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**1. Read Across America**

Don't Forget - March 2 is Read Across America Day! Get resources to plan your event at [www.psea.org/readacross](http://www.psea.org/readacross).

**2. My PSEA**

Activating your membership card? Requesting a new one? Moved recently? Visit [psea.org/mypsea](http://psea.org/mypsea) for a one-stop-shop of resources that will help you manage your membership, stay connected to PSEA, and lend your voice to important conversations.

**3. Attention Civics Teachers**

The American Civic Education Teacher Awards honor three teachers each year with a trip to Washington, D.C. and special recognition at the National Conference of Civic Educators. Find [information and application materials](#) on [PSEA.org](http://PSEA.org). Hurry, applications are due Feb. 22.

**4. Find PSEA on Facebook**  
Stay connected to PSEA

**School 'choice' is a bad choice for Pennsylvania** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

This makes no sense: At the same time your school is facing significant funding cuts, misguided school reform advocates are making the problem worse by proposing a **voucher bill** that could drain hundreds of millions of dollars from the public schools. Backed by the deep pockets of three billionaires, proponents are pushing hard for the enactment of voucher legislation and they have the support of Pennsylvania's new Governor Tom Corbett. With increased levels of support in the state Legislature, we need to speak up for our schools and students.

The voucher bill, [Senate Bill 1](#), became the first of what could be a long list of anti-public education legislation we will face in the coming months and years.

**Speak up** - pro-voucher groups have already begun to push their agenda by lobbying the Legislature and raising millions of dollars for political action. Speak up and make sure that legislators hear from you. Use PSEA's Legislative Action Center to [e-mail your state legislators](#) and ask them to oppose vouchers for Pennsylvania.

**TAKE ACTION NOW**

Also [make a contribution](#) to PSEA's Political Action Committee for Education (PACE).

Visit [www.psea.org/vouchers](http://www.psea.org/vouchers) for the basics on how voucher programs work and why they DON'T work for PA kids.

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**Sharpen your skills at PSEA spring training events** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

Get involved to save public education and become a leader in your union. PSEA encourages you to attend the 2011 Minority Leadership Conference and Women's Leadership Training March 4-6 at the Marriot Lancaster at Penn Square.

The Minority Leadership Training Conference will provide participants with the skills, knowledge and resources needed to gain meaningful involvement in leadership at every level of PSEA. The conference features four tracks to allow conference participants to self-select the level of training that best meets their individual leadership

news and events, and share your thoughts on education issues on [PSEA's Facebook page](#).



development needs.

The Women's Leadership Training mirrors the NEA Women's Leadership Training (WLT) Program. PSEA's WLT has been refined to meet the specific needs of our members.

**Note:** PSEA's 2011 Women's Leadership Training is full. Look for information and registration materials for the 2012 WLT later this year.

Information and registration materials are available at [www.psea.org/MLT](http://www.psea.org/MLT).

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## **Toolkit helps educators and parents stand up to bullying** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

When you receive your February issue of [Voice](#), take note of the cover. Bullying and cyberbullying continue to hurt students, families, and classrooms across the state and the nation. NEA reports that tragic, heartbreaking incidents of bullying, particularly based on the sexual orientation of students, have occurred so often in recent months that there's a new word for the phenomenon: bullicide.

As we work to stop bullying and cyberbullying in our schools and communities, and reach out to students hurt by bullies, PSEA has created a [new toolkit](#) with resources and information, including:

- Facts and statistics about bullying and cyberbullying;
- Tips for dealing with bullying in schools and talking to parents about the issue;
- Common myths about bullying;
- Research on bullying and its effects on student achievement;
- Resources for creating a safe, tolerant atmosphere in schools;
- Multimedia resources including links to the "It Gets Better Project," aimed at reaching out to those affected by bullying;
- Space to share your ideas and best practices to prevent bullying in your school;
- Tools to take action - support state and federal efforts to prevent bullying and give schools the support and resources they need to address bullying and cyberbullying.

Find the toolkit at [www.psea.org/bullying](http://www.psea.org/bullying).

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## **Members approve new business items at PSEA House of Delegates** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

The PSEA House of Delegates approved four New Business Items in December. They are:

- **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1**  
Endorse Melva Vogler as a PSEA Active Certified nominee for the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System Board to fill a three-year term covering January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2014.

- NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2  
Approve the preparation of resolutions to honor PSEA staff persons who have provided notice of retirement to PSEA.
- NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3  
Amend PSEA Bylaws, Article II – Membership, Section A (Active Membership) by striking “seventy hundredths of one percent (.0070)” and inserting “seventy-eight hundredths of one percent (.0078)” in Subsection 6, and by striking Subsection 7.
- NEW BUSINESS ITEM #4  
Approve PSEA’s Government Policy Agenda 2011-2012.

For more information, visit [www.psea.org/HOD](http://www.psea.org/HOD).

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## Member Benefits Spotlight

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Need a Winter Getaway? PSEA Member Benefits offers two great options this winter:

Great Wolf Lodge, located in the heart of the Pocono Mountains, is offering a [20% discount for PSEA members](#). Experience the Northeast’s largest indoor water park resort, with an arcade, spa and restaurants - all under one roof. Receive four free water park passes for each room, and get two days of play for one night of stay.

Camelback Mountain Resort, also located in the Pocono Mountains and less than 10 minutes from Great Wolf Lodge, offers PSEA members [discounted lift tickets](#).

Find more winter vacation ideas and other discount and savings opportunities at [www.psea.org/memberbenefits](http://www.psea.org/memberbenefits).

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**This content is intended for use by PSEA members and their immediate families.**