



MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

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President's Corner

It's that time of year, when our classroom discussions focus on our civil responsibility to vote for our local, state, and national government representatives. As the new MEA President and serving on the NSEA Board of Directors, I've been asked to help with a number of candidate interviews, forums, and campaigns this year. I'm definitely ready for election night and to see some new commercials on tv! I would personally like to thank the GRC team for their dedication and time commitments as we interviewed candidates and made our endorsements. When we consider candidates, we try to have a bipartisan team. We review questionnaires as well as conduct personal interview for each candidate. We try to find the candidates that support students and teachers, and will do what's best for classrooms across the nation. On behalf of the Government Relations Committee, I'm proud to endorse the following candidates.

District 31—Rick Kolowski

NSEA and MEA have endorsed Rick Kolowski, and feel this is one of the priority races for Millard and the state. We need to have Rick's educational background and his 41 years of experience as a teacher and administrator representing Millard in Lincoln. Please make time to help the Kolowski campaign! To learn more about the Kolowski campaign, you can go to his website. <http://rickkolowski.com/site/>

1. You can help support Rick Kolowski by volunteering for our **Dear Neighbor Campaign**. All you have to do is mail prepared postcards to your neighbors. The postcards encourage your neighbors to support Rick Kolowski and include a personal message from you.

The **Dear Neighbor Campaign** starts today and will continue through Thursday, November 1. Volunteers can join us at a writing party at 4pm on Friday, October 26 at Rick's house (4815 S 158th Circle) OR you can request postcard kits to be dropped off at your house this weekend. As a volunteer, you'll be asked to mail postcards no later than Thursday, November 1.

Each volunteer kit contains easy-to-follow instructions with supplies to mail postcards and addresses (You will receive everything you need to mail the letters except the stamps.)

Please contact Robin Wiar to sign-up and send postcards! robin.wiar@gmail.com

2. **Mark your calendars!!** We need as many MEA members to help with the Kolowski campaign. Please attend the Rick Kolowski Rally @ Boulder Creek Amusement Park on Saturday, November 3 from 10am – 2pm.

Check the MEA website often for updates leading up to election night! There will be more opportunities to support Rick and help his campaign.

District 39—Judy Domina

NSEA is endorsing Judy Domina for District 39. Judy Domina has years of experience as an educator and as an advocate for children in her work with non-profit agencies that dealt with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Domina is knowledgeable, articulate and a proud supporter of public education. If you live in Judy's district and would like to help with her campaign, please contact her through her website.

<http://judydomina.com/site/>

Millard Public School Board

The MEA has endorsed the following candidates. If you would like to help with their campaign or to request a yard sign, please contact them directly at their email address.

Terry Dale reallytall@hotmail.com

Todd Clarke toddc@clsinvest.com

Linda Poole lindapoole1@cox.net

Learning Community Coordinating Council—District 4

The MEA is endorsing Amy Friedman for the LCCC District 4. As a recent Millard retiree, she will work for what is right for the Millard students and staff.

U.S. Senate—Bob Kerrey

A bi-partisan team composed of NSEA members from each of the state's three congressional districts agreed that former governor and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey understands the importance of public education and is well versed on the issues facing our public schools. He was candid in his remarks about the difficult decisions Congress will face in dealing with the federal deficit, and noted that the "accountability movement with its emphasis on quality and performance should be a force for good so long as we use multiple measures to evaluate student achievement and performance, the privacy of our teachers is protected, and we do not fall into the trap of believing that only those things

we can test are of importance to the student." To find out more about the Kerrey campaign or to volunteer, go to <http://www.bobkerrey.com>.

Below are upcoming events from the Kerrey campaign:

Saturday, October 27

2:00-3:00 PM

Sarpy County Town Hall
Bellevue University
Hitchcock Humanities Center,
1000 Galvin South, Bellevue NE

Monday, October 29

7:30-8:30 PM

Town Hall with Senator Bob Kerrey
Omaha South High Magnet School
4519 South 24th Street, Omaha NE

Tuesday, October 30

7:00-8:00 PM

Town Hall with Senator Bob Kerrey
Millard West High School Auditorium
5710 South 176th Avenue, Omaha NE

U.S. House of Representatives— District 2—John Ewing Jr.

A bi-partisan team composed of NSEA members from District 2 agreed that John's background as a police officer and Douglas County Treasurer has prepared John to be the next Nebraska Congressman. He will work with educators to make sure that education is a priority in Washington, fighting for students and teachers. NSEA as well as the Omaha World Herald have endorsed him. The OWH said that "Ewing has a proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service. He has stepped beyond political clichés, demonstrating thoughtful analysis and a depth of knowledge in discussing the many difficult issues facing the next Congress." To get involved with the Ewing campaign, go to <http://www.ewingfornebraska.com/home>.

Questions/Concerns/Additional Information

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to help with any of the campaigns, please check their websites or contact me at meapresident@hotmail.com or call me at 402-731-0400.

REMINDER—Please call me or use your home email account when contacting me about political issues. Only contact me during off contract time, and do not use groupwise.

You can also check the other NSEA endorsed candidates at <http://www.nsea.org/2012-candidates> .

If you need any information about your voting district for legislature, learning community, or would just like to learn more about the candidates, you can go to the Douglas County Election Commission website at http://www.votedouglascounty.com/candidate_info.aspx .

Financial Planning and Retirement Seminars

MEA encourages members to attend the following seminars. Both seminars have links on the MEA website, with details on the topics that both seminars will cover. Please rsvp according to the information on the website.

Nov. 8th, 2012
4:30-5:30pm
DSAC
Presented by Vintage Financial

Nov. 29th, 2012
4:15-5:30pm
DSAC Room C
Presented by former Millard teachers Bob Lykke and Pam Boosalis