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Publication Contest

PenSPRA's annual publication contest is ready for your entries! Look for all the information on our website or for an entry form to arrive soon in the mail. The deadline for entries is February 7, 2014.

Symposium Dates

Did you mark your calendar for the PenSPRA annual symposium? It is Tuesday, April 1 in Bedford Springs. No foolin'! Look for all the conference details and a registration link in January.

Membership Directory

Most of you have renewed your membership at this point, but if you are not sure please check with me. The membership directory will be revised and posted with the next issue of e-Comm, and you don't want to miss out on being included.

Radio broadcast on SB 1085

Whether you are home baking cookies or still working away at your desk on Monday, you might be interested in tuning in to a radio broadcast on SB1085. From 10-11 am on Dec. 23rd, WHYI's Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane will be featuring a conversation on SB1085, the charter school reform bill. Scheduled guests are school choice advocate State Senator Anthony Williams and school board member/public education advocate Lawrence Feinberg.

Here's the link: <http://whyi.org/cms/radiotimes/>

News from Around the State and Nation

Teach for America is out in Pittsburgh

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2013/12/18/Pittsburgh-board-reverses-on-Teach-for-America-contract/stories/201312180142#ixzz2nv1c4cHy>

An editorial on judging the performance of all students.

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/932591_Judge-all-metrics-of-schools--success.html#ixzz2nkMIBD00

An overview of the release of all the school performance grades

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/12/how_school_performance_grades.html

PA is already warning that next year's budget is going to be very tight

<http://triblive.com/state/pennsylvania/5271076-74/million-budget-state#ixzz2nxskd5fh>

PA will receive “Race to the Top” funds

http://www.philly.com/philly/education/20131220_Pa_N_J_among_states_sharing_280_million_in_Race_funds.html#EMZIW8PVLjzfFUDO.99