



President's Column

by Maureen S. Neville

When I reflect back on this past year, I can't help but think of the movie, *The Titanic*. My favorite scene is the part when Jack and Rose are holding onto life in the frigid waters where they have initially survived the sinking of the *Titanic*. The two are immersed in the freezing water and Jack is helping Rose climb onto a piece of wreckage which will clearly not support the both of them. As the two clutch hands in the cold darkness, surrounded by corpses, Jack makes a very powerful request:

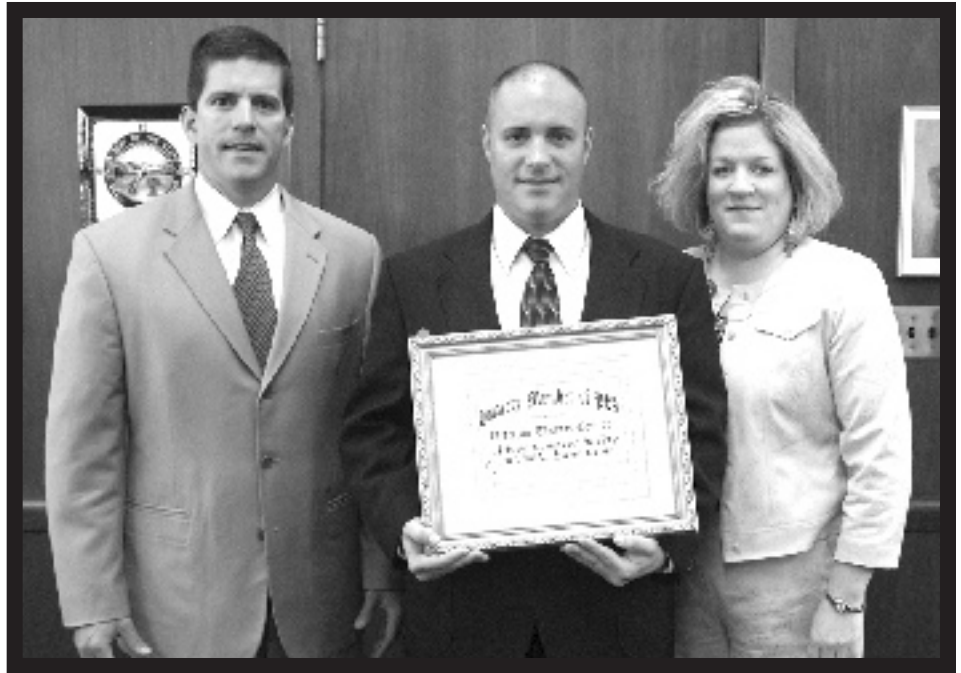
"Rose, promise me that you will never give up on life; never settle for anything less than what you are"

She responds with the confusion of the moment and her undying commitment of love for Jack:

"I would sooner die with you, than live without you"

Eventually, with much prodding, she concedes to his request and makes the promise, never realizing or truly understanding what that promise would entail. As the scene continues, a search party arrives looking for survivors and Rose is at a turning point in her promise to Jack. Initially, she lay motionless until she recalls that promise and proceeds to take the whistle off a dead man's body and with every ounce of life left within her, she blows that whistle for help.

Similarly, we as teachers make a promise to our students to do whatever we can to help them succeed. Many times we are unaware of the deep understanding that promise brings, even when surrounded by the darkest oceans or coldest waters. We, like Rose, help our students to survive and not settle for status quo long after they leave our classrooms. In essence, we help them onto the piece of wreckage and make them believe enough in that promise never to give up. While we may not always understand the depth of the promise we make



Mayor DePiero and President Neville present Det. Connor with his award

Det. Thomas Connor receives the Honorary Member of PEA award at Recognition Banquet

The Parma Education Association recently honored Parma Police Detective Tom Connor for his outstanding work as an advocate for safety in public education. He was presented with a plaque and made an honorary member of the Association on June 1, 2006. The annual Recognition Dinner was held at St. Michael's Woodside.

You can find Detective Connor in numerous capacities throughout our district. He has presented to our Entry Year teachers, conducted workshops for parents, teachers and administration on

computer safety/harassment policies and worked with individual students. He is a member of the Task Force for children and internet safety and is acknowledged by the law department for his work in the Parma Juvenile Diversion Program.

Congratulations to Detective Connor for this honor and for his dedication to our children, teachers and community.

Important Dates:

September 15: Continuing contract letters to Human Resources

September 15: Applications for Block of Credit with transcripts to Human Resources on or before Sept. 15.

February 2007 (date to be announced in next newsletter) PEA Reverse Raffle for scholarships

everyday, we continue to go with our students as Rose continued without Jack.

I hope you have a restful and relaxing summer break. I look forward to preparing for a new school year filled with the vision of a promise for success.

Gretchen Ries Remembered

Long-time building representative and Math teacher from Normandy H.S. was remembered at a special memorial service on May 31, 2006 in the Normandy Auditorium. Gretchen was honored with music, poetry and reflections from students, faculty and administrators. This year, at the PEA recognition dinner, the PEA Foundation scholarship given to a Normandy student was named in honor of Gretchen. She will be missed.



Gretchen Ries

A New Look for an Old Friend

Welcome to the first edition of our newly designed PEA monthly newsletter. In our desire to keep you informed of the activities of our association, our monthly newsletter has been reborn. Through this newsletter we hope to share what is going on in the district and showcase the successes of our members. Future issues will contain information, grievance listings, PEA committee activities, and dates that are important to you and your career. We need your help as well. We would like to share the good things happening to you and in your building - so let us know! We will be including digital photos of events.

Supplemental Contract (ULP) Resolution

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) rendered a final and binding order reflecting that currently employed teachers who had two (2) year supplemental contracts should be awarded another supplemental contract. All eligible persons were awarded a supplemental contract under SERB's supervision. SERB did not include any back-pay provision in the order for the year when supplemental contracts were not awarded by the Board. SERB's perception was that an employer is not obligated to pay an employee when no services were performed. SERB has maintained jurisdiction in this matter. While this order may be difficult to appreciate, it reflects how these labor issues are resolved by SERB.

AUGUST 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 OEA Leadership Training <i>Columbus</i>	2 OEA Leadership Training <i>Columbus</i>	3 OEA Leadership Training <i>Columbus</i>	4	5
6	7 PEA Leadership Training	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 New Teacher Orientation <i>Tri-C</i>	17 New Teacher Orientation/ Training <i>Red Rees</i>	18 New Teacher Orientation/ Training <i>Red Rees</i>	19
20	21	22 First day for Teachers	23 First day for Students	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The above dates/times are subject to change.