin/Classical Studies and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2009.

through East Carolina University in Instructional Technology. She strongly believes that technology and education must come together to prepare students for the future. She loves to incorporate exciting new ideas in her classroom and is a leader in her school for helping others add new aspects to their classrooms. Kirsten teaches with enthusiasm every day and makes every book and story come to life for her students. After graduating in December of this year, she plans to work toward her National Board Certification. By furthering her education through graduate work and National Board Certification, Ms. Haswell will not only be a better prepared and more informed educator, but hopes to serve as a role model to her students as well.

Ms. Haswell is working on her Masters degree

Congratulations Dana, Anna, and Kirsten! Best of luck with your studies!

MEMBER REP

SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of *The Voice*, we spotlight one of our Member Representatives. Are you interested in serving at your school? Do you know a Member Rep who deserves recognition? Let us know! Email us at communications@pencweb.org.



Richard Alan Sewell

Mr. Sewell is a Health and Physical Education teacher and Driver Education Coordinator at E.A. Laney High School in New Hanover County. This is his first year as a PENC member and representative.

PENC: Why did you join PENC?

Richard Alan Sewell: I had been a member of NCAE for over 25 years and was treated very unprofessionally by an attorney representing NCAE. After making several calls to the NCAE office and staff and not getting a response, I decided to look elsewhere for a professional organization. PENC was the best option.

PENC: Why do you encourage others to join PENC?

RAS: When looking at the cost and benefits, it is a no brainer. You get the same or better benefits and service for about a fifth the cost of NCAE.

PENC: Why do you like being a member rep?

RAS: Being a member rep allows me to educate my colleagues on what I did not know for over 28 years as far as PENC being the better choice.

PENC: What is your biggest concern as an educator today?

RAS: Teacher pay, being supported by administration instead of being politically correct and the availability of adequate resources.

PENC: Do you have any suggestions for policymakers/law makers?

RAS: Pay your educators what they are worth and give them the tools to be as effective as you expect them to be.

PENC: Do you have any additional information you would like to share with our readers?

RAS: Since joining PENC, I have found the organization to be much more user friendly and concerned about what is right for education than NCAE.

Thank you for all that you do to help PENC, Alan!

PROPS!



Leigh Jones

Leigh Jones, Principal at Dalton L. McMichael High School in Rockingham County was named the **2013 Wells Fargo North Carolina Piedmont-Triad/Central Regional**

Principal of the Year! Each of the eight regional winners was awarded \$1,000 for personal use and \$1,000 for their schools.

Ms. Jones has been in education for 13 years and



Vann Lassiter

PENC Vice President Vann Lassiter has been selected as the **2013 North Carolina Technology in Education Society (NCTIES) Outstanding Leader.** This award recog-

nizes and honors one individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in implementing technology to improve education. Award recipients are selected from a pool of nominations submitted to NCTIES from around the state of North Carolina. Lassiter is a Technology Facilitator and former NE Region Teacher of the Year with the Edenton-Chowan School System.

“Vann is a proven leader and he is most deserving of this honor,” said Superintendent Allan Smith. “His work as a technology facilitator has made significant positive impact on technology

taught at the elementary and high school levels. She has been an administrator for six years, and a principal for four of those years. Prior to coming to Dalton L. McMichael High School in July 2011, she was the principal at North Asheboro Middle School in Asheboro City Schools for two years. Ms. Jones was a NC Principal Fellow (Class '12) and received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education from Appalachian State University and Masters of School Administration from the University of NC at Greensboro.

Congratulations Leigh!

use throughout our school system. He is helping to lead the way in support of our teachers and staff with the seamless integration of technology in current instructional practices.”

The award was presented at a luncheon on Friday, March 8, 2013 during the 2013 NCTIES Conference. As part of the award, Dr. Lassiter will receive \$2500 (\$500 check given to the Leader Award Winner and \$2000 to be used toward expenses to attend the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) conference later this year) and will be featured in NCTIES publications and on the website. Dr. Lassiter's application will be submitted as NCTIES's candidate for the International Society for Technology in Education Outstanding Leader Award. The winner of that competition will be announced in 2014 at the ISTE Conference.

