



Calendar of Events Fall 2020

September 23, 2020	
Rep Council	
Virtual	4:30 PM
September 30, 2020	
LAT Kick Off	
Virtual	4:30 PM
October 1, 2020	
CBC Workshop	
Virtual	4:30 PM
October 1, 2020	
PRIDE Training	
Virtual	4:30 PM
October 6, 2020	
Member Benefit Fair	
Virtual	4:30 PM
October 13, 2020	
Pizza and Paychecks	
Virtual	4:30 PM
October 13, 2020	
IPD - Special Ed for ESP	
Virtual	3:30 PM
October 14, 2020	
IPD - Roundtable: SEL	
Virtual	3:30 PM
October 26 - November 2, 2020	
Hustle/Social Media	
“Get Out the Vote”	
Virtual	4:30 PM
November 18, 2020	
Rep Council	
Virtual	4:30 PM

All dates and events are currently virtual and may be subject to change based on registration and attendance numbers.

**Register for all events on
Eventbrite
found on the MCCEA website,
www.mccea.com**

We Are Here For Our Students!

I am sitting in my classroom ready to start my eighteenth year of teaching. I will be teaching remotely for now, and my mind is going in a billion directions. Having all of this experience and a master's degree could have never prepared me for this fall. To say I am overwhelmed and heartbroken is an understatement.



Teachers have gone from hero to zero since last March. But, really we have always been a public enemy for some, and now it has gotten so much worse over the past few months. I suppose it is because we unify, we fight for the rights of our educators and children, we care SO MUCH, we always support one another, and we never back down, EVER.

I had a good ugly cry when I got here and had to sit to find strength to do what I do best... to do what I was meant to do... but these quotes thrown at teachers lately kept trying to find their way into my head...

“Teachers should get a pay cut; If you do not want to go to work, then quit; I want a tax break for teaching my kid at home; It is easy to replace the teachers that do not want to teach our kids; Schools are going into full remote learning because the teachers do not want to work.” The list goes on and on.

But, then I remembered...these comments are made from pure ignorance. These comments are made from a bad place. These comments are made from people that do not appreciate what educators do for our children. In the end these comments do not matter because it comes from people that have zero experience as educators, and they sure as heck do not have the same heart we do, inside the four walls of our classrooms (whatever that may look like).

I have got a secret. Education flows through our souls, and that is why we continue to stay in this career. We stay because we love these kids... OUR kids... so much. We love what we do... more than anyone could ever imagine. And that is why we stay. We stay for THEM... no one else.

So, no matter what nasty comments are thrown at us by those ridiculous keyboard warriors... they have got nothing on us. We will brush ourselves off and find the strength to tackle this new way of teaching. This will perfect our craft even more... so take that! We will put more hours in than they will ever see or hear about. We will shut down the bashing with our will to always do our best and rise to the occasion. WE WILL SHOW THEM!

Contrary to popular belief, we know what we are talking about. We know what we are doing. Our opinion on our current situation has VALUE, and we will make sure it is heard, loud and clear, despite the personal agenda of others. We are doing the best we can given our circumstances and that just has to be enough.

So, on the first day of school, we will hide our tears, exhaustion, and worry. We will show up like it is any other first day... full of smiles, love, excitement, and happiness. We WILL make mistakes, so get ready for that. But, please.. for the love of all things holy... do not attack us or talk smack on social media. You are better than that.

Thank you to everyone that SUPPORTS educators. Thank you for giving us grace when we need it most. Thank you for working with us when the world seems to be working against us. You are beautiful humans and we need more of you.

By Melissa Matarazzo, Dover Education Association, originally posted on Social Media

President's Perspective

Laurie Schorno

They Came To Teach

It was easy to be consumed with negativity this summer. We barely survived the emotional strain of distance learning with little or no guidance. We were then thrust into daily press releases, conflicting reopening guidelines and attended endless virtual meetings on more of the same. Record weather problems ruined our plans- that is, if we had been able to make any plans. But the unforgivable brutality that led to the death of George Floyd is what caused me the most anguish. Without getting into the political frame of Blue vs Black vs All, I just know it mattered. The constant barrage of newsreels of injustice then and now led me to keep asking myself why I did not see. Why didn't I believe? What more could I have done? Perhaps because of "White fragil-

ity," perhaps ignorance. But I knew when I got the invitation, there was no question whether or not I would attend.

