

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

► **Black Rocket:** We think we're preparing kids for tomorrow. Kids just think it's cool! Are you passionate about Video Games, App Design, Digital Movies, Robotics, or STEAM? We are seeking enthusiastic, motivated and talented individuals to work as: Supervisors; Lead Instructors; Assistant Instructors. This is a flexible summer seasonal position from 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the position. We have multiple locations in MD & VA. This is a perfect job for teachers (any subject/grade), college students, or content experts (filmmakers, programmers, & gamers). No experience is required. Black Rocket will TRAIN you! Get paid to build your resume, earn PD hours and have a ton of fun. **For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.smores.com/mfuwx>**

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► **Camp Milldale** is looking for energetic, dedicated staff members to bring love and laughter into our camp. Our programming focus on aquatics, arts & culture, athletics, and sustainability with a foundation of Judaism. In addition, our training includes child development workshops, skill sharing, and certification in Basic Water Safety and CPR. We hire on a rolling basis and recommend you complete your application no later than May 1, 2015. Our summer season is June 11(flexible) – August 14, 2015. To apply, visit [www.campmilldale.org/employment](http://www.campmilldale.org/employment). We are currently hiring for the following positions: teachers as counselors; college student counselors; high school student counselors; inclusion counselors for campers with special needs; specialists in a variety of fields; supervisors for counselors & specialists.

► **DRD Pool Management, Inc.** is accepting resumes for summer job openings as swimming pool field supervisors and swimming pool managers (full or part time). No experience necessary. For more information, email David Watts at [dwatts@drdpools.com](mailto:dwatts@drdpools.com)

► **Professional Tutoring Service:** Subject area teachers needed to tutor high school and middle school math, chemistry, physics, English, and SAT prep. (verbal and math). Flexible hours. Please contact Professional Tutoring Service at [professionalutoringservice@comcast.net](mailto:professionalutoringservice@comcast.net)

Association Events

April

- 3-10 Spring Break-schools closed
- 3&6 TABCO Spring Break-TABCO office closed
- 13 Schools reopen
- 15 TABCO-Retired Committee mtg
- 15 TABCO Board of Directors mtg
- 16 Estate Planning Wkshp, Loch Raven HS
- 21 Board of Education mtg
- 23 TABCO Representative Assembly at Ridgely MS—Bring Kid Care Baskets!
- 24 TABCO goes to the game: Orioles vs. Red Sox, Camden Yards
- 24 Last day to drop off KidCare Raffle Baskets to TABCO office
- 29 TABCO Board of Directors mtg

May

- 5 National Teacher Day
- 5 Board of Education mtg
- 7 Annual Retirement & Recognition Dinner, Martins East
- 12 Retirement & Recognition Committee mtg.
- 13 TABCO Board of Directors mtg
- 19 Board of Education mtg
- 25 Memorial Day—schools/TABCO closed
- 27 TABCO Board of Directors mtg
- 28 TABCO Annual General Mtg & Representative Assembly

June

- 9 Board of Education mtg
- 10 NEA Delegate caucus
- 10 TABCO Board of Directors mtg

July

- 1-6 National Education Association Convention, Orlando, FL

August

- 17 Teachers on duty
- 21 Association Representative Training/Representative Assembly

TABCO/ESPBC TELEPHONE & EMAIL DIRECTORY

office: 410-828-6403 fax: 410-337-7081

ELECTED LEADERSHIP

TABCO President Abby Beytin	ext. 229	abeytin@mseanea.org
Vice President John Redmond-Palmer	ext. 224	jredmond@mseanea.org
Treasurer John R. Wilkins	ext. 223	jrwilkins@mseanea.org
ESPBC President Joe Coughlin	ext. 227	jcoughlin@mseanea.org

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TABCO Office Hours:  
MONDAY—THURSDAY, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
FRIDAY—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What will it take?

TABCO and ESPBC just held a very successful rally. We had 165 people sign-in as they entered the auditorium at Loch Raven High School, and by all estimates there were probably another 10 to 20 others who did not sign-in. Everyone worked hard writing letters, calling and emailing their legislators as well as writing their thoughts on the new PARCC assessments. We provided food and door prizes and the attendees were busy working and engaged throughout the event. We even were able to send them home a little early.



