

# The South River Advocate

Volume 1, Issue 1

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

August 1999

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/2601>

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## What's Happening:

### SEPTA Calendar 1999/2000

Wed September, 22	Ice Cream Social for the Kids
Wed October, 20	Dawn Bladzinski from South River Library
Wed November 17	To Be Announced (TBA)
Wed December 15	TBA
Thur January 20	TBA
Wed February 23	TBA
Wed March 15	Beth Fishkin from Middlesex County Special Child Health
Tue. April 11	TBA
Mon May 8	TBA – <b>Special Education Week!</b>

### South River Board of Education:

Monday August 23, 7:30 Premeeting

Thursday August 26, 7:30 Meeting



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to SEPTA of South River's first Newsletter, I hope everyone is having a fun, enjoyable summer, recharging themselves for the coming school year.

There have been a few changes with SEPTA in the past few months. On May 11 new officers were elected for the 1999-2001 school years. I'd like to thank the outgoing board members for all of their hard work and dedication; without them SEPTA never would have been formed.

The new Board has several changes planed this year. The most noticeable one right now is this newsletter. We are planning on sending this out once a month, to let you know what is going on with SEPTA and other happenings in the school district, especially special education classes and others items that might be of concern to parents of special ed. children.

Another change has to do with our meetings. We will be having a meeting each month instead of the 4 meetings each year we have had. We are planning on having some interesting speakers and some fun times for the kids so check out our calendar and then mark yours.

Our last big change (for now) is our own Internet home page <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/2601>. Now, there is not much to it, but that WILL change by time school starts. We will have:

- ◆ Calendar of SEPTA events.
- ◆ Links to all sorts of web site, including other PTA's, Special Ed. Law, Special Ed and General Education Issues.
- ◆ Legislative issues related to Special Education, Disabled

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## IEP Time is here

You should have received your child's IEP. Please remember that under the new Special Ed Regulations you are an equal partner in determining the best course of your child's education.

Therefore you should read, understand and agree with everything in the IEP. If you have any questions or concerns you should call and write your child's case manager now. Do not wait until school starts in September to get things straightened out, it might be nothing but it also may be a problem that needs to be resolved before school has started.



# Executive Board

## Meetings

The Executive Board Meets on the first Thursday of each monthly during the school year all SEPTA members are welcome to attend. Anyone with concerns, questions or interested in getting involved is encouraged to attend or to contact any of the Board members.

## Members

President	Bill Sellar
Vice President	George Borstede
Secretary	Debbie Angley
Treasurer	Patty Borstede
Procedures & Bylaws Chair	<i>Open</i>
Faculty Rep	<i>Open</i>
Administration Rep	Dr. Judy Marino
Membership Chair	<i>Open</i>
Fundraising Chair	<i>Open</i>
Legislative Chair	<i>Open</i>

## How to Contact SEPTA

There are several ways to contact SEPTA,

- ◆ Mail: SEPTA of South River, 81 Johnson Place, South River, NJ 08882
- ◆ E-Mail [septa\\_srnj@geocities.com](mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com)
- ◆ Phone: Bill Sellar 613-5144
- ◆ Or contact any of the Exec Board members



## Useful Internet Sites:

<http://www.pta.org> : Web site of the National PTA. There is a variety of useful information for all parents, not just PTA members

<http://www.wrightslaw.com> : Wrightslaw has lots of information concerning Special Ed law, including a Law Library, Case Law, articles and a free on-line newsletter you can subscribe to.

<http://www.irsc.org>: Internet Resources for Special Children is a non-profit web site, which provides parents, educators, medical professionals and caretakers with information regarding children with disABILITIES. They have links to hundreds of web sites about Disabilities.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont.:

Persons and General Education.

- ◆ Recommended books on education, disabilities, activities and Special Ed law.
- ◆ Current and back issues of our Newsletters
- ◆ Anything else that our members or we think will be helpful.

If you come across a web site or book that is related to anything in the newsletter, web site or just something that you want to pass on to other parents, please let us know and we will be happy to let people know about it.

As you can see we have a big year ahead of us, but we still need **your help!** The only true measure of how successful SEPTA is, will be how well we meet your and your child's needs. So please let us know if we can do more for you. Whether that is getting a speaker to come and talk, providing you with other available resources or just providing a friendly ear. We are here for you but we can't help if we don't know about a problem or a need that is not being met.

Finally I'd like to encourage anyone who wants to make a difference in their child's education and life to join and be an active member of SEPTA. If you have just a few free hours a month and want to make a difference there are several openings on the Exec Board.

*Bill Sellar*



## Legislative alert

Currently there is a bill in Trenton (S-1492) "The Physician-Dentist Fellowship and Education Program to Provide Health Care to Persons with Developmental Disabilities". This bill would appropriate \$5 million to establish a program to provide physicians and dentists with graduate and continuing medical and dental education to provide these services to persons with developmental disabilities.

The bill has already passed the New Jersey Senate and Assembly. Currently it is sitting on Governor Whitman's desk waiting for her signature, however she may veto this bill. We need you to contact Governor Whitman's office and encourage her to sign the bill into law.

If enough people contact Governor Whitman we are confident that this important piece of legislation will pass and benefit countless people in the state.

**Governor Christine Todd Whitman**

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