Hello teachers.

My name is Stephanie. I went to your school from 3rd-8th grade, and I continue to live in town. I have organized an educational teach-in, along with local youth. We will be speaking about the school district and our experiences in our town and surrounding towns. We would love to have local teachers present to hear our stories, some of the local data we have gathered, and our needs from the school district. Please share this with any teachers I may have missed or anyone who may be interested in attending. Attached is the flyer for the event. We look forward to having you there, Stephanie

He came to teach...

Pastor Sidney Williams of Morristown, known throughout Morris County from the "Table of Hope," was instrumental in curating a traveling Black History Exhibit. Clearly educators teach "Black History" as if the events were separate from "White History," leaving out some facts altogether. Some example he shared:

- Morris County was home to the first segregated schools in the nation
- Farleigh Dickenson and Drew University, as well as other colleges, had slave quarters
- Betsy Ross did not sew the first American Flag- her black slaves did.

The Pastor also shared that he was first called the "N" word when he was on a school bus at the age of 7. When you hear disparaging remarks over and over, especially during the formative years, you begin to believe the connotation being made- that you are not good enough, that something's wrong with you and that some things were not meant for you. This has an adverse effect on our Black and Brown youth, leading to deafening statistics.

- Morris County leads the state in sending Black people to prisons for non-violent crimes. The largest number of deaths of Black men occur in those prisons. The School-to-Prison Pipeline- there it is, right here.

She came to teach...

Paige shared her perspective of privilege as a Caucasian. She is aware that she has benefited from being White by receiving preferential seating in restaurants, skating from consequences, and other advantages she admits she enjoys. She went on to caution us not to fall for the media's portrayal of Black on Black crimes. The victims in these instances are not chosen solely because of their race. She adds

that there are just as many White on White crimes, however, they are not presented as such, nor are they publicly demonized as racial incidents.

He came to teach...

Fabian felt he had always been treated differently. At a very young age, he realized he was not challenged the way his white classmates were. He felt he was not expected to achieve equally, and he did not get the same assistance when he needed clarification. It was almost as if it was expected that he would not understand. He thought his education would change when he moved to a more racially diverse district, but that was not the case. He did not feel valued as a student until he became a school soccer star.

Fabian went on to relate that "we do not need to defund the police- we need to be on their side." He urged educators to understand that no title is needed in order to be a leader. He is hoping that we become the leaders that enable diversity to use its voice. "If you love your students, they will know. They will also know if you do not."

She came to teach...

Stephanie looks back on her education with sadness. She remembers being bullied and ostracized, as were other girls. But her most painful memory is of the day she learned that the behavior towards her was not because of some negative trait or attitude, but because of her race. She relives that pain each day, and she wonders if her tormentors ever even give it a thought.

Stephanie found it difficult to find solace. Her parents, immigrants from Colombia, felt they had found the American Dream and could not relate to her loneliness. School staff tried, but they did not understand her world. "Diversity," she said, "does not come from housing units. Brown and Black educators are not just custodians, bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Districts need to do a better job of providing diversity within staff."

Yes, racism exists behind the smiles and friendly nods of our neighbors. Pastor Sidney stated that racism is not always in your face, it is more like a sandwich. We need to make sure we know what's being served in the lunchroom.

Without naming, blaming, or finger pointing, they came to teach and I learned. We must all acknowledge that we are not responsible for our birthrights, our ethnicity or our upbringing. But we are responsible to educate ourselves and make changes so that our behaviors are not chosen out of ignorance.

"Now that I know better, I'll do better."

Maya Angelou

MCCEA

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PRIDE TRAINING

MCCEA is pleased to once again offer PRIDE training for all local PRIDE Chairs.

NJEA provides funding for local districts to partner with their community.

Learn how to take advantage of this successful program.

Each local is entitled to PRIDE funds and may already be doing activities that qualify for a grant.

This workshop is a great opportunity for PRIDE chairs, local presidents, or other members who are interested in working to make their association more visible in the community.

Come learn how to apply for a grant and get ideas for new PRIDE projects.

In addition to reviewing the 2020-2021 Application and Reimbursement procedures, best practices from locals will be shared, so even experienced PRIDE Chairs will benefit from this training.