Abby Beytin

So now I have to back track to my opening sentence. I did say it was a successful rally but on second thought—was it really? There are 8771 teachers in Baltimore County Public Schools and 1876 educational support professionals and clericals for a total of 10,657 staff eligible to be part of our two organizations. You do the math; we had 165 people attend the rally. That means a total of 10,492 did not come out for public education. Let's say at least half or even two-thirds of those folks had a legitimate reason not to attend. They may have had classes, or child care issues, or an observation the next day, or were sick—I think you get the idea. That still leaves 3514 members who chose not to attend.

I have pondered this issue for a long time. I understand the workload is through the roof and that every minute of your day is unbelievably busy. I also know that without your voice added to those who did attend, we are not as strong. Dr. Seuss was right on the money when he wrote his classic book, *Horton Hears a Who*. It

The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men  
Plato

wasn't until the very last "Who" added his voice to everyone else's voices that the others could hear them all. As I have met with many of you, or had emails sent to me,

See "What will it take?" page 3

EDITORIAL

We Need YOU... but how do we get you?



Angela Leitzer, Bulletin Editor

It appears that both your TABCO president and this editor have had the same concern on their minds (see the President's Message). Before I received President Beytin's message for this edition of the Bulletin, I had written the following paragraphs for a report on our recent state (MSEA) election:

**The good news first:** Cheryl Bost, our former TABCO president and current vice president of MSEA, our state affiliate, was re-elected for three more years. Given her experience, her skills, and her commitment to serving and protecting teachers, that is the equivalent of a lottery win for teachers throughout the state!

**Now, the bad--no, the embarrassing news:** A MERE 13.9 PERCENT of TABCO members voted in the election. That makes the miserable voter turnout in the national 2014 midterm elections--45.5% in Maryland--look fabulous by comparison. This is baffling. Teachers are among the most educated of voter sub-groups, and a demographic that tends to be above average in social responsibility. The process for voting was quick and easy--online--so, voters didn't even have to go to a polling place or to a meeting to vote.

This can't be blamed on the current insane workload problem, either. Convincing teachers to become involved in ways that will ultimately lead to their own betterment in the workplace has always been a struggle, for a variety of reasons. As educators, we struggle on a daily basis to overcome student apathy...and yet, 86.1 percent of us failed to muster the energy to vote in our organization's election. How can we justify our lack of interest in the election of those who represent us on the issues that affect everything we do?

So, here we are, taking TABCO members to task on two separate issues! Given that I have the utmost respect for the job that teachers are doing in the most difficult of circumstances, a feeling that I know is shared by your TABCO leadership, it is

See "...but how do we get you?" page 2





**“...but how do we get you?”** (from page 1)

important to seek understanding for the apathy dilemma--and possible solutions.

Recently, I attended commencement exercises for a family member who had attained her doctorate in curriculum and instruction. She resigned from BCPS on the day before this event, to take a position with a private school that pays far less than her public school job. The major reasons for this decision, made after over 15 years with the school system: frustration with the stresses of the current teaching environment and the attendant physical and emotional consequences. Current emphasis on data collection and top-down directives in curriculum delivery methods prevented her from using her experience, judgment, and creativity to address her student's needs. She joined at least 34 other teachers who resigned from their positions prior to retirement age during the month of March--that is based on just *one month's worth of resignations* listed on documents for Baltimore County's Board of Education meetings. Years of service for those resigning this past month broke down this way:

- Four months to 1 year, 6 months = 11 teachers
- Two years to five years = 9 teachers
- Six years to ten years = 11 teachers
- Eleven years to fifteen years = 1 teacher
- Eighteen to 21 years = 2 teachers

There may be a variety of reasons for so many resigning; however, given the feedback coming to TABCO leadership and staff, we may justifiably conclude that this is only one symptom of a sickness that researcher Doris A. Santoro, assistant professor of education at Bowdoin College, calls teacher demoralization, a situation distinct from personal "burnout."

Santoro explains, "the burnout explanation fails to account for situations where the conditions of teaching change so dramatically that moral rewards, previously available in ever-challenging work, are now inaccessible. In this instance, the phenomenon is better termed demoralization...In this model, teacher attrition does not necessarily reflect a lack of commitment, preparedness, competence, or hardiness on the part of the practitioner. Rather, teacher attrition is analyzed from the perspective of whether teachers find moral value in the kind of work they are asked to perform."

