



# LEA *Express*

April 7, 2009

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

## Included in this issue...

---

- Newly Elected LEA Board Position and LEA Board Vacancy
- LEA Board Minutes – March 16, 2009
- LEA FR Council Minutes – March 19, 2009
- Shredding Event – April 18 at LEA Office, 4920 Normal Blvd
- LEA Foundation Scholarships – Deadline April 15
- Why Contribute to the LEAF Fundraiser?
- Teacher Appraisal Forums Reminder
- LEA Awards
- LEA Retirement Dinner
- Start Certificate Renewal Process Now - NDE: Don't Wait Until the Last Minute to Renew Your Certificate
- Financial Security: NEA Member Benefits Can Help
- ESP Workshops Set on April, June Dates
- Are You the 2010 Teacher of the Year?
- Buy at Staples online To Benefit the Children's Fund
- NEA A+ Auto and Home Insurance

## **Newly Elected LEA Board Position and LEA Board Vacancy**

At the April 6<sup>th</sup> LEA Board meeting, the board elected Jan Olmstead as Secretary-Treasurer. Therefore, there is a vacancy on the Board for the remaining two years of her At-Large seat. I will take nominations for the position at the April 16 FR Council meeting with the election by FR Council at the May 21 FR Council.

Please consider running for the position. Contact your building FR or Arlene at the LEA Office to be nominated at FR Council.

Arlene

## **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.

## **FR Council Minutes**

Click on the following link to read the FR Council Minutes.

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

FR (Faculty Representative) Council is the legislative and policy-forming body of the Association with the purpose of carrying out the Association goals. Its 187 members are representatives from the fifty-three building sites across the district. This body of representatives meets the third Thursday of the month at Lefler Middle School to foster and promote membership, adopt the budget, set the annual dues, approve resolutions and policy statements, approve the slate of candidates for election and to review, adopt Association goals and Standing Committee changes and review issues and concerns of members. All members are invited to come and observe.

## **April 18 - Shredding Event Sponsored by LEA and 1st Nebraska Educators Credit Union**

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Location: LEA Office, 4920 Normal Blvd – East Parking Lot

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

LEA and 1st Nebraska Educators Credit Union is sponsoring a shredding event. Bring your documents to be shredded for free! Spread the word to your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors!

Information regarding the LEA Foundation and protecting your identity will be distributed. Donations will also be accepted for the LEA Foundation.

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

Thank you to Shredding Solutions for supplying the shredding truck!

## **LEA Foundation Scholarships - Deadline April 15**

If you are interested in applying for one of the LEA Foundation Scholarships that are available for members (Christa McAuliffe and Barbara Buckingham Patrons), please apply by the April 15 deadline.



If you know of a Lincoln public high school senior interested in continuing their education at an accredited Nebraska educational institution, two scholarships are available. The LEAF STAR Scholarship is available to a senior in LPS of an LEA member and the LEAF SOAR Scholarship is available to a senior in LPS. Please have the senior apply by the April 15 deadline.

Click on <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/Scholarships.html> for Scholarship information and applications.

## **Why Contribute to the LEAF Fundraiser?**

The LEAF Fundraiser to be held April 24 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel funds the scholarships and grants distributed to members and students each year. Please help by purchasing raffle tickets from your FR or contact the LEA Office. Come to the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. to participate in the silent auction and raffle. Ask LEA how you can use payroll deduction. Please be generous.

## **Why contribute to the Foundation?**

### **LEA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS 2008-2009 (to be awarded)**

**One LEA STAR scholarship** of \$1,000 is available to a senior in LPS of an LEA member for use in an accredited Nebraska institution of higher learning. (Replaces one Future Teacher Scholarship.) **\$1,000**

**One LEA SOAR scholarship** of \$1,000 is available to a senior in LPS for use in an accredited Nebraska institution of higher learning. (Replaces one Future Teacher Scholarship.) **\$1,000**

**Two Professional Grants** of \$250 each or \$500 are available twice a year to LEA certificated members for use in their assignment for special projects and other creative endeavors. **\$1,000**

**Unknown number of Catastrophic Grants** of \$250 (Available to LEA members for a catastrophic situation in their personal lives-- medical care, damage of home and personal property, economic hardship, etc.). Applications are taken anytime. **(Estimate) \$1,500**

**One Christa McAuliff Scholarship** of \$500 available to LEA certificated or classified members for study, research, academic improvement, projects or graduate study. **\$ 500**

At least one **Barbara Buckingham Patronskey Scholarship** of \$500 available to LEA teacher members to broaden his/her horizons, especially if the activity involved travel. (Funded by Mr. Patronskey.)