This "virtual" event will take place on October 1 at 4:30 p.m.
Visit the Events tab at MCCEA.com to register.

MCCEA'S NEWSWATCH IS BACK!

NewsWatch emails will keep you up to date on all things educationally happening locally, in the county, in the state, and across the nation!

If you are not subscribed to this email-based service offered FREE to all NJEA members, and would like to be added as a subscriber, please email Kathy Paterek (MCCEA Negotiations Chair)

at:

kpaterek@gmail.com

IPD AND NJEA LEARNING: A NEW FORMAT

In the Spring Covid-19 circumstances, prompted the change from in-person to virtual professional development webinars, beginning with the NJEA Microsite. Similar to our school districts the NJEA Professional Development Division quickly adapted various topics to virtual workshops, and throughout the summer months continued the planning process to create a calendar of useful, relevant workshops and sessions for our members.

This Fall, NJEA Learning is presenting a rotating schedule that will afford all the counties the opportunity to host an equal amount of PD workshops geared towards meeting the needs of the members.

All 80+ workshops will be available for all NJEA members, earning certificates, and will be viewable at **NJEA Learning** or <https://learning.njea.org> now, and in the coming weeks. You must register online, in advance, with your NJEA PIN. Click the Registration Link. If you have to cancel, you must do so online as well.

On the NJEA Learning website, the PD Division will be hosting additional learning opportunities facilitated by our County Teachers of the Year, our Teacher Leader Academy participants, the REAL movement, and events facilitated by other divisions. In addition, the PD division will curate and promote high-quality workshops offered by third-party providers such as the National Education Association and the Rutgers Graduate School of Education. Throughout this time, the NJEA PD and MCCEA IPD committees will evaluate our direction for the Winter-Spring 2021 Professional Development platform.

We look forward to the day that we can resume in-person professional learning, but at this moment we hope to capture the opportunity of meeting with our peers statewide. In October and December, join MCCEA in our upcoming IPD workshops. I hope to see you at NJEA Learning!

A NEW YEAR WITH MCREA

The Morris County Retired Educators have jumped into the new school year conducting their meetings via Zoom. The Executive Board met virtually in July, August and September to discuss how to navigate this year's programs and set new days for events.

On September 9, sixty-five members of MCREA held its first general membership meeting. Our guest speaker was Michael Salerno, Associate Director of NJEA's Research Division who spoke about changes to the State Educator's Health Benefits program through Chapter 44. These changes pertain to Medicare retirees only, and those below age 65, who are paying a percent age of their pension for their health benefits.

Most of the MCREA meetings have been set for the upcoming year. On October 7, 2020, Fran Pfeffer, Associate Director of NJEA's Government Relation Division and Steve Beatty, NJEA Secretary-Treasurer, will be our guest speakers. This meeting will also be on ZOOM.

Other topics will be "1969 - the Year That Had It All!" by Jim Del Giudice, on March 3, 2021, and our Scholarship Winners' Celebration on June 9, 2021. The annual MCREA Fundraiser, originally scheduled for September 30, 2020, has been moved to April 23, 2021.

In addition to other regular business, it is noteworthy that our members contributed in excess of \$900 to scholarships, over \$400 to NJEA PAC, and more than \$500 to the Interfaith Food Pantry. President Susan Beekman thanked all for their generosity.

It was also a pleasure to see so many out-of-state members joining us online.

Traveling with Christopher Butchko and Students



Mila 18 in Warsaw, Poland, at the headquarters of the Jewish Resistance, during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

In Auschwitz-Birkenau



The resistance in Auschwitz managed to take secret photos of the killings and smuggle them out.



Site of the "Little Red House," the first makeshift gas chamber.



The barracks in Auschwitz.



"Canada" where possessions of those killed were sorted and kept.

Montville Township's Christopher Butchko Named Morris County Teacher of the Year

Montville Township High School (MTHS) teacher and Montville Township Education Association member, Christopher Butchko was named the 2020-2021 Morris County Teacher of the Year. The Governor's Educator of the Year Program promotes a positive school culture by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of outstanding teachers. The Holocaust and Genocide Studies teacher is now in the running for the NJ Teacher of the Year award.