She goes on to declare, **"Despite the long-standing**

**challenges inherent in teachers' work, current federal policies in the United States have affected public school teachers and their classrooms in ways previously unimaginable."**

In a related article, writer and editor for NEA John Rosales lists the effects of both burnout and demoralization on teachers manifesting as **"apathy, bitterness, depression, exhaustion, isolation."**

Santoro describes the conditions that contribute to teacher demoralization: **"Examples of policies that may demoralize teachers are scripted lessons that divest teachers of using their talents in planning, mandated curriculum that allows no space for teachers to respond to students' academic needs and interests, and testing practices that make teachers feel complicit in doing harm to their students."**

Both Santoro and Rosales explain that demoralization, because it emanates from policies imposed on teachers, cannot be addressed individually.

**"Demoralization indicates a problem with the profession and practitioners collectively can call attention to the ways in which the work is changing. Demoralization is not a personal problem, so it cannot be avoided individually. Naming and resisting policies that impede doing good work need to be addressed collectively."**

And that, friends, is what your TABCO leaders are talking about, and why they (and I) are insisting that it is necessary to find the time and strength to overcome "apathy, bitterness, depression, exhaustion, isolation," and work collectively to defeat the forces that have imposed these demoralizing conditions.

**What's your take? Talk back!**

**We need you! How do we get you? How can we get demoralized/burned out members to participate? Best responses to be published in our last edition of the year (May/June)--names withheld upon request. The editor's email address: bookends68@comcast.net.**

Resources: *Good Teaching in Difficult Times: Demoralization in the Pursuit of Good Work*, Doris A. Santoro, Bowdoin College; *How Bad Education Policies Demoralize Teachers*, John Rosales, NEA TODAY

**The TABCO BULLETIN**

The Bulletin is published bi-monthly throughout the school year. Your suggestions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Contact Angela Leitzer, editor, with your input at [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net).



**"If a little is good, a lot must be better"** (from page 3)

Senate sponsor. The bill was amended in the house education committee and now both have passed out of the respective committees and houses. They have differences, so now the two houses will collaborate and, hopefully, pass an amended bill before sine die and it will get signed by the governor. We have been greatly involved in seeing these bills pass, to hopefully reduce the amount of testing and provide time to teach and time to learn."

So, although the debate continues (perhaps until the next fad appears), we wanted to hone in here on the opinions of educators within our specific unit, Baltimore County. These extracts from their comments reflect their responses to this inquiry: **One source has suggested that students in Maryland will have spent over 40 days involved in standardized testing by the end of the school year. In your school setting or as a person who is connected to this process, how accurate is that figure? Is this testing causing other impacts on instruction that are of concern to you as an educator?**

Without identifying anyone, it has to be said that some of those most intimately involved with the testing process in BCPS declined to respond. Those who did respond were all people who deal directly with students on a daily basis.

**Teacher 1:** "Not only does it impact instruction in the morning, but because of absences we have to assess students in the afternoon to complete make-ups. I personally tested all nine days of PARCC in the morning and then did make-ups in the afternoons. So I got to do very little instruction."

**Teacher 2:** "As far as PARCC, if you are asked to assist then you have to have a sub, so you miss out on instruction time with your students. Since the ELA curriculum is written to support PARCC, it's difficult for a sub to teach it unless your sub is a former teacher. So, now you are a lesson behind. When I was assisting with PARCC one of the concerns the teacher had was that the children were being tested on things in math that hadn't been taught, yet."

**Teacher 3:** "I'm not sure about the amount of days, but I do know that we specified that we had enough computers to take the test on-line, and since they are the ones in the lab and are older, they have not been working very efficiently. It was shared that logging in has taken up to 45 minutes for groups taking the tests. Many computers have crashed. So testing time has just taken longer per day once the students are logged in."

**Teacher 4:** "I know the kdg teachers are not happy about the KRA evaluation that they had to administer

at the beginning of the year. I heard that it took about one hour per student; it was difficult to manage the other children while you assessed one; it impacted the beginning of the year as far as establishing class routines and instruction."

**Teacher 5:** "104 hours total on the fall and winter MAP testing. There is another round scheduled for May that will include only grades K to 2. 48 hours for the PBA for PARCC--this does not include classes that are testing on laptops in the classroom, only in the lab.

