



MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

4204 South 57th St. Omaha, Nebraska 68117 • (402) 731-0400

MEA Website: millardmea.org

Email: mberickson@mpsomaha.org (groupwise: mberickson)

Volume 3 Number 8

April 2011

MEA NIGHT OUT

The MEA Communications Committee is sponsoring a Night Out with the Storm Chasers on Saturday, May 7th at 7:05 pm. Bring your friends and family for a fun night of baseball at the new stadium!! Please click on the link below for an order form and more details on this fun night out!! RSVPs need to be in by Friday, April 29th.

<http://millardmea.org/media/MEANightOutwiththeSC.pdf>

MEA ALL-MEMBER PICNIC

The MEA Membership Committee is hosting the First Annual All-Member Picnic on Saturday, April 30th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Chalco Hills Recreation Center. The event will be catered by Hy-Vee. Please RSVP to Molly or Mary Jo at (402) 731-0400 if you and your family can attend. Please click on the link below for more details.

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/PicnicInvite2011.pdf>

RESPONSE TO LETTER

I received many emails of concern about the message that came from

Amy Friedman on Thursday, March 31. I have talked with the district and with NSEA about this issue. Below is the response.

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/MillardEA-OWH-SalariesLetter4-1-2011.pdf>

INSTRUCTIONAL DAY UPDATE

There have been many questions about what the school day will like next year after the school board meeting on Monday. What I know at this point is that the board all agreed to preserve PLC time but that instructional time needed to be added to all three levels. There are two reasons for this. One is that our curriculum has continued to grow over the years however our time to teach the material has not. Reason two is MPS lost about \$7 million dollars this year because we are below the state average for instructional time. We currently have an average of 1,118 hours and the state average is 1,142. Therefore, the student day will most likely look different next year. The district is working on the specifics right now. They are trying to make these changes without changing the teacher day. At this point it appears as though these changes will come at all three levels. The new policy will be presented at the school board meeting on May 2nd so as the information continues to

come in, I will continue to keep you updated. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to ask. Or, if you would like me to come out to your building and talk to your members about this topic I am more than happy to do so.

RETIREMENT SESSIONS

Come and join Pam Boosalis and Bob Lykke, both retirees from Millard, as they host a social networking group for those that are on their way to retirement. This session is intended for those within 5 years of retirement and those retiring this year. This session will be held on July 19th from 9:00 - 10:30 am at DSAC. Please click on the link for more details.

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/RetirementFyer2011.pdf>

Horace Mann is providing a free service on NPERS and what you should know before considering retirement. This session will be held on Tuesday, April 26th at 4:30 pm at the Foundation Office. Please click on the link for more details.

<http://www.millardmea.org/media/HMRetirement2011.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

One CIR Bill is LB397. This is the shell bill that came out of the Business and Labor Committee. Governor Heineman is critical of the bill saying that it does not go far enough to contain cost. LB531, Senator Fulton's priority bill, makes the CIR advisory only. Nebraska teachers could be facing a

challenging battle in relationship to collective bargaining rights. To keep up on the latest CIR information and state aid information through NSEA:

<http://nsea.org/policy/LegUpdate.htm>

For maps of your legislative districts click on the link below:

<http://millardmea.org/leaders/committees/index.htm>

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The MEA negotiations team and the MPS negotiations team continue to meet. We are using the survey results as our goals for this year. Given the current budget we know this will not be easy, but we are working hard to ensure all teachers will be compensated for their time and effort. As we get closer to a final agreement more details will be included. If you would like Molly to come to your building for an update, please email her via GroupWise to set a date.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

Our March winner is Tim Leuschen, Biology teacher at Millard South High School.

The April winner is Nancy Wilson from Anderson Middle School. To nominate a teacher for May please click on the link below. The nominations are due to Molly by Friday, May 13th.

<http://www.millardmea.org/>

**OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEATS**

The MEA Board still has a vacancy at the Middle Level for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Molly Erickson.

CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP

Your MEA Membership is continuous, which means you will be a member for the 2011-2012 school year next year. If you would like to drop your membership, you need to contact the MEA Office between May 1 and June 1. Please contact Molly Erickson with any further questions.