

Essex Exchange

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Legislative Dinner**
- **Rally in Newark**
- **ECEA Overnight**

“Essex County gets it.”

Anthony Salese, President of Essex County Education Association



Legislation Dinner

On May 5, 2010, the Essex County Education Association held its annual Legislative Dinner at the Atrium Country Club in West Orange. More than three hundred people were in attendance. State Assembly members: Ralph Caputo, Al Cotinho, Tom Giblin, Mila Jacey, Fred Scalera and State Senator Teresa Ruiz attended the dinner.

The evening opened with ECEA President Tony Salese welcoming distinguished guests and congratulating Essex County on the passing of almost all school budgets. Essex County passed more school budgets



ECEA President Tony Salese addressing the attendees

than any other county in the state. As Salese says, “Essex County gets it.”

Keynote speaker, NJEA President Barbara Keshishian addressed the membership outlining the attacks on public education and admonishing the legislators on their roles as protectors of public education. Ms. Keshishian was interrupted by applause during her address.

Following Keshishian, the membership was addressed by officers of the NJEA and the NEA on upcoming legislation and issues surrounding public em-

ployees.

NJEA Lobbyist, Mike Flynn opened the question and answer period of the dinner with asking the legislators to respond to the state’s budget cuts and the proposed changes to the state pension formula. Each legislator addressed the membership concerning the budget as well as other pending legislative issues. Many of the legislators’ comments were met with concern and disdain by the membership. Although the membership was polite, the atmosphere was tense.

A major item of concern was the pending legislation on salary freezes for all public employees. *(cont. on next page)*

Rally in Newark

On April 17, 2010, ECEA members, along with NJEA members from across the state, descended on Newark to confront Governor Christie on his budget cuts to education. Members, armed with signs, marched on Rutgers Law School, where Governor Christie was to ad-

dress an assembly. More than 400 teachers attended the rally. Unfortunately the Governor cancelled his appearance at the law cen-



ter due to an emergency. But, the message from our county was loud and clear. “We are the NJEA!”



Legislative Dinner Cont.



NJEA President Barbara Keshishian address the dinner guests

State Senator Teresa Ruiz is a supporter of the legislation and said she would vote for the bill.

Following the legislators' comments, Flynn opened the floor to questions from the membership. Many of our members were concerned about the budget cuts to public education, the proposed salary freezes and the changes to the pension formula.



The evening ended with closing comments from Tony Salese who urged members to attend the May 22nd rally in Trenton and to call and email their legislators as well as the Governor.



Members voicing their concerns to legislators

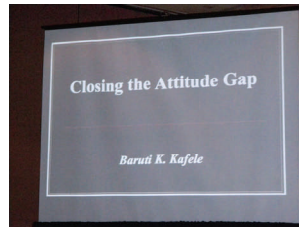


ECEA Overnight

On April 30 through May 1, 2010, the Essex County Education Association held its annual Overnight. The overnight was held at the Parsippany Hilton. The overnight provides Professional Development workshops for members. Members are treated to a cocktail registration reception, a keynote speaker, dinner and entertainment, workshops, breakfast, break time snacks and lunch at an economic price.

This year, the keynote speaker

was Principal Baruti Kafele from Newark. Kafele addressed attendees on



changing the attitude gap. As Kafele contends, one of the greatest problems affecting students of color is their attitude toward education. Kafele urged educators to change their attitude as well when attempting to reach these children. Following his presentation, Mr. Kafele held a book signing session for members.

The presentation was followed by dinner and entertainment provided by

DJ Tony. The night was filled with dancing and partying.

NJEA presenters



provided workshops covering educational issues as well as advocacy concerns.



The overnight is held each year and space fills quickly. Plan ahead for next year!



Principal Baruti Kafele, Keynote Speaker