36 hours for online practice tests for PBA for PARCC. This does not include time that will be needed to complete the MSA Science testing for grade 5 or the PARCC EOY testing that will take place in May, which will be preceded by hours of online practice test as well so students will be familiar with the online assessment and the tools that are available for use during testing."

**Teacher 6:** "That figure is pretty accurate. PARCC alone takes up 3 weeks of instruction in March (each grade level tests for 5 days) and will take up another 2 at the end of the year (isn't that a bit close together to show any growth?). On testing days, students who are testing spend anywhere from 1-3 hours testing or waiting to be able to log into test (several grades have been forced to wait for over an hour just to log into the online testing site, only to have to sit in silence and test for another 50-90 minutes). After testing, students are so antsy and tired that it is almost impossible to get them to do anything or they have "incentives" (rewards for testing) that make it seem like the school day is over at noon. Teachers do not or cannot deliver regular engaging instruction because everything is focused on testing or rewards and surrounding teachers have to alter lesson plans so as not to disturb testing. Also, with no technology teacher in the building anymore, teachers are expected to incorporate all of this new technology into lessons on our own, but between MAP testing in October, PARCC in March, Science MSA in April and PARCC again in May/June, it's impossible to access the computer lab or laptops! We are also asked not to print to 2 of the 3 main printers in the building when testing is occurring.

On another note, it is appalling to me as a parent that my child will one day be asked to sit through hours and days of testing instead of gaining enduring knowledge from the professionals who are supposed to be teaching, not constantly proctoring tests."

Clearly, Baltimore County teachers are identifying many of the same concerns and issues being raised in other locations and by other groups. But what to do? It is as if an out-of-control machine has been released and no one knows how to stop or recall it, though so many agree that the power should be switched off. A LOT is NOT proving to be better.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this article; among them, Cheryl Bost, Serafina DeVita, Ruth



# NEWS & NOTES

## Round Two for TABCO SPARKS this year

In February, TABCO organized another SPARKS Training at MSEA. SPARKS is an association networking and training program for teachers with five or fewer years in the profession. Eight new SPARKS ventured to Annapolis to participate in two days of professional networking, leadership building, new friendships and lasting memories. The participants tackled an agenda that insured to be educational, and of course, enjoyable. The trainers—Vernon Fains, Amanda Sosnin, Frank Soda, Lisa Norrington and Cheryl Bost, led the SPARKS through many meaningful activities and conversations. Discussions were held about classroom management, the master agreement, what the union is, and how to get involved.

Several guest speakers visited the SPARKS, including Ken Kuyawa—BCPS certification, representatives from Integrated Financial Solutions, and MSEA leadership and staff, including Damon Felton, our ever informative MSEA attorney. The SPARKS were also able to engage in conversations with visiting TABCO leadership. After a jam-packed day of valuable information, the new SPARKS took a short rest before an evening of team building and bonding. Early Saturday, our devoted SPARKS were back at MSEA headquarters diligently working on their group research projects. Participants researched topics such as member benefits, national board certification, and parent-teacher conferences, in order to creatively teach fellow SPARKS the key points of their subjects.

After presentations and wrapping up before the snow, our eight students officially graduated with the distinguished title of 2015 SPARKS! If you know any of these awesome graduates or see them around, be sure to congratulate them. We are sure this is not the last you will see of them. GO SPARKS!

**2015 SPARKS participants:** Andrea Becker, Timonium ES; Stacey Gordon, Winand ES; Beth Kendall, Patapsco HS; Lauren Krabitz, Timonium ES; Megan Mignogno, Patapsco HS; Karimah Smiley, Milford Mill Academy, Amber Taylor, Scholars K-8, Tracey White, Orems ES

~reported by Amanda Sosnin, TABCO Secretary

**Learn about the serious stuff!** TABCO and our partner, Berman, Sobin, Gross, Feldman & Darby, LLP, present **Estate Planning**—a tutorial on wills, power of attorney, advanced medical directives and probates—for our members. Register by emailing [sstrickland@mseanea.org](mailto:sstrickland@mseanea.org).

**April 16, 4:30-6:00** at Loch Raven HS cafeteria FOR TABCO/ESPBC members only!

## Good-bye and Best Wishes

UniServ Director Kathy Wyatt has retired after many years of service to TABCO. You may have seen her smiling face passing out packets at Representative Assemblies, or consulted with her regarding worksite problems. We wish her well and welcome Seleste Odewole, who will be joining the UniServ staff.