The New Jersey Department of Education County Teacher of the Year Awards were officially announced on August 26, 2020. Presented by Kimberly Dickstein, the 2019-2020 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, from Haddonfield Memorial High School, all twenty-one New Jersey County Teachers of the Year were congratulated virtually. During the program each County Teacher of the Year had a moment to speak.

Butchko, a teacher with 18 years of experience – 12 of them at MTHS -- thanked his fellow teachers and Montville Township Public Schools administrators. About his students he said, "Without them I could not have achieved the best teaching experience I could." Butchko also thanked his mother, noting: "most importantly, for giving me the chance to start my teaching career."

In the application for Morris County Teacher of the Year, Butchko wrote: "I teach because I care about the future of our society. I love giving my students the highest quality education and high school experience that I can."

Butchko is an innovative Social Studies teacher who, with the help of his professors at Kean University, has created his own textbook for his MTHS Holocaust and Genocide Studies courses. Additionally, Butchko has taken more than 100 students to Holocaust-related sites in Europe including the Concentration Camps of Dachau, Terezin, Plaszow, Treblinka and Auschwitz. "Even though school gets out in June," Butchko wrote, "I never consider my class to be over until mid-July when we return home."

A Class Advisor for the MTHS Classes of 2014, 2018, 2019 and 2023, Butchko has a strong passion for education. "My priority is to create an environment of respect and rapport. I remind everyone that we are here to learn, myself included."

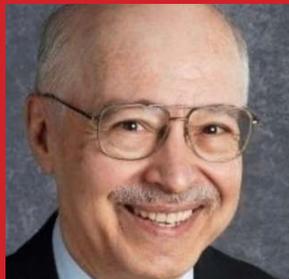
While the official NJDOE announcement was not made until August 26, Butchko was greeted by many MTHS colleagues and Montville Township Public Schools (MTPS) administrators on a Zoom call held Wednesday, May 13 at 8:00 a.m. Thinking he was being interviewed regarding additional questions during the Morris County Teacher of the Year application process, he logged in to find Dr. Angelica L. Allen-McMillan, Interim Executive Morris County Superintendent, who surprised Butchko with the early and "unofficial" announcement.

Unbeknownst to Butchko, MTPS Superintendent Dr. René Rovtar had been "Zooming" on her phone from her car, which was parked outside of Butchko's home. Once the announcement was made she surprised him with a poster and balloons in his front yard. "This is an extraordinary achievement," Rovtar said, noting that competition for the Morris County Teacher of the Year is quite competitive. "Your selection is a tribute to the passion with which you approach your instruction. You continually go above and beyond and many, many students have benefitted from the knowledge they have taken away from your classes," Rovtar said. "I am so very proud of you. Your selection represents not only a recognition of the master teacher qualities that you possess, but also an acknowledgement of the outstanding accomplishments of MTHS and the exceptional faculty and administration that we have; I am always grateful when a personal accomplishment in the district causes the spotlight to shine on us in such a positive way, if anyone has the resume, skills and background to be selected as the New Jersey Teacher of the Year, it certainly is Chris."

Though the Morris County Teacher of the Year was determined in May, the announcement is not made official until later in the year, to provide time for all twenty-one counties to make their selections. Each year, the Teacher of the Year selection process begins with individual schools. There, peers are able to nominate exceptional educators. A countywide panel then reviews the application packets and selects the County Teacher of the Year for each of New Jersey's twenty-one counties. A panel of educators then selects the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year based on written applications, video submissions, and interviews with the top six finalists.

Butchko is currently in the competition for the NJ State Teacher of the Year. The announcement for the NJ State Teacher of the Year is typically made during the New Jersey School Boards Association Conference in October. For 2020, that event will be held virtually.

Chester's Joseph Pizzo Named 2020 National Educator of the Year from the Association for Middle Level Education



Anyone who has ever spent five minutes with Joseph Pizzo knows two things: Nothing matters more to him than his students; profession of teaching, and he opens his heart to you as if he has known you his entire 46-year-career or longer.

So it will come as a surprise to few that he was selected to receive the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) 2020 Educator of the Year Award. The award, supported by the AMLE Foundation Fund, recognizes outstanding practitioners in middle level education—those who have made a significant impact on the lives of young adolescents through exemplary leadership, vision, and advocacy. The award will be presented as part of #AMLE20, the 47th Annual Conference for Middle Level Education, which is being held as a virtual professional learning experience, October 23-25.

