

Lincoln Education Association
<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>

FR Council

April 16, 2009

Union Bank, 4732 Calvert, Lower Level, 4:15 p.m.

BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT: Belmont, Bryan Community, Culler, Dawes, Hartley, Humann, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, McPhee, Morley, Pershing

“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING: Alice Mildenberger, Adams, won a \$20.00 gift card to Lee Booksellers and a water bottle from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Cindy Swanson, Pound, won a \$25.00 gift card to Applebee’s from Horace Mann.

CALL TO ORDER: Arlene called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

GUESTS: Horace Mann Representatives—Perry and Candy spoke to FRs about how Horace Mann can help with new member benefits. They have several ideas for teachers with 1-3 years experience; they are also willing to talk with more experienced teachers. Please email them to invite them to your building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of March 19, 2009 were approved as printed.

TREASURERS REPORT: Marcia Benner

The Financial Report for February 2009; we are half way through our fiscal year and the budget reflects that progress.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

President’s Report—Arlene Rea

Nominations for the vacancy on the LEA At-Large Board Seat: Michael Geist, Marge Keep, Matt Kutscher, and Karen Shelton. There are two years remaining on the At-Large Board seat. The election will be held at May FR Council.

NSEA Delegate Assembly, April 24-25—Delegates please let Arlene know if you cannot attend. It is important for LEA to have a complete delegation. We are there to represent the 2,400 LEA members.

Third Thursday—Please meet with/talk with your principal and work to not plan events that will conflict with FR Council such as Parent/Teacher Conferences. It is important that FRs be at FR Council and Parent-Teacher Conferences are important and members need to be there too. It becomes a concern when both are scheduled on the third Thursday.

Shredding Event on April 18—Bring your items to be shredded to the LEA parking lot and watch it disappear into the shredding truck! LEA will also be accepting donations for the LEA Foundation. Last year we had 1,000 pounds.

LEA Award Nominations—LEA would like to recognize FRs, Volunteers, and a Community Friend of Education. Please consider nominating someone for an award. You can find more information at the LEA website. Nominations are due April 27. Awards will be presented at FR Council in May.

LEA Retirement Dinner—Please put May 28 on your calendar. The celebrations will be held at Misty’s in Havelock. This is a very nice event to honor and celebrate our colleagues for their many years of service to LPS and their commitment to the students of Lincoln Public Schools.

Special Education Forums—LPS and LEA will be holding the forums on May 7 and 14. The location of the forums has not been decided. The forums are not just for Special Education teachers—all teachers are invited to attend.

BCBS Survey for Deductible—Please respond to the survey so that the Negotiations Team will know what deductible is most preferred by members. You should be able to click on the line and complete the short survey. If you are having a problem, please let LEA know by calling 489-7500 or email Teresa (teresa.greve@nsea.org).

Executive Director's Evaluation—Karen Shelton

Elected FRs take part in Jim's evaluation. Last month a draft survey was piloted and changes were made. Today FRs were asked to complete the assessment on LEA's Executive Director Jim Rea. It was important that it happen now and not by email—emails get saved for a later time and sometimes do not get looked at again.

Appraisal Committee—Linda Freye

Five teachers were at the first Appraisal Forum. There was a strong showing by LPS administrators. This is a *teacher* appraisal instrument and it is important that teachers have their voice in the document too. Please plan to attend the second forum on Thursday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m. at Lincoln Southeast in the Commons Area. Please be there to offer your comments and ideas and ask your questions. We want your help! The current appraisal process has been in use for over 25 years. LEA will send out a reminder...mark your calendar!

LEA Foundation Fundraiser—Jenni Absalon

Time is drawing near...members will be wrapping baskets on Monday, April 20. If you are donating an item, you can complete the form on line—how easy is that! Board members will deliver them to the Cornhusker Thursday night, April 23. April 24 is the fundraiser—please join this worthwhile event. The proceeds go to the NSEA Children's Fund and to the LEA Foundation. A quilt and an autographed picture of Barack Obama are new items for this year's auction. They have been donated, respectively, by Leann Widhalm of Norfolk and Mark Shively of Omaha, NEA Directors for Nebraska. Thank you Leann and Mark!

Executive Director's Report—Jim Rea

Jim outlined the current status on the shortage with the teacher retirement fund. NSEA continues to monitor the situation. The final decision will be made near the end of the Legislative session.

Jim reviewed the latest and most current data on the federal stimulus package. Expect decisions soon on how the dollars will be used by both the State of Nebraska and Lincoln Public Schools.

The leadership transition continues. The LEA Executive Committee will meet with LEA Staff on Tuesday, April 28.

Jim thanked FRs for the participation in his evaluation.

LEA Insider was included in the FR packet.

LEA PAC—Jan talked about the recommendation of Kevin Keller and his request to visit buildings in his district. It is his desire to visit every school as he considers a position on the LPS Board. Please encourage your building members to visit with him.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Adoption of the LEA Dues Proposal. [Recommended by the LEA Board: Active (.76-1.0 FTE) @ \$160; Active Part Time I, II (.26-.75) @ \$80; Active Part Time III (.1 to .25) @\$40; Active ESP/Non-Bargaining Unit @\$25.] Motion carried by vote of acclamation.

As an FYI, proposed increases for next year are NEA \$4.00, NSEA \$8.00. NSEA votes in April at DA and NEA votes in July at RA.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jenni reported that Arlene's Thank You Celebrations have been set:

May 18 Board Event

May 21 FR Council Event 3:30-4:30 Open House for FRs and Others

May 29 Open House at LEA for Community members and Administrators.

The Scholarship Committee will meet on April 27 at 4:15 at the LEA Office. The committee will be reviewing applications for student and teacher scholarships.

DRAWING: Karen Dress, Lincoln East, won a \$20 gift card and water bottle from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union.

ADJOURNMENT: Arlene adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Benner

Marcia Benner
Secretary-Treasurer