## Retirement & Recognition Dinner -our annual celebration of educators

Please join us at Martin's East on May 7 to honor retiring educators, outstanding "rookie" teachers and those who will receive the prized TABCO Recognition Award. NEA's secretary/treasurer, Princess Moss, will deliver the keynote speech.

Retirees are honored with a slide show featuring their names, positions, and years of service during dinner, a walk across the platform (a sort of graduation from teaching ceremony), certificates and a small memento.

Most of the award winners are surprised (shocked!) when their names and contributions to the profession are read and they are called forward to be honored. Rookies receive framed certificates, while Recognition winners receive certificates and engraved pewter bowls. The award winners are selected by a committee from nominations made by their colleagues.

Before and during dinner everyone has fun looking over the KidCare baskets and placing their raffle tickets for the ones they'd like to win. Winners are announced at the conclusion of the dinner. Last year we raised \$3365 for KidCare thanks to the many schools that rose to the challenge of producing at least one basket or item for the raffle. We are asking for your help again to donate a themed basket or item



Basket raffle at last year's dinner

for the raffle. Your school's association rep can bring the basket to the RA assembly on April 23 or deliver it to TABCO by Friday, April 24.

You must reserve your place at this special event by April 24. There is no cost for retiring employees; dinner for others is \$46. Stacie Strickland, at the TABCO office, may be contacted with any further questions: [sstrickland@mseanea.org](mailto:sstrickland@mseanea.org).

~Roxann Russo, Michele Snell, Committee Co-chairs

# NEWS & NOTES, continued

## 2015 TABCO ELECTION RESULTS

The tentative officer election results pending approval of the Representative Assembly on April 23, 2015 are as follows:

President (2-yr. term) – Abby Beytin, Timber Grove ES

Vice President (2-yr. term) – John Redmond-Palmer, New Town ES

### Board of Directors

District I (3-yr. term) – Seth I. Rich, Milford Mill Academy

District II (3-yr. term) – Vernon Fains, Pine Grove MS

District II (2-yr. term) – No individual was elected through the write-in process

District III (3-yr. term) – Lisa Norrington-Moseley, Patapsco HS

Note: No individual received a sufficient number of write-in votes for the District II BOD vacancy. It will need to be filled by the Representative Assembly for a term of one year from 8-1-2015 to 7-31-2016.



Don't give up.  
I believe in you all.  
A person's a person no matter how small.  
~ Dr. Seuss

Cuteness from Read Across America—see more on page 6

## Retired, not expired



The TABCO-RETIRED Committee is excited to be launching its information and recruitment initiatives, in order to create a retiree community of former Baltimore County teachers. Retired members Stephanie Foy, Cindy North and Mary Ellen Vecchioni met this month with chairperson Angela Leitzer to plan activities for the upcoming Retirement Dinner on May 7 and for the year ahead. Several other retirees will be joining the committee in the coming months.

If you know members who have already retired and would like to renew/maintain connections with their professional organization, please have them email [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net) for information. Or, they can go directly to the retiree information on the MSEA website to obtain a membership form.

It is important to know that TABCO-R/MSEA-R/NEA-R constitutes the ONLY retiree organization affiliated with TABCO. Other retiree groups have no connection with our association.

We look forward to establishing an active group of retirees interested in networking, staying connected with the education scene in both Baltimore County and in Maryland—and continuing to make a difference!

## TAX NOTE:

2014 TABCO dues for tax purposes  
Salary \$41,549 and above—\$670.40  
\$20,775-\$41,549—\$548.00  
\$20,775 and below—\$456.24

**In Memory of:**  
*Dr. Frederick M. Goethe, who passed away on January 12. He taught in St. Mary's County for two years and in Baltimore County for twenty-eight years, and had been retired for twenty-five years.*  
*Yvonne Luken, a teacher at Shady Spring ES, who passed away on December 19. She was a TABCO member since her hire in 1990, and served students for twenty-four years and three months.*

We sincerely regret the loss of these educators, offer condolences to their friends and families and appreciate their contributions to public education.