"Teaching at the middle level takes a great deal of energy, patience, integrity, and flexibility, but the rewards are tremendous. We teachers make a great difference in the lives of our students, and our students make a great difference in our lives as well. Receiving the AMLE 2020 Educator of the Year Award is a great honor, and I accept it on behalf of all of my outstanding, dedicated colleagues in middle level classrooms across our great nation," said Pizzo.

Pizzo, a seventh grade integrated language arts teacher and co-director of drama at Black River Middle School, was chosen because he promotes student engagement through meaningful experiences, particularly those that honor each student's culture and understanding of the world. He encourages creativity in his classroom and promotes a sense of pride and accomplishment as he shares students' work with local newspapers and community groups. Pizzo generously offers his time in support of other educators, whether at his school, at workshops, for state-level projects and initiatives, or as a volunteer for the many professional organizations he belongs to, officials said.

"He is kind, generous, and involved in all of the students' lives. Mr. Pizzo goes out of his way to mentor and work with struggling students as well as push those high caliber writers in his classroom," Black River Middle School Principal Andrew White said. "Mr. Pizzo provides support and opportunities for his students that are greatly appreciated by the teachers, families, and community of Chester."

Pizzo was named the 2016 New Jersey Association for Middle Level Education (NJAMLE) Teacher of the Year, and is an executive board member of NJAMLE. He is part of the New Jersey Schools to Watch Review and Evaluation Core Team, has served on the board for the New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), has served as a member of the NJDOE's Council for Teaching and Learning and the Education Committee for Future Ready Schools, and is a member of the Digital Literacies Collaborative at Drew University (formerly at Fordham University). An adjunct professor at Centenary University, who has also taught at College of Saint Elizabeth, and Union County College and a member of the NJ Autism Think Tank, Pizzo helps prepare future teachers and aspiring writers.

"I learned not just academics from him, but also just how important it is to be proactive in making other people's lives around me better. I have been very inspired just by his ability to see the needs of both his students and those around him," former student Nolan Cheng said. "It is because of him that I do so much in my community and that I am always aware of the needs of others around me."

Pizzo was also inducted into the WWOR-TV Ch. 9 A+ for Teachers Hall of Fame on a show broadcast internationally. Pizzo received a grant from the Chester Education Foundation to have a published author and illustrator in residency at his school for a week to brainstorm book and story ideas with students, two of whom have written their own novel. He has recorded podcasts; written blogs, books, and poetry; made promotional and educational videos; and started an Edmodo group for language arts educators that generated a global following.

According to AMLE Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Auditore, the group is proud Pizzo for his dedication to serving his students with respect for their individual needs at this critical time of life.

"Mr. Pizzo embodies the spirit of excellence in middle level education and is an example to all who aspire to have a positive impact on young adolescents," she said.

Member Benefit Fair (Virtual)

There are great perks and discounts that come with your NJEA membership!
"NJEA members have exclusive access to legal services, discounts, events and special offers that can save thousands of dollars every year."
www.njea.org/Membership/member-benefits

The Virtual Member Benefit Fair will not only show you how to navigate the Member Benefit portion of the NJEA website, there will also be a variety of NJEA endorsed vendors available to provide information about their services and answer any questions you have.

When: Tuesday, October 6

Time: 4:30 pm

Register at: www.mccea.com

All registrants will be entered to win a \$50 Door Dash gift card and more!*

Pizza and Paychecks (Virtual)

There are a lot of deductions taken from every one of our paychecks. Do you know why they are all taken? What do all the acronyms stand for? Find out what your deductions are and what you should be seeing on your paychecks. You will need a copy of your paystub or access to a virtual paystub for this workshop.

When: Tuesday, October 13

Time: 4:30

Register at: www.mccea.com

All registrants will be entered to win a pizza delivered to your home on October 13 during the workshop!*

*Winners must be present to win

Interested in getting involved? Join the Membership Committee.
Email Amal Hussein, MCCEA Membership Chair:: amalp2p@hotmail.com.

