



MEA UPDATE

Millard Education Association

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

MEA Website: millardmea.org

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

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MEA ELECTIONS THE WEEK OF MARCH 25

Three vice-presidential candidates will be vying for your vote. Sandi Hansen from Morton Elementary, Mike Foyt from Norris Elementary and Sherry Havranek from Reagan Elementary are the candidates.

Each candidate was asked to submit a rationale for his or her candidacy. The following are their responses.

Mike Foyt

I am submitting my name for consideration as Vice President of the Millard Education Association. I have served the M.E.A. for 26 years in a number of capacities including Recording Secretary, Building Rep., and as a member of the Board of Directors- which is a position I currently hold.

I have been a member of the Negotiations Team for over 20 years and am the Chief Negotiator at this point in time, as well.

I have been proud to serve you, and would like to continue to serve as your Vice President.

Sandi Hansen

The Dark Horse Candidate, that's me. I observed how little interest there is in M.E.A. elections and thought members should get out there and give voters a choice. I did and would appreciate your consideration.

My association experience includes committees, campaigns, and state and national assemblies. I serve as Morton's building representative and am part of a team formed to interview candidates for the Nebraska State Legislature.

How can we impact our students' education and the quality of lives as teachers? An active teachers' union holds much of the answer. I am willing to serve.

Sherry Havranek

I will represent you well for many reasons. First, I feel I can be a positive and knowledgeable leader. I have been active during the past several years and will use these experiences to build an even stronger association. As Vice President, I will work to promote active membership and communicate the benefits of belonging to our organization. I would also like to see MEA leadership more visible in buildings and community. I understand that the members drive the direction of the association and look forward to working for you.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

MEA will send 8 members to the National Education Association Representative Assembly in Washington D.C.

President Levy and Vice-President Molly Erickson are, by MEA policy, automatically elected to attend. The remaining 6 positions are open to any active MEA member.

Elections will be held the week of March 25. Each candidate was asked to submit a 50-word summary of why they want to attend this year's R.A.

The following members are seeking the opportunity to attend the 2008 R.A.

Sandi Hansen

I'd be honored to serve as your delegate. Long hours on the assembly floor are required. Delegates must make informed decisions that impact public education. I welcome this responsibility. Being part of the world's largest democratic body this election year in D.C. is an opportunity I don't want to miss.

Courtney Dowling

I have been a BR and a Middle School Board of Director. I was accepted and trained by NEA to become a UniServ Director. I am dedicated to association work and advocating for teachers. I would like to continue to serve as a strong association member by attending RA.

Barb Sheppard

A Member & Proud of It!!

Elementary/Middle Level Classroom Teacher of 18 years: Millard Public Schools & Grand Island Public Schools Association Leadership:

Delegate to NSEA Delegate Assembly (MEA/GIEA)

Political Action Volunteer (MEA/GIEA)

Association Secretary (GIEA)

Association Vice-President (GIEA)

Building Representative (GIEA)

Working with you to build a strong association!

Tom Whisinnand

As a younger member of MEA, I would appreciate the opportunity to help chart the direction of the National Educational Association. I feel that through my discussions with other MEA members, I am able to share their concerns at the national level. Thank you for your consideration.

Marilyn Yeck

I am a first grade teacher at Cody Elem. I have been a board member for 3 years. I have represented MEA at 10 Representative Assemblies. I have the experience and knowledge of how the R.A works. I've served on the negotiations committee, the legislation committee, membership committee, and chaired the retirement committee.

Melissa Brendel

I am a kindergarten at Reeder Elementary School. I am a Millard graduate and also did my student teaching in Millard. My training background includes the Western States Women's Leadership Conference and BR Training for MEA.

I have served as a building rep for the last two years.

Paul Schulte

I have been an active MEA member, serving as the Disney BR for three years. I attended the NSEA New Leadership Training last summer and feel that I am a

greater asset to MEA, as well as to you the members because of this training.

Kathy Gibbs

I am a Middle Level representative for the MEA Board of Directors. I want to know as much as I can about our three organizations. I want to bring that knowledge back to our members so they can continue building awareness of thoughts and actions of educators across the nation.

Angela Ralph

I would be honored to represent the MEA at the Representative Assembly. Our organization must participate in the NEA to meet our needs at a national level. I will voice our concerns in today's educational issues, including: No Child Left Behind, teacher salaries, and merit pay.