Congratulations and best of luck Vann!

Do you or a PENC member you know deserve Props!? Let us know! Don't forget to include a color photo, name, school name, and email address of the person you want to recognize. Props! are written for awards, scholarships, and other education-related achievements. Please send your submissions to communications@pencweb.org.

CALENDAR

Retirement Workshops

Retirement Workshops

The Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer conducts retirement conferences that provide pre-retirement planning information for members closer to that golden moment. The following retirement planning conferences are open this spring to serve any member of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. At each location, the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System Sessions will be at 9:30 am.

June 12, 2013
 City of Charlotte
 Street Maintenance Division Bldg. Room 301
 4411 Northpointe Industrial Bldg.
 Charlotte, NC

July 16, 2013
 Vernon James Center
 Conference Room
 207 Research Station Rd.
 Plymouth, NC

June 18, 2013
 City of Clinton
 City Hall Auditorium
 221 Lisbon St.
 Clinton, NC

July 23, 2013
 Mountain Horticultural Crops
 Research & Extension Center Auditorium
 455 Research Dr.
 Mills River, NC

June 26, 2013
 Wayne Community College
 Moffatt Auditorium
 3000 Wayne Memorial Dr.
 Goldsboro, NC

July 24, 2013
 Lake Lure Municipal Center
 Community Hall Room
 2948 Memorial Hwy.
 Lake Lure, NC

July 10, 2013
 High Point Museum
 Lecture Gallery
 1859 E. Lexington Ave.
 High Point, NC

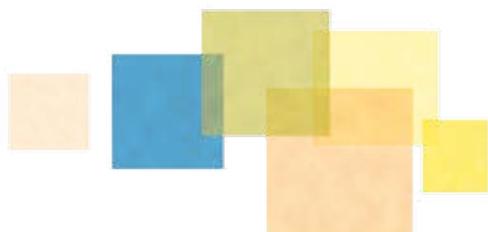
July 30, 2013
 Vance Granville Community College
 Building # 9 Civic Center
 Exit 209 off Interstate 85
 Henderson, NC

PENC Office Closed

May 27, 2013 (Memorial Day)

July 4, 2013 (Independence Day)

September 2, 2013 (Labor Day)





Chrissy Oates, Fifth Grade, 2012 Winner

2013 Young Artists Competition

Professional Educators of North Carolina is currently accepting electronic entries for its 7th annual Young Artists Competition. The goal of this project is to highlight the hard work of North Carolina's visual art teachers and their students.

Six works of art will be selected as the winning entries by a PENC panel of judges during the summer. The pieces will be duplicated for display in the PENC office in Raleigh, on the PENC website and may be used in future publications. The six winning entrants will receive an award of \$50.00 and a certificate of achievement from PENC. The art teachers will also be presented with a certificate and a PENC polo shirt at the Fall 2013 Executive Board Meeting.

For submission guidelines, please visit www.pencweb.org.

Professional Development Opportunities

Coming this fall!

Workshops

- Praxis II workshops – FREE to ALL NC Educators!
- National Board Workshops – FREE to ALL NC Educators!

PENC workshops will begin in the fall and will continue through Spring 2014. Check our online calendar this fall for opportunities.

Scholarships

- Continuing Education Scholarships - \$1000 to Educator members who pursue graduate studies in education
- New Teacher Grants - \$250 for instructional materials/supplies to members in their first three years of teaching
- Professional Development Scholarship - up to \$250 to Support members for professional development
- National Board Scholarships - \$500 to members who are pursuing their initial National Board Certification
- Scholarships for Children of PENC Members - \$500 awarded to our members' children who graduate from a high school or GED program, and enroll as a full-time college student

Scholarship and grant applications will be available on our website in late summer. Applications deadlines are typically early January. More opportunities to come!



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DON'T



The membership year ends on June 30, 2013, so look for your renewal form in the mail in mid-June. Remember to send in your renewal forms in order to receive continual liability coverage. Do be sure to take a moment to review the contact information we have for you and make any changes necessary.

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