



LEA *Express*

January 9, 2009

A weekly compilation of Association news, minutes, upcoming events and tips for LEA Members.

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Save the Dates

Early February, Working Conditions Survey. The annual working conditions survey will be sent via e-mail in early February to all members to complete. This is your opportunity, anonymously, to let the LEA and LPS know how efforts to deliver a quality education in your building are going. Please take the few minutes to participate. More information will be forth coming.

January 15-18, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Th, Fri, Sat) 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Sun)
Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel (LARSP) 30th Annual Used Book Sale at Westfield-Gateway. Proceeds to provide scholarships and fund other philanthropies. For More Information call 483-1649. **Early Bird Sale, Wednesday, January 14, 2009: 6-8 p.m. in Auditorium - \$10 fee per person.**

January 22 and 29 - 4:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.; March 5 and 12 – 4:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

“I CAN DO IT”

A classroom management class is being offered by LEA and can be counted as District Flex Time or for professional growth. The LEA wants to help you manage your classroom effectively and efficiently. Click <http://www.solutionwhere.com/staffdevlps/cw/showcoursesbymonth.asp> to read the description of the seven hour class and to register on line with Lincoln Public Schools. The instructors are specially trained LPS/LEA teachers. Help yourself for the rest of the year and your career.

February 16, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and February 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., “All You Need To Know” Financial Seminars

Session Topics: Student Loans, Taxes, Budgeting, Investments, Wills, Debt/Credit Management

Presenters: CPA, Tax Atty. , NEA Financial Advisor & NEA MB Consultant

To hold a spot, call 489-7500 – E-Mail: elaine.koch@nsea.org (More Information to Follow!)

March 2-6: Reserve Cat in the Hat to visit your classroom by contacting Arlene Rea, arlene.rea@nsea.org; or 489-7500

March 6, 2009, Harvest of Books at Barnes & Noble, 5150 O Street. A percentage of all purchases made on that day are designated to the Harvest of Books. Please stop by the store to make a purchase to help the cause. The Harvest will provide books for all first and second graders in the Lincoln community next fall.

March 12, 2009 at 4:15 p.m., Retirement Seminar with Roger Rea at the LEA Office.

April 24, 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., LEA Foundation Fundraiser, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. Silent auction and raffle items needed. Please contact the LEA Office to make your donation. The Lincoln Education Association Foundation is classified for tax purposes as 501(c)3. Donations are tax deductible.

May 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m., LEA Retirement Dinner to honor retiring LEA members will be held at Misty's in Havelock

The LEA Board Minutes

The LEA Board Minutes are available to read at the following link:

<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/MinutesLEABoard.html>

The LEA Board of Directors is made up of twelve LEA members elected by their peers. The Executive Committee of the Board consists of the President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. In addition to the Executive Committee, there are three elementary representatives, one middle level representative, two high school representatives and three at-large representatives. The Board meets at the LEA Office twice a month during the school year and once per month during the summer. Members are always encouraged to come and observe.

LEA Discount Update: Ewerth and Associates, CPA

Ewerth and Associates, CPA
237 S 70th, Ste 219
Lincoln NE 68510
(402) 486-3777
www.bradewerth.com
brad@bradewerth.com

For your 2008 tax year preparation fee, Ewerth and Associates will discount 5% off what you paid for your 2007 professionally prepared tax preparation fee plus another 5% discount if you call by **January 25, 2009** to set up an appointment. This discount is for new clients only and can only use one offer.

LEA Discount Special Events: Barnes and Noble Booksellers

Tuesday January 13th

Join us for “The Last Straw” Diary of a Wimpy Kid party

6 p.m. at 5150 O Street Location – Contact Maria Gregorio for details at 402.466.7122

7 p.m. at SouthPointe Location - Contact Jen Jackson for details at 402.421.0875

January 17th – 25th

Educator Appreciation Days – Both Locations

PreK-12 educators save up to 25% on classroom and personal purchases, including 10% on CDs and DVDs *Certain restrictions apply.*

Monday, January 19th

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with us at 2 p.m. with a special story time and activity. – 5150 O Street Location

Wednesday January 21st 4 p.m. -6 p.m.

Educator Reception

SouthPointe Location - 2910 Pine Lake Road

Join us for a selection of Harney & Sons Teas, cookies from our café; enjoy special discounts & door prizes.

Thursday, January 22nd - 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Educator Reception

5150 O Street Location

Join us for fun raffle prizes, freebies and complimentary sweet treats!

LEA Discount Update: Nails by Donna Jensen

DONNA JENSEN AT VONHAIR SALON SUITES

Donna Jensen

4111 Pioneers Woods Dr.

202-7582

Please note that Donna Jensen is no longer doing nails. Her LEA Discount has been discontinued.

Stay in Touch With Your Legislature

From the time the first school bell rings to the time the last light goes out at night, everything that happens in a classroom is affected by political decisions.

Thus, it's imperative that teachers are informed of issues most likely to affect their students, schools and livelihood. It's also important that NSEA members let state senators know their concerns. Here's how to do both!

Follow the Legislature

- Call the NSEA at 475.7611. An experienced NSEA team watches the legislative process closely.
- Read *The Voice*. NSEA's monthly magazine keeps members on top of the latest legislative happenings.
- Add your name to NSEA's e-mail list and receive regular legislative updates. You can also become one of NSEA's cyberlobbyists. E-mail Cathy Schapmann at:
cathy.schapmann@nsea.org
- Follow the progress of any legislative bill through the Nebraska Legislature's Web site at:
<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Receive the Legislature's weekly newsletter, *Unicameral Update*, by calling the Legislature's 24-hour Request Line at 402- 471-2877. You may also request limited copies of bills, resolutions or amendments, but you must provide the bill number of any legislation you wish to receive.