Work Environmental Council (WEC) Meetings

September 23: Indoor Air Quality
September 30: Overview *7 am

October 7: Cleaning and Disinfecting
October 14: Health and Safety Roundtable
October 21: Health and Safety Committees
October 28: Overview

November 11: Indoor Air Quality
November 18: Mercury
December 2: Mold
December 9: Health and Safety Committee Roundtable

The link to register for the WEC virtual meetings will be posted on Facebook under the page:
Healthy Schools Now.

Information will appear weekly on the Facebook page; posted the Thursday before the meeting. Once you are in the system, WEC will send you weekly emails.

Spotlight on Kaitlyn Tierney

MCCEA welcomes its newest member to the Executive Board, Kaitlyn Tierney, of Montville School District to take the helm of our newly created Social Activities Coordinator. Although new to this position Kait is no stranger to MCCEA, having served on several committees and serving as the Poster Contest Coordinator. Kait has also represented Morris County at the annual NEA Representative Assembly.



In response to an increased interest in activities that are more social and family oriented, MCCEA has offered Devils and Yankees games as well as movie night and family bowling. Look in future issues of the County Line, and our website for new offerings come 2021. If you have an idea for a fun-filled activity to be held in your neck of the woods, reach out to Kait!

A Message from Kait

"I am so honored and excited to have been selected as the Social Activities Coordinator. For many years I have been the PRIDE and Public Relations Chairperson for my local and I am looking forward to taking what I have learned in this position and applying it to this new position. I look forward to working on a more personal level with the county and bringing fun activities to our members!"

MCCEA Eventbrite FAQ Page

How do I register for an event?

1. Visit www.mccea.com. Click on events, find the event you would like to attend. Click the link to register.
2. Visit www.mccea.eventbrite.com to see a list of all MCCEA events & register directly from this page.
3. You will need to enter your NJEA PIN to register for events. It can be found on your NJEA card.



How do I cancel my reservation?

All cancellations can be made through Eventbrite. If you need assistance, please email us at eventbrite@mccea.com
Please note that in order to help protect members' dues, reservations that are not honored will be billed to the member.

Continue to wear **#REDforED** on Wednesdays.
It's about protecting students & public schools.
Stand up for yourself and for your students!

E-mail the County Line
photos, articles
& information:
countyline@mceea.com

MCCEA Website:
www.mceea.com

Change of address:
www.njea.org

First Class Mail

A Vote by Mail Reminder from LAT Chair, Brian Adams

New Jersey will be conducting a mostly
by mail election in November.

Here are some key points to know:

- * All registered voters will be getting a ballot by mail.
- * Most watchdog groups are advising voters to drop their ballot in a secure box set up by their municipality or county.
- * Check with your County Clerk for the location of these boxes.
- * Given the concern created by the President and the dismantling of the Post Office by his administration, mail in your vote-by-mail ballot early to ensure its prompt and timely delivery.
- * There will be in-person locations to vote, but those cast ballots will be a paper provisional ballot, unless the voter has ADA accommodations.

**WHAT IS WON AT A
BARGAINING TABLE CAN
BE TAKEN AWAY WITH A
STROKE OF A PEN BY
ELECTED OFFICIALS
WHO ARE NOT
WORKER-FRIENDLY**

Instagram: @LaborUnions 



How to Vote in November 3rd Election in NJ

1. Use Your Mail-In Ballot!
2. Vote Properly!
3. Read Return Instructions! Sign!
4. Submit Your Ballot Early!
 - a. Secure Drop Box
 - b. County Elections Office
 - c. Mail (postmarked by 11/3)
5. **DO NOT** go to the polls unless mail-in is lost, ruined or not received.*



The Election Facts in NJ

Every registered voter will receive a mail-in ballot and everyone will vote by paper ballot per Murphy's executive order.*

One polling location will be open per town. You cannot vote by machine. A paper provisional ballot identical to the mail-in will be provided.*

DO NOT vote at the polls if possible! Provisional ballots are counted last. Up to a week after the election. There is more risk of your vote not counting.

Track your mail-in ballot online or by calling your county election office. If ballot not received or rejected, ask for a new one or vote provisionally.

*Only individuals with disabilities can vote by machine on 11/3.

County Election Offices - www.nj.gov/state/elections/county-ee.shtml

☆ Use Your Mail-In Ballot - Vote Early - Inform Others ☆