

## LEA Member Wins Coveted NSEA ESP of the Year Award

LPS bus driver and LEA member Kathleen Wingard was nominated by Alyx A. Knight, a teacher and association member at Lincoln High School, for the annual ESP of the Year award. Alyx's nomination of Kathleen won the approval of NSEA's Capitol District. Each NSEA district is allowed one nomination in this category and Kathleen was chosen by NSEA as this year's ESP of the Year award at the annual NSEA Delegate Assembly.

*LEAdvocate*

*Issue # 14*

*May 11, 2009*

Arlene Rea, President

arlene.rea@nsea.org

Dan Studer, UniServ Director & Editor

dan.studer@nsea.org

Citing Kathleen's "exceptional commitment to the safety and education of students," Alyx writes:

**The shootings at Columbine High School in April 1999 spurred Kathleen to consider how she might best participate in making schools safer. Six months later, Kathleen began driving a school bus. Every day she takes time away from her business to transport students to and from school. She has done this for over nine years with little fanfare. In my eyes, she is supporting education by exemplifying the phrase "it takes a village." Her understanding that safe schools are the cornerstone of learning is enough to earn recognition, but she has gone even farther in supporting education. She brought learning into the bus environment in innovative ways.**

Alyx explains that in April 2007, Kathleen "asked for and received artwork from elementary students that conveyed an anti-bullying message for display on her bus. She also wrote and received a grant from the National Education Association to help build interest in the Family Literacy Portfolio project at another elementary school. Her proposal showcased collaboration between a bus driver and a teacher. Because of her success with the Portfolio project, she went on to request books from the central district library. She picks up books for preschoolers and kindergartners on a monthly basis and distributes them to fellow bus drivers for use on the buses."

Kathleen is a busy LPS employee and LEA member! Alyx reveals that Kathleen:

**went on to create the Rolling Readers for middle school students. She collaborated with a student to submit a proposal to Youth Services America promoting pairing regular and special education students together in reading activities. The Rolling Readers will be taking a field trip together to foster reading time. Kathleen also submitted a proposal to the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools to purchase book lights for use on her bus. Students are spending 30-60 minutes each morning riding in the dark. Having book lights gives them a chance to read and study together on their way to school. She received overwhelming support for this proposal.**

**High school students have also benefited from her interest in their education. Kathleen collaborated with a teacher at Lincoln High School to write a grant for a field trip to an interactive playground for students who have infants and toddlers. She has also conducted fundraising through her business to provide lessons on reducing stress and increasing wellness for pregnant teens at a local high school. Finally, Kathleen has been an active advocate and participant in Association activities.**

*It is no wonder that Kathleen won the NSEA ESP of the Year award given all that she does as an involved and caring education employee, dedicating so much time and energy to the students that are entrusted to her care.*

**Congratulations to Kathleen!** You exemplify to perfection the members of the Lincoln Education Association and we are proud to include you among our ranks!

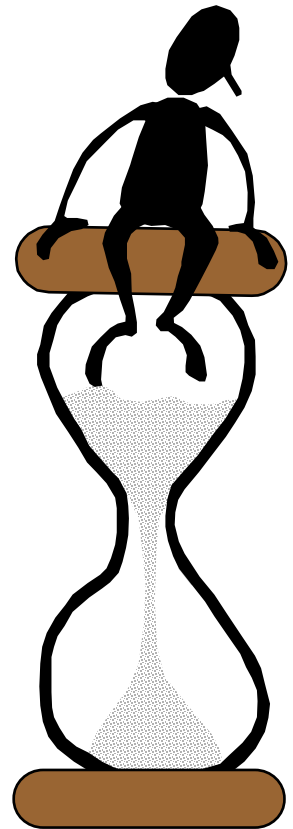
**Our thanks to Alyx A. Knight, too,** for caring, noticing, and taking the time to see to it that a colleague gets the kind of acknowledgement and credit she deserves!



## COPING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE: Part Ten

With this article we reach the end of our series on coping with difficult people. By now you have nearly become an expert on personalities that can be a pain and your life has become much, much simpler. (Don't be a **NEGATIVIST** and nod your head in disagreement at this point!) Our last difficult person up for discussion is the **INDECISIVE STALLER**. This article has been revised from information from Robert M. Branson from the homepages of [wmich.edu](http://wmich.edu).

**INDECISIVE STALLERS** are super-helpful, but indecisive people who postpone decisions that might distress someone. This "works" for them because as life proceeds, most decisions, if left unmade (kind of like your bed in the morning), eventually becomes irrelevant. **INDECISIVE STALLERS** hint and beat around the bush as a compromise between being honest and not hurting anyone.



### So how do you cope with INDECISIVE STALLERS?

1. Make it easy for them to tell you about conflicts or reservations that prevent decisions from being made.
2. Listen for indirect words, hesitations, and omissions from them that may provide clues to problem areas.
3. When you have surfaced the issues, help them solve their problems with the decision.
4. At times the **INDECISIVE STALLER'S** reservation will be about you (gasp!) In those instances:
  - Acknowledge any past problems.
  - State relevant data in a non-defensive fashion.
  - Propose a plan.
  - Ask for help.
5. If you are not part of the problem, concentrate on helping the **INDECISIVE STALLER** examine the facts. Use the facts to place alternative solutions in priority order. This makes it easy for them if they have to turn someone down.

6. If real, emphasize the quality and service aspects of your proposal.
7. Give support after the decision has been made.
8. If possible, keep the action steps in your hands.
9. Watch for signs of abrupt anger or withdrawal from the conversation. If you see them, try to remove the **INDECISIVE STALLER** from the decision-making situation.

*It probably isn't a good idea to tell the **INDECISIVE STALLER** to "get the lead out!" however.*