**Future Teacher Scholarships** will be awarded until September, 2012 in the amount of \$6,125. **\$2,625**

**Total: \$7,625**

The LEA Foundation Fundraiser has netted nearly \$5,000 the last two years. This amount and payroll deduction have helped cover the scholarships and grants. Won't you consider contributing to the

Fundraiser and/or to the Foundation through Payroll deduction? A Payroll deduct form is available at the following link for your convenience.

<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/files/LEAFDonationFormforWeb.pdf> Return the form to the LEA Office, via inter-school mail or to 4920 Normal Blvd., 68506. Thank You for your support!!

*The LEAF Board of Directors: Jenni Absalon, Marge Keep, Arlene Rea, Jim Rea, Karen Shelton*

## **Teacher Appraisal Forums Reminder**

The appraisal process will be changing. Two appraisal forums will be held this coming **Monday, April 13, 2009, 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Southeast High School and Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. at Southeast High School.** You are invited to participate in an interactive table discussion about the six components of the new LPS appraisal process. Let your voice be heard!

## **LEA Awards**

### **LEA CORPORATE FRIEND OF EDUCATION**

Is there a company or business person who has made a difference for students and teachers? Why not nominate that company or business person for the Corporate Friend of Education Award? To nominate, write in 200 words or less why that company or business person should be considered as the Corporate Friend of Education Award. Send via e-mail, [arlene.rea@nsea.org](mailto:arlene.rea@nsea.org), or send your essay to Arlene Rea at the LEA Office (through school mail, no box #) before April 27, 2009. This award will be given at the May 21 FR Council.

### **SPECIAL FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD**

Is there a volunteer in your school who has made a difference for students and teachers? Why not nominate that person for the Special Friend of Education Award? To nominate, write in 200 words or less why that company or business person should be considered as the Special Friend of Education Award. Send via e-mail, [arlene.rea@nsea.org](mailto:arlene.rea@nsea.org), or send your essay to Arlene Rea at the LEA Office (through school mail, no box #) before April 27, 2009. This award will be given at the May 21 FR Council.

### **LEA FACULTY REP (FR) OF THE YEAR**

Elementary, Middle School, and Senior High FRs will be recognized. How do you thank your Faculty Representative for all that s/he does for you all year? Nominate her/him for the FR of the Year. To nominate, write in 200 words or less why that person(s) should be considered as the Elementary or Middle or High School FR. Send via e-mail, [arlene.rea@nsea.org](mailto:arlene.rea@nsea.org), or send your essay to Arlene Rea at the LEA Office (through school mail, no box #) before April 27, 2009. There will be awards given for all three levels at the May 21 FR Council.

### **NURSE FR OF THE YEAR \* New This Year! \***

In addition to the awards for the FR of the Year for Elementary, Middle and High School, nurses now have the opportunity to nominate one of their nurse FRs for the prestigious FR of the Year. To do so, write a 200 word or less essay why that person should be the FR of the Year. E-mail or send your essay by 4 p.m. April 27 to Arlene Rea, [arlene.rea@nsea.org](mailto:arlene.rea@nsea.org) or send through interschool mail to LEA, no box needed.

## **LEA Retirement Dinner**

**May 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**, the **LEA Retirement Dinner** will be held to honor retiring LEA members will be held at Misty's in Havelock. Watch for more details coming soon!

## **Start Certificate Renewal Process Now NDE: Don't Wait Until the Last Minute to Renew Your Certificate**

In 2008, the Nebraska Department of Education sent certificate renewal reminders to more than 4,000 Nebraska educators. During the course of the year, the department processed more than 11,000 certificate applications — the bulk of which arrived during summer months.

