

LEAdvocate

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*A Basic Right...
A Great
Public School
for Every
Child.*

LEA President: Arlene Rea
arlene.rea@nsea.org
Editor: Dan Studer
UniServ Director
dan.studer@nsea.org

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Lincoln Education Association
4920 Normal Blvd
Lincoln NE 68506
489-7500
www.lincolneducationassociation.org

Welcome to the New 2007-2008 School Year From LEA President Arlene Rea

Welcome back! Last year at this time I was praising the cool weather that had greeted our students on the first day. Are we going to be so lucky this year? I hope so.

LEA is gearing up for the 2007-2008 school year with two goals in mind. The number one goal is to increase membership so that our second goal, contract negotiations, will be successful for our members. When LEA goes to the Negotiations Table with large membership numbers, our voice will be loud because of our strength in numbers. All LPS staff members benefit from the work of the LEA at the Negotiations Table. Staff members who have chosen not to be LEA members can no longer sit by and let their colleagues, we LEA members, be the only ones who support negotiations and do all the work.

Last spring the LEA Board and FR Council made a commitment to increase membership by fifty members over the 2006-2007 membership. The plan called for each building to designate a Building Membership Coordinator (BMC) and for that BMC to attend an all-day training in the summer. Thirty-four BMCs responded to the call. This fall each BMC will be working with other members in their buildings to recruit new hires and those who are not currently LEA members. It is everyone's responsibility to recruit members—not just the Faculty Representative (FR) and BMC. If you are asked to visit with a potential member about joining LEA, please accept the invitation.

As we prepare for this year's negotiation year, we will be having the first **all member meeting on August 23, 4:15 to 5:15 pm, at Lefler Middle School, 1100 S. 48th Street.** This meeting will be devoted to explaining the process of negotiations by which the LEA and the district have been using for a number of years. In addition, we will be asking for your input regarding the issues that the negotiations team should include in the members-only survey LEA members will be asked to complete this fall. The results from the survey will guide the Negotiations Team in setting the priorities as they begin deliberations with the district. The LEA Negotiations Team will be named in September and will need your support throughout the bargaining process.

Earlier this summer, fourteen LEA members spent two full days learning the Harvard Model of Interest Based Bargaining. The LEA and the district have used this model exclusively for over fifteen years. It is a model that has worked well for both sides as both entities continue to bargain the year round. ProCom (the joint Professional Committee made up of the leadership from both the LEA and LPS) was established and has been used to resolve time-consuming contract issues and problems that arise between contracts for a number of years. In January, 2008, ProCom will issue a report after over a year's joint study on teacher workload. The members of this year's ProCom team will be named in September. Please support your LEA representatives to ProCom as they work through the awesome responsibility that is before them.

In conclusion, the LEA has two goals, increase membership so that our efforts in the bargaining process are successful. At the same time, I want to emphasize that LEA is more than bargaining a contract. There is something for everyone. There is protection and advocacy of your member rights, leadership development, staff development, political advocacy, liability insurance, social opportunities, member savings through the LEA Discount Card and the NSEA Access Card, and other financial savings through the NEA, NSEA and LEA endorsed vendors.

Visit LEA's website at www.lincolneducationassociation.org, NSEA's website at www.nsea.org, and NEA's website at www.nea.org for an array of educational information. See below some items from the NEA website that may be of interest to you.

1. [NEA BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES](#)

We have dozens of lesson plans & activity ideas to help you start the school year. Plus we have tips for welcoming new students, setting up your classroom, and establishing strong relationships with parents, and more.

2. [30 WAYS TO SHOW STUDENTS YOU CARE](#)

Compliments, acknowledgment and other gestures big and small can make all the difference.

3. [50 SIGNS YOUR SCHOOL IS A GREAT SCHOOL](#)

There's a lot of talk these days about failing schools, so we thought it would be a good idea to share a few things about what is working. A group of principals shares the good things happening at their schools every day.

4. [SUPREME COURT'S DESEGREGATION RULING](#)

The recent Supreme Court desegregation decision calls into question more than half a century of efforts to integrate America's public schools. Is your district trying to integrate classrooms by race? By income? Is either approach working? [Tell us what you think.](#)

5. [Lesson Plans, Classroom Resources, And More](#)

- [Lesson Ideas](#)
- [Classroom Management](#)
- [Do the Right Thing](#)
- [The Teaching Experience](#)
- [Works4Me](#)
- [Dropout Prevention](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [Grants & Resources](#)

Check out these articles and many more resources for educators at NEA.org!

~~~Arlene Rea

To help keep members informed and to hopefully bring an occasional smile to your face, LEA launches a new series of *LEAdvocate* articles entitled:

## Urban Myths



Did you hear the one about "Bloody Mary"? Say her name out loud three times in front of a mirror and she will reach out from the mirror and grab you, pulling you in!



How about the pet alligator that was flushed down the toilet and then grew to be a giant man-eater loose in the city sewer? (Well, maybe in New Orleans after Katrina???)

These are all popular, long-lasting urban myths, fun stories with little if any truth to them.

*Here is another “urban myth” of which you should be aware:*

**Teachers are on-call until 5:00 p.m. every work day. *Not!*** This once was in LPS Board Policy, but has long been removed. Teachers are on a 7.5 hr. contract day (with 30 minutes of that duty-free lunch). Yes, full-time teachers do occasionally have to stay beyond their contract day for staff meetings and other occasional commitments, but having to stay late past the contract day should not be occurring on a regular basis. The LEA-LPS *Professional Agreement* (Article 5, Section 18) also has language that allows individuals to appeal irrelevant staff meetings that do not respect professionals’ time or meet their needs. Check the staff meeting language out at:

[http://lincolneducationassociation.org/files/06-08\\_Teacher\\_Neg\\_Agreement-chgs\\_acpted.pdf](http://lincolneducationassociation.org/files/06-08_Teacher_Neg_Agreement-chgs_acpted.pdf)

## **Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!**



The start of a new school year brings a variety of time-consuming tasks for teachers in order to be prepared for the arrival of their students. Everybody wants everything to be just right and push to the max to make it so!

The same is true of your LEA office. Getting materials printed, counted, sorted, and bundled so that members are off to a good start is a high priority for LEA. Simply put, we couldn’t do it without volunteer help and **here’s this year’s list of super-doooper people** who came in to the LEA Office to volunteer their time (often on more days than one) to get everything ready for the start of a new year. To them we offer our *heart-felt thanks* and double the salary we paid our volunteers last year (that’s a joke boys and girls just in case you thought LEA discovered oil under the parking lot this summer)!!!

**Jane Aalborg  
Lorene Behrends  
Neil Bateman  
Billie Bussmann  
Bob Bussmann  
Beverly Jackson**

**Jan Mahlman  
Joanne Perrault  
Pat Shelton  
Pat Shepard  
Gretchen Terpsma**