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#### Publication Contest Deadline

It doesn't matter which corner of PA you live in; chances are you have been dumped on by snow and ice this winter or had days so cold you had to cancel school. The weather has been very uncooperative this year to say the least. We pushed back the publication contest deadline to Thursday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> only to have another huge storm swoop through on that very day. If your plans to submit an entry were fouled by winter storm Pax, email me and let me know if you are still interested in submitting and we can try and work something out.

Thanks to our contest sponsor, Blackboard Connect, and here's the link to the form:

<http://www.penspra.org/CommunicationsContest.aspx>

#### PenSPRA Annual Symposium – Back to the Basics

Our symposium chairs Kim Newell and Jason Davidek have another information packed day planned for you with this year's Symposium on Tuesday, April 1. Join your colleagues once again in tranquil Bedford Springs for a session aimed at strengthening the skills you use every day: Photography, Videography and Writing.

...Sharpen your photography skills with a special presentation by Steve Dietz of Sharp Image Studios. Steve will share his years of photographic knowledge to help you learn to capture better images to enhance your websites, publications and social media outlets.

...Learn the best practices when it comes to recording quality video to maximize your communications for your district television station, social media outlets or your website.

...Hone your writing skills in a social media world by ensuring a commitment to concise and effective communications products both electronically and in print with a presentation by writing coach and author Don Fry, formerly of the Poynter Institute.

Tips and tricks for those new to the profession and seasoned professionals! Join us on April 1st and sharpen the skills you use every day. We are now using our skills in many different outlets than we did previously and the session will focus on making sure your words and images work best for each outlet.

PenSPRA members \$125. Non-Members \$150. Register now for the conference at:  
[http://www.penspra.org/protected/PenSPRA\\_SymposiumSignup.aspx](http://www.penspra.org/protected/PenSPRA_SymposiumSignup.aspx)

Hotel registration, with a special discounted rate:

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/BedfordSprings/MeetingFacilities/PaSchoolPRAssociationMeeting3.aspx>

PAESSP and PSBA call for presenters

Both PAESSP and PSBA are looking for presenters for their fall conferences. Information below:

[http://www.paessp.org/resource/images/stories/documents/conference/call\\_for\\_presenters14.pdf](http://www.paessp.org/resource/images/stories/documents/conference/call_for_presenters14.pdf)

PASA and PSBA are beginning the planning process for the 2014 School Leadership Conference, Oct. 21-24 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. School entities and organizations are encouraged to submit program proposals for high-quality educational sessions, 75 minutes in length, that focus on topics of critical interest to administrators and school board members. All program proposals must be received at PSBA no later than Friday, March 28.

The complete memo and conference proposal form are attached. The form also is available at <http://www.psba.org/workshops/school-leadership-conference/>.

News from around the state and nation

This article has a very powerful example of how poverty and a transitory student body impacts student achievement: An Allentown teacher started the year with 36 students. He ended with year with 36 students, yet only two of the students were the same students. How do you measure that?

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/allentown/mc-allentown-schools-charters-0211-20140211,0,3627268.story#ixzz2tCfz5vIC>

Information on making up snow days from the Dept of Ed and the House Education Committee

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/02/snow\\_days\\_department\\_of\\_educat.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/02/snow_days_department_of_educat.html)

<http://www.yorkblog.com/cram/2014/02/12/house-education-committee-weighs-in-on-school-weather-closings/>

New York Times article about online snow days

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/nyregion/snow-day-thats-great-now-log-in-get-to-class.html?ref=education&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/nyregion/snow-day-thats-great-now-log-in-get-to-class.html?ref=education&_r=1)

Pension double dip to charter schools to be relieved at state level and not at district level

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-charter-school-pension-double-dip-20140210,0,117283.story#ixzz2t0qjgAQj>

Increased funding for schools in new budget comes with strings attached

[http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/64712-corbett-budget-education?linktype=hp\\_topstory](http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/64712-corbett-budget-education?linktype=hp_topstory)

More on the proposed budget

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140206/NEWS90/402060302/-1/NEWS>