To ease the summer bottleneck, a Web site has been opened for 2009 Short-Form certificate renewals. Department officials are asking educators who need to renew their certificates this year to apply immediately. Teachers, administrators and special service certificate holders with certificates that expire on Aug. 31, 2009, should have received a notice that their certificates will expire. The notices are sent only to certificated employees reported on the Fall Personnel Report. Notices are not sent to local substitutes; state substitutes; or to persons employed in positions that do not require a certificate.

A User ID is required to submit a Short-Form On-Line application. The User ID was included in the notice that was sent to persons needing to renew their certificates. If applicants have mislaid the letter they received in February, they can go to the Teacher Certification Web site and click on the "[Look Up a Current Nebraska Certificate](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TCERT/)" link. The site is at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TCERT/>

## **Financial Security: NEA Member Benefits Can Help**

Would you like to feel more secure about your family's finances?

Go to the NEA Member Benefits Web site for the best financial help, and for contact information. The site was built especially for you and your family. It's the one site to visit for great rates on insurance; mortgages; credit cards; travel; and more. Members are offered a wealth of consumer information, articles, and ideas relevant to their lives – plus tips and tools for helping you make the best financial decisions for your family. Check out an array of quality products and discounts you won't find elsewhere, such as:

- H&R Block, ready to help with your 2008 taxes.
- Save up to \$400 each year on auto insurance.

The Member Benefits Web site is at: [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)

## **ESP Workshops Set on April, June Dates**

NSEA will host a pair of training workshops for Educational Support Professionals this spring.

The theme of the workshops is "One Workforce, One Vision." Both events are free, with room and meals provided for the Friday evening through early Saturday afternoon sessions.

The first workshop will be held at the Norfolk Holiday Inn Express on Friday and Saturday, April 17-18.

The second will be held at the Fremont Holiday Inn Express on Friday and Saturday, June 19-20.

To register, or for more details, call NSEA's Tamra Mick at 1-800-742-0047, or e-mail her at: [tamra.mick@nsea.org](mailto:tamra.mick@nsea.org)

## **Are You the 2010 Teacher of the Year?**

Every day, in every Nebraska classroom, excellence is at work. Yet only a single one of Nebraska's thousands of teachers will carry the title of 2010 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

Will it be you?

Applications are now being taken for the 2010 Nebraska Teacher of the Year program. Those who apply should understand that the state's top teacher earns more than just a title: the winner also receives thousands of dollars in gifts. The SMARTer Kids Foundation provides the Teacher of the Year with a package of hardware and software for classroom use. Other gifts, from NSEA and other education organizations, add to the value of the title.

Since 1972, the program has recognized outstanding Nebraska certified teachers in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 classrooms.

Other partners who have joined in honoring finalists and winners include the NSEA; the Nebraska Council of School Administrators; the Nebraska Association of School Boards; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska; and the Nebraska PTA. Finalists have also been recipients of stipends provided by other professional and corporate sponsors. As in the past, each of this year's finalists will also receive a \$1,000 grant for a project of the teacher's choice in his or her school.

The application is on the Department of Education Web site, and can be completed electronically. Hard copies will be mailed to individuals who request the application.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 17, 2009. Finalists will be interviewed in Lincoln in October, and an awards luncheon and reception will be held at the Governor's Mansion in November.

All Nebraska school superintendents will receive application materials from the Department of Education in March. For more details or for application materials, call Lora Sypal at the Nebraska Department of Education, 402-471-5059, and ask for the Teacher of the Year coordinator.

The Department of Education Web site is at:  
<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/toy/index.htm>

## **Buy at Staples online To Benefit the Children's Fund**

You can help a child when you purchase school supplies through the Staples online store – as long as you go through NSEA's Web site to make the purchase.

In a new arrangement, Staples has agreed that purchases made in this manner will generate contributions to the NSEA Children's Fund.

