



LEA *Express*

September 23, 2008

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

Included in this issue...

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- **HARVEST OF BOOKS – OCTOBER 3 - 19**
- **RETIREMENT SEMINARS WITH ROGER REA**
- **NEWER LEA MEMBERS: ERASING STUDENT LOANS AND DEBT**
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## Shredding Event sponsored by LEA and 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Educators Credit Union

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**Date: Saturday, October 11, 2008**

**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 free shredding event! Bring up to 50 lbs (equal to approximately 2 paper boxes full) of documents to be shredded for free. Donors will receive information on protecting your identity. Information on the Harvest of Books will be

available and donations will be accepted for the Harvest of Books fund drive which is October 3 – 19.

**Spread the word about this event to your friends, family and co-workers!**

*Thank you Shredding Solutions for providing the shredding truck!*

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# Harvest of Books

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During the weeks of **October 3 – 19**, help share your love of reading with a child by donating to the Twelfth Annual Harvest of Books drive.

Since its inception in 1997, the Harvest of Books, Inc. has distributed over 100,000 books to first and second graders in the public, private and parochial schools of Lincoln. This year, the Harvest goal is to distribute 13,000 books to students the week of November 24.

If you and others would like to participate, you can purchase books at **25% off** the retail price at the following participating bookstores:

- ◆ ABC ... Adventist Book Center, 4745 Prescott Ave
- ◆ Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 5150 "O" Street and 2910 Pine Lake Road – Suite A1
- ◆ Gloria Deo, Alamo Center Suite – 15, 5601 S 56<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Lee Booksellers, 5500 S 56th Street
- ◆ Lemstone Christian Stores, 2801 Pine Lake, Ste J
- ◆ Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 "Q" Street
- ◆ University Bookstore, Lower Level-Nebraska Union-City Campus
- ◆ Usborne Books via Alicia Chrastil at 499-8147
- ◆ Usborne Books via Miriam LeBlanc at 489-8800, [www.MiriamBooks.com](http://www.MiriamBooks.com)
- ◆ Usborne Books via Becky McGarvie at 477-0249
- ◆ Usborne Books via Amy Rempe at 486-1031
- ◆ Usborne Books via Megan Tupper at 476-0394

If you and others cannot get to a store to make purchases or would simply prefer to let LEA volunteers do the shopping, donations by check may be sent to: Harvest of Books, c/o LEA, 4920 Normal Blvd., Lincoln NE 68506 or contribute online at [www.lincolneducationassociation.org](http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org). Individuals often use the Harvest of Books as a way of donating memorials to departed friends and loved ones throughout the year, too.

**Contact the LEA Office if you would like promotional bookmarks to distribute to your friends, family, and organizations you're involved in to help promote the Harvest. 489-7500 or e-mail [teresa.greve@nsea.org](mailto:teresa.greve@nsea.org)**

*Please help the LEA and the Harvest of Books continue to be a cherished tradition!*

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# Retirement Seminars with Roger Rea

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Mark your calendars now to hear Roger Rea's presentation on the Nebraska Retirement System. This presentation is different than the one you attend from the state retirement department or the one presented by the district. You should attend all three.

October 23, 2008 and March 12, 2009 (The March 12 session is a repeat of October 23)  
4:15 to 5:30 p.m.  
LEA Office

Attendance is limited to 30 people. RSVP to Elaine at [elaine.koch@nsea.org](mailto:elaine.koch@nsea.org) or 489-7500.

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Newer LEA Members: Erasing Student Loans and Debt

October 11, 2008
8:30 am to 12:30 pm
LEA Office
4920 Normal Blvd

Attendance is limited to 25 people. RSVP to Elaine at elaine.koch@nsea.org or 489-7500.

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# New LEA Members: A classroom management class.

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**"I Can Do It"**  
**(Can be counted as District Flex Time or for professional growth)**

The Lincoln Education Association wants to help you so that your classroom runs effectively and efficiently. LEA is offering a classroom management class for district flex time or professional growth points for teachers with five or fewer years of experience or for those teachers who want to hone their skills. Click below to read a description of the seven hour class and to register on line with Lincoln Public Schools. The class is being offered Saturday, October 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The instructors are specially trained LPS/LEA teachers for the NEA/NSEA/LEA I Can Do It classroom management class.

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/staffdevlps/cw/showcourse.asp?5915> (October 18 Registration Link)

Sign up today to help yourself for the rest of the year and your career.

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New and Updated LEA Discount Card Participants

Legends Bar & Grill
8300 Northwoods Dr
Lincoln, NE 68505
488-8300
www.lincolnlegends.com

Legends salutes LEA members by offering 15% off your order. Join us for great food and fun. Huge big screen tv's, karaoke, FAC and sports events. Daily drink and food specials! Carry out available.

