



# MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

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

MEA Website: [millardmea.org](http://millardmea.org)

Email: [mberickson@mpsomaha.org](mailto:mberickson@mpsomaha.org) (groupwise: mberickson)

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## President's Corner

Hello to everyone and welcome to another school year! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a little bit of relaxing over the summer. Ellie, my daughter who will be two in November, was at a very fun age this summer!! We were able to make animal noises at the zoo and splash at the pool and when she wants something, she is able to tell me exactly what she wants now! My goal this year is to make it to all your buildings. I will get as many done as possible between now and the beginning of October. Then, look for this to start up again in December or January to the end of the year. I am looking forward to meeting all of you as I am out and about!! My most sincere wishes for a wonderful school year. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to help you in any way!

Molly Erickson  
MEA President

## New UniServ Director

As some of you know we have a new UniServ Director this year. Mike Wiesen is from Lincoln and is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year with the NSEA. Mike lives in Lincoln with his wife and 3 children and is looking forward to being at

home every night and not traveling so much! Lynne Elwood, our previous UniServ Director is now working in Western Nebraska and taking care of her mother who is ill. The best way to contact Mike is through email: [Mike.Wiesen@nsea.org](mailto:Mike.Wiesen@nsea.org)

## Day 194

**Rumor:** Day 194 was the MEA's idea and "they" asked for more days in the contract.

**Truth:** Day 194 was part of our contract that all the members voted on and approved. When the extra day was proposed the MEA made sure that teachers were compensated fairly. This is where the per diem pay and the 4.25% raise came in. We are unable to negotiate the number of days in our contract. We are also unable to negotiate how those days are used (i.e students days, work days, etc.). What we are able to negotiate is that we are paid fairly for additional days.

## Classroom Direct on NEA Discount Program

NEA Member Benefits has expanded its line of consumer discount products for NEA members through a new partnership with Classroom Direct, a deep discount education

Superstore. Classroom Direct stocks thousands of innovative classroom materials and learning tools for educators.

The new relationship enhances the NEA Member Benefits Consumer Discounts program, which already includes books, music and DVDs, cellular telephones and service, car rentals, magazine subscriptions, vacation tour packages, and long-distance telephone service. NEA members will be able to access Classroom Direct through the NEA Member Benefits Web site at:

[www.neamb.com/discount/classroom.jsp](http://www.neamb.com/discount/classroom.jsp)

### **Communications Committee**

It was approved by the Building Reps at our August meeting to have an Ad-Hoc committee for communications. The purpose of this committee is to look at how to get the MEA name into the public eye in a positive way. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Tom Whisinnand via Groupwise..

### **GRC Committee**

If you are interested in helping the Government Relations Committee and you are a PAC (Political Action Contribution) contributor then send me your personal email address to [mollyerickson@ymail.com](mailto:mollyerickson@ymail.com) so that we can get you onto our email list. If you are unsure if you are a contributor, you can email me and I will check! This committee will be helping recommended candidates this fall.

### **PLC Update**

Mike and I met with Kim Saum-Mills and discussed how to gain some equity in buildings. There are some parameters that you should be following - outside of those you can make the PLC work for you. We will be addressing the issue of pay for Singleton PLC leaders at negotiations. We are also looking into having more common schedules among the middle schools so that Singleton PLCs fit naturally in those times. At the elementary level we are also looking at more common schedules to fit PLCs into the day, and not after school. Please look for follow-ups on this topic throughout the year!

### **Calculating Your New Pay**

In order to know what your new paycheck should be follow these steps:

- Using your daily rate from 07- 08 (example: \$198.00).
- Increase by 4.25% for the 08-09 salary  $198.00 \times .0425 = \$8.42$
- Since \$10.50 is more add that to last year's daily rate =  $\$198.00 + \$10.50 = \$208.50$ .

If your increase is \$10.50 or more, then add that total on to your daily base and continue.

- Now with your new daily rate multiply that by the 194 days.  
 $\$208.50 \times 194 = \$40,449$ .

If you have any questions please email me at [mberickson@mpsomaha.org](mailto:mberickson@mpsomaha.org)