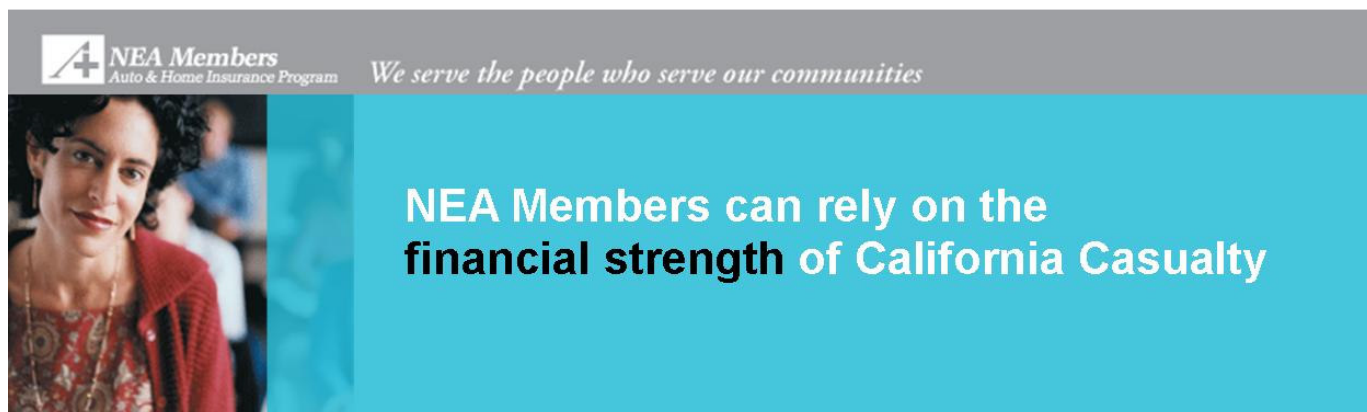
It works this way: On NSEA's home page is a link to the Staples online catalog. Shoppers clicking through the NSEA Web site to the Staples site will generate those contributions to the Children's Fund when they buy

supplies from Staples. The contributions apply on most purchases made in this manner. For example, your purchase of school and art supplies will generate a seven percent contribution by Staples. The portal also features weekly deals.

And here's better news: Staples offers free shipping on most orders of \$50 or more, so shopping online is not only convenient and saves gas, but the cost of delivery can be free. In addition, members of the Staples Teacher Rewards Program will receive full credit toward their quarterly reward, just as if they were shopping in a Staples store.

NSEA created the Children's Fund in 1994. When a teacher sees a child in need, the teacher calls NSEA and requests funds for eyeglasses, shoes, gloves or other immediate needs. In the past two years alone, the Fund has provided nearly \$120,000 in relief. Every penny donated to the Children's Fund helps children; NSEA absorbs all overhead.

To participate, go to the NSEA Web site and look for the Staples box. The Web site is at: [www.nsea.org](http://www.nsea.org)



The banner features the NEA logo on the left, which includes a plus sign in a square and the text "NEA Members Auto & Home Insurance Program". To the right of the logo is the tagline "We serve the people who serve our communities". Below the logo is a photograph of a woman with dark curly hair wearing a red jacket. The right side of the banner has a teal background with the text "NEA Members can rely on the financial strength of California Casualty" in white and black.

While the volatility in the financial market gives us all cause for concern, you can rest assured that California Casualty, underwriter of the NEA Members Auto & Home Insurance Program, is prepared for times like these. In fact, we have four times the capital needed to back up every policy we issue.

California Casualty is a policyholder-owned company with a history that dates back to 1914. We are not a publicly traded company and do not have to take risks to meet our shareholders' expectations. Our old-fashioned, conservative investment philosophy prohibits exposure to the kinds of risks that have shaken Wall Street.

Over the past 95 years, we've seen this country go through its share of financial ups and downs – including the Great Depression. We've been there for our policyholders in the past, and you can be sure we'll be there in the future.

➔ **1-877-777-1419** Call toll-free today for your no-obligation rate comparison or visit my personal URL: [www.calcas.com/kksmith](http://www.calcas.com/kksmith)

AUTO ♦ HOME ♦ CONDO ♦ RENTERS ♦ RENTAL PROPERTY ♦ RV/MOTORHOME ♦ BOAT ♦ TRAILER ♦ FLOOD ♦ UMBRELLA