Sherry Havranek

I would like to represent you at the RA. Each year representatives from each state make decisions affecting us all. I would like to ensure Nebraska's voice is heard by being a part of making decisions affecting education. We have strong educational views that need to be heard!

Erin Shirmang-Ward

I would consider it a privilege to represent MEA at this summer's Representative Assembly. I believe learning how our organization works at a national level is a key to making our local association as strong and successful as possible. I would appreciate your vote!

NSEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

For the first time in recent history there will be a full delegation for DA. Those representing MEA at Delegate Assembly are: Melissa Brendel, Courtney Dowling, Molly Erickson, Alexis Freshman, Paul Gabel, Kathy Gibbs, Heidi Gough, Cindy Hamm, Sandi Hansen, Sherry Havranek, Tyler Hottovy, Tony Levy, Lyn Pahls, Angela Ralph, Meagan Rama, Becky Scherbring, Paul Schulte, Reynee Shanahan, Barb Sheppard, Erin Shirmang-Ward, Tom Whisinnand, and Marilyn Yeck.

WHERE DID DAY 194 COME FROM?

Did MEA negotiate an extra day for the 2008 – 2009 school year?

Absolutely not, according to the Nebraska Court of Industrial Relations (CIR), Coleridge Education Association v. Board of Education and Seward

Education Association v. Board of Education: “We would consider the following to be exclusively within the management prerogative: The right to hire, to maintain order and efficiency, **to schedule work**, to control transfers and assignments, to determine what extracurricular activities may be supported or sponsored, and to determine the curriculum, class size, and types of specialist to be employed.”

MEA can, and did insist that the District negotiate compensation for the extra day(s). Again the CIR stated; ...“the impact of whatever decision management may make in this (extra days), or any other case on the **economic welfare of employees is a proper subject of mandatory bargaining.**”

For the 2008 – 2009 school year, our contract states; “For the 2008-09 school year, the District shall pay each full-time teacher employed by the district during the 2007-08 school year an increase in his or her daily rate of pay, over and above the daily rate paid to the employee during the 2007-08 school year, of 4.25% (provided, however, the minimum daily rate increase shall be \$10.50).”

The increase for the year (08-09) is 4% and the additional .25% is for the 194th day.

MEMBERS SAY ‘NO’ TO LB987

NSEA has testified against LB987, which would add bureaucracy to state government and lead to statewide assessments. More importantly, a number of NSEA members have made their thoughts known in letters to State Sen. Annette Dubas, who told NSEA she wanted input from teachers, and shared that input with other senators.

LB987, as presented to the Legislature’s Education Committee, would allow the governor to appoint the Quality Education Accountability Commission. Control of educational assessment and accountability would be transferred from the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to the commission, which would work to develop a statewide assessment system.

In letters to Sen. Dubas, NSEA members overwhelmingly favored Nebraska’s existing assessment system. They delivered a clear message that the School-based Teacher-led Assessment Reporting System (STARS) took hard work to develop; works quite well;

and should not be tossed aside in favor of rigid, statewide testing.

“Our members tell us that STARS has been extremely difficult and very time-consuming to create. But once their district developed their assessment systems, teachers changed what and how they teach, and children benefited academically,” said NSEA President Jess Wolf. “They assess to determine student progress, not just to get a (test) score.”

LB987 creates additional government bureaucracy. Wolf said the Constitution of the State of Nebraska “is clear that the State Board of Education is a constitutional body and has the authority and duty to provide the rules and regulations that govern the operation of Nebraska’s public schools.”

NEW LEADER: SLOTS OPEN NOW

It may be early March, but plans for June events are already under way at NSEA — and that includes plans for the 21st annual NSEA New Leader Institute.

New Leader is open to all NSEA K-12, Higher Education, Education Support Professionals and Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) members looking to improve their personal and professional leadership skills. The Institute is widely considered as one of the best training opportunities provided by NSEA — and there is no cost to members.

The Institute is intended for NSEA members of all ages and skill levels interested in leadership roles in their local, district or state associations. In the past 20 years, more than 400 NSEA members have participated, and have given the Institute rave reviews!

The 2008 edition will begin Sunday afternoon, June 8, and will wrap with a graduation luncheon on Wednesday, June 11. The conference will be held at Lincoln Southwest High School. NSEA provides lodging and all meals.

For details, contact NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 and ask for New Leader Institute Coordinator Midge Dublinske or Lynne Elwood at 731-0400.