Talk to Your Senator!

There's no better way to affect legislation than to know and talk to your state senator. Most senators return home on weekends and set up meetings with constituents. Meet with and talk to senators at such opportunities. Here are two other ways to make that contact:

E-mail your senator through the Legislature's home page at:

<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>

E-mail your senator through a link from NSEA's Web site at:

www.nsea.org

Finally, write your state senator! Simply address the envelope with the senator's name, district and complete the address with State Capitol, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604.

Read Across America!

NEA Web Site Offers Provisions

To Make Your Celebration a Success

Are you ready for some reading?

The 11th observance of the National Education Association's Read Across America celebration is near, and NEA has provided all the details and helpful hints to make a celebration of reading at your school a success.

For one day each year, NEA's Read Across America focuses the country's attention on how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping them master basic skills.

The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who epitomizes a love of learning. Dr. Seuss' use of rhyme makes his books effective tools for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful readers.

In classrooms across the state and nation, young readers cook Seuss-inspired recipes, make posters, play games, and most of all, build an appreciation of reading. NEA's Read Across America Web site is chock full of all the information teachers need to begin planning a memorable event.

The NEA Web site includes reproducible resources like posters, bookmarks, certificates of participation, logos and more. It also offers recommended books, including 'Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children' and 'Celebrity Book Picks.'

The site offers Read Across America activity ideas, tips for encouraging coverage by the local media, public relations tools and resources for parents, as well. By encouraging parents to add Dr. Seuss and reading to their child's daily routine, they will also add great rewards:

- Children who are read to at home have a higher success rate in school.
- Children who read frequently develop stronger reading skills.

Finally, through FirstBook marketplace, the site also offers substantial discounts on books that fit well into literacy programs.

For more details about Read Across America, check out the Web site at:

<http://www.nea.org/readacross>

5 Simple Steps to NEA Grant Dollars!

[NEA Foundation Launches Online Application Process That Saves Time, Paper and Is Easier!](#)

In a move that will make applying for grants easier, more convenient, and less prone to user error, the NEA Foundation has announced that it is launching a Web-based application process for its popular \$2,000 and \$5,000 grants. These grants support public school educators' ideas to improve teaching and learning.

"Our new process is green, easier and more convenient to complete, and requires less time, all attributes that we know busy educators will appreciate," said Harriet Sanford, president and CEO of the NEA Foundation.

Applicants can link directly to the application from the NEA Foundation's Web site. After responding to three questions that determine eligibility, applicants complete the process in five simple steps. They are prompted when they've left out any required information, and they are allowed to save their application if they need more time. The process also allows repeat applicants the opportunity to save personal and school information, cutting down on time spent on the administrative portion of the application and allowing more time for the narrative section.

Sanford added that the Foundation will accept both paper and online applications for its Student Achievement Grants and its Learning and Leadership Grants through Feb. 1, 2009, when it will convert to the Web-based system.

Over the past decade, the NEA Foundation has awarded more than \$4.1 million in grants to public school educators. For details, or to apply, go to the Web site at:

www.neafoundation.org

The Foundation offers grants and programs that support educators' efforts to close the achievement gaps; increase classroom innovations; salute excellence in education; and provide professional development.

Who Gets the Money?

Keeping Your Beneficiaries Current

Who receives the proceeds of *your* life insurance benefit? If you didn't designate a beneficiary, or haven't checked it lately, now is a good time to do so. Over time, events such as marriage, divorce, the birth or adoption of a child, remarriage and death may dramatically change the intent of how you wanted the money paid.

For example, a member who enrolled for life insurance assumed that the plan's 'order of priority' would properly distribute the life insurance benefits to his spouse, then to his three minor children. Several years later, he divorced and then remarried, but didn't change the beneficiary designation on his policy. When he passed away, the benefits went to his current spouse instead of the children from his first marriage — those he wanted to benefit.

A major life event is a good time to re-evaluate your life insurance coverage and to update your beneficiaries. Checking them regularly is a good idea, too!

Supplies Sought for Annual SEAN Benefit

The Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) is looking for donated classroom items for a silent auction to be held at the association's Spring Conference in Kearney on Feb. 20-21.

Donated items can be anything a teacher could use, such as new or gently used bulletin board items, books, lesson plans, activity projects, etc. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the SEAN undergraduate scholarship, which helps send a SEAN member to a national conference.

If you have items to donate, please make arrangements for NSEA to collect donations by calling NSEA's Tamra Mick at 475-7611, or by e-mailing her at:

tamra.mick@nsea.org



California Casualty
AUTO & HOME INSURANCE

1-877-777-1419

Call now for your free comparison rate quote.
Kristen Smith, Field Representative
Visit us on the web at www.calcas.com/kksmith

Are you adequately insured - or do you just think you are?

Your NEA A+ Insurance Program can assist in answering this question. We have highly trained insurance professionals who understand that the needs of educators are unique. We know that your vehicle can be vandalized at school, and that fundraising monies can come up missing. We also know you spend a lot of your own money to supply your classroom and sometimes those items can be stolen. We have coverage's for these types of losses!

When was the last time you reviewed your policy? Let's face it, comparing insurance isn't at the top of everyone's to do list, so you may be over due...Dust off your policy and give us a call! We can look at where you are and help you decide if that's where you should remain. Best of all, you may be pleasantly surprised to save money too! That's because the NEA has negotiated special member-only rates just for you.

You are entitled to a FREE policy "Check Up" with one of our insurance consultants!