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**The Richdale Apartments**  
**Jennifer Steffen**  
**7201 Pioneers Blvd**  
**Rockledge Oaks, 8320 Rockledge Rd, 484-7999; Tanglewood, 301 N 44th St, 466-6000;**  
**Lionsgate, 5100 Vine Street; 467-5777; Lenox Village, 7201 Pioneers Blvd, 484-7900**

5% off. Discount may be used as a one-time lump-sum discount off of the first month's rent or as a 5% monthly discount over the one-year lease term. Subject to availability. *Members not yet residing in a Richdale Lincoln property who sign a 1-year lease will receive the discount off their first year. Also, if a member is already a resident who has already signed his/her lease, the current lease cannot be changed. If the resident signs another lease with our company and the discount is still being offered with the Lincoln Education Association, the resident may bring it to our attention towards their lease renewal expiration. At that time we will take it to our corporate office for review.*

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Aitken Educational Specialties
Jim Aitken
(402) 429-0185
james.aitken@mindspring.com

Current Special through October 31st: 15% discount on any size order and free shipping.
Offer not valid for Abrams Products.

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# Host Families Needed for 20 Teachers

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To: LEA Members  
From: Dolores Mather, LEA-Retired Member  
488-4228, or [DCMather@aol.com](mailto:DCMather@aol.com)

Joe McNulty, UNL Ed. Administration, has asked me to find week end hosts for 20 teachers who will be attending a seminar at the University. They are from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

They are teachers of English, History and Social Sciences.

He hopes to find home stays for them on the week end of **November 1**. Hosts would pick them up at their hotel on Saturday a.m., host them over night and return them to their hotel **Sunday, afternoon - November 2**.

In return, host would be paid \$75, per guest, and be invited to a going away party the following week end.

I have met previous participants, and found them to be most interesting and vivacious.

If interested, please contact Dolores Mather at 488-4228, or [DCMather@aol.com](mailto:DCMather@aol.com), by October 1.

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Loan Forgiveness

Depending upon the type of loan that you have, you may qualify for federal loan forgiveness on the basis of working in a school that is designated as low income or you may qualify on the basis of teaching in a content shortage area.

NDE does not have specific information about federal loans and forgiveness processes; our primary role in the process is to identify the shortage areas and to identify Title I schools. Below is a list of resources that you can contact for information about the program, including requirements and eligibility.

National Student Loan Program

- Includes Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and Stafford
- Website: <http://www.nslp.org>
- Toll-free number: 800-735-8778, ext. 6410

US Department of Education

- Includes Stafford, Perkins, FFEL, TEACH and Direct Loans
- Website: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp>
- Toll-free number: 800-433-3243

Please note that when searching for low-income school districts within the [Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory](#) on the USDE web site, the previous school year may need to be used to obtain results—the data for the current school year is not always available. Further assistance is available by clicking on the Additional Search Help link.

Information about designated shortage areas can be found on the same site as the low-income school districts provided above or you can search the U.S. Department of Education’s Annual Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing document at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf>. Nebraska shortage areas are updated on an annual basis and if the current school year information is not available on the USDE website, you can contact Danielle Lotspeich at 402-471-2783 or danielle.lotspeich@nebraska.gov.

If you were awarded a Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant by your college's financial aid office, remember that you are required to verify each year that you are meeting your teaching responsibilities. This process is done through the US Department of Education, not through the Nebraska Department of Education or your college. Failure to verify your status will result in your grant converting to a loan. You may find additional information on the TEACH Grant through the US Department of Education's website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>.

If you were awarded a Nebraska Attracting Excellence to Teaching scholarship/loan, information about forgiveness/repayment can be found at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/LEGAL/COVER25.html>. These scholarships were awarded by Nebraska teacher preparation programs beginning in 2006-2007. For more information about the Attracting Excellence scholarship/loan, please contact Danielle Lotspeich at 402-471-2783 or danielle.lotspeich@nebraska.gov.

In addition, you will find more information on the Nebraska Teacher Education website at <http://www.nebraskateachereducation.org>. Due to staffing issues, the site is a bit dated, but the narrative information contained there is still valid!

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## **Financial Seminars**

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Click on the following link to view the upcoming financial seminars ...

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

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Resources from the NEA Website

In This Issue

1. Top 20 Back-to-School Resources

2. Tackling Teacher Cliques
 3. Create Your Own Classroom Olympics
 4. Union 101
 5. How Do You Recharge?
 6. Lesson Plans, Classroom Resources, And More
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Visit the [NEA.org web site!](#)

1. [TOP 20 BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES](#)
This collection of our best resources includes tips for welcoming students, setting up your classroom, meeting parents, and tackling lessons on the first day, more.
2. [TACKLING TEACHER CLIQUES](#)
Dirty looks and behind-the-back chatter. And that's in the staff lounge. To help you become more comfortable when teacher tribes rule the school, we've rounded up some tips from the teachers who've lived, loved, and left alone the cliques.
3. [CREATE YOUR OWN CLASSROOM OLYMPICS](#)
From the "Snowball Pitch Pyramid" (yes, you can do it in August!) to the "Math Meet" we have 8 interdisciplinary activities (adaptable for grades 3-12) that let students compete in their own Classroom Olympics.
4. [UNION 101](#)
You and Your Association: Knowing more about your union and being active in it can pay big dividends. We've got the ABCs all laid out.
5. [HOW DO YOU RECHARGE?](#)
What is your secret to recharging during a hectic school day? Share your responses and see what other educators are saying on our discussion board — or email them to [Cindy Long](#). Responses may be used in an upcoming issue of NEA Today.

6. 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](#)!