“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.” ~Dr. Seuss



Megan presents Reader Vicki Almond & family



Reading team Tom Quirk & his daughter



The Cat listens in as Cathy Bevins reads

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and great planning by Chairperson Megan Lynch and her capable team, Baltimore County children enjoyed a fun and educational morning at White Marsh Mall. **Read Across America**, initiated by the National Education Association, calls for “every child in every community to celebrate reading” in honor of the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss.

As children gathered in the main court to listen to books read by special guest readers, The Cat in the Hat visited, gift bags were distributed, and free face painting based on Dr. Seuss characters was provided by Rhonda Hardesty and her assistants of Fantasy Artz. Long lines of patient children and parents resulted in dozens of painted “Seuss-ical” faces making their way throughout the mall. Stories were read by County Councilwomen Cathy Bevins and Vicki Almond; Councilman David Marks; Councilman Tom Quirk and his daughter; Alonzo Williams, Personal Assistant, on behalf of House Delegate Adrienne Jones who was tied up in Annapolis; and community member Randi Kennedy, subbing last minute for an elected official who was unable to make it.

Adding beauty and fun to the event were displays of student art work from a number of Baltimore County schools.

Marty Getz and his team from Raymond Geddes Company, a local teacher supply store on Belair Road, distributed fun gift packets to visiting children. This company has generously donated for the



a Seussical transformation ... as Mya selects a face



Girl Scouts on duty

event for the past five years, and offers 20% discounts to teachers.

In addition, thanks are owed to Annie Wildasin, Senior Marketing Manager and to White Marsh Mall, for generously providing a wonderful public space for the community to come together to celebrate reading.

It was a community service project for Girl Scout Troop #1402 from Parkton/Hereford, led by TABCO Board member Amber Gaede. The girls took turns inside the swelter-y Cat in the Hat garb, and contributed their time helping at the event.

Board member Nicole Caple, Art Coordinator Linda DeCarlo, and Kelly Olds formed the rest of Megan’s team. A great time was had by all!

## What will it take?” (from page 1)

or phone calls pleading for help with your concerns, just about everyone has said in one way or another that the high stakes testing is not working, that without proper resources you have great difficulty teaching with the best possible results, and that you can’t do what is best for our students.

I continue to talk with legislators and others who can make a difference, but when your voices are added to mine, the response is very different. Once you have contacted them, they immediately let me know about it. They understand the issues so much more because you have the real stories to tell. They want to do what is right for you and your students. How can they know what that looks like, if you have not let them know?

So my question now is, “What will it take?” If you won’t do it for yourself and our profession, please DO IT FOR THE KIDS!

~Abby Beytin, TABCO President

Below: President Beytin and teachers who rallied for education funding and common sense testing.



**DISCLAIMER: TABCO assumes no responsibility for representations made or services performed in advertisements published here.**

If a little is good, a lot must be better

BELIEVING WE CAN IMPROVE SCHOOLING WITH MORE TESTS IS LIKE BELIEVING YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF GROW TALLER BY MEASURING YOUR HEIGHT



When it comes to testing, that appears to be the mantra for many state and local decision-makers. Thinking back over the past four decades or so, going all out on the latest education fad isn’t anything new. Examples: Hooked on Phonics! No, no phonics--just whole language! / Weekly spelling tests! No, inventive spelling! / Perfect penmanship! No, limited time to teach cursive! And sooooo many others. Now is the Era of the Test...the Test that will ferret out the bad teachers and make public education a utopia of data-defined students. No word on how these test data change the facts of teaching and learning in real life circumstances.

For teachers and students, there is no choice. The tests will be given; the tests will be taken. There is so much rhetoric on the topic that we can shed no new light on it here. Liz Bowie’s Baltimore Sun article, *Debate rages over how many hours Maryland students should be tested each year* (November 15, 2014) did a fine job of defining the debate and providing information on testing time around the state. All sorts of other articles, legislation, and media demonstrate that parents, students, elected officials, and a variety of others with opinions are weighing in on the topic.

Our state affiliate, MSEA, is instrumental in the push to evaluate the benefits and injuries associated with the testing load. Watch for the release of some major information coming soon from MSEA, and legislation pending on the creation of a Commission on Standardized Tests, that “not only creates a review commission, but also instructs the state Department of Education to conduct a study on the testing system.” MSEA Vice President Cheryl Bost tells us, “Delegate Ebersole was the House sponsor and Senator Pinsky was the

See “If a little is good, a lot must be better,” page 7

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