



# LEA *Express*

April 3, 2008

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

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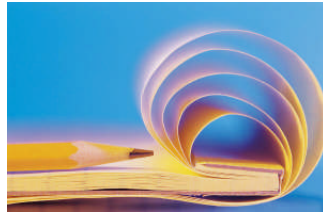
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## LEA Board Minutes



Click on the following link to read the LEA Board Minutes.

<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.

## LEA Foundation Grants and Scholarships

**LEA Foundation Catastrophic Grants—Deadline May 1**

If you are interested in applying for the LEA Foundation Catastrophic Assistance Grant available for members (four times per year), please apply by the May 1 deadline.

If you would like a grant application contact Elaine at [elaine.koch@nsea.org](mailto:elaine.koch@nsea.org) or 489-7500. All applications are also available on the LEA website at <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/LEAFGrants.html>.

### **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 Patronsky), please apply by the April 15 deadline.

If you know of a Lincoln Public High School junior or senior interested in pursuing a teaching career, two LEA Foundation Future Teacher Scholarships are available with an April 15 deadline.

If you would like a scholarship application contact Elaine at [elaine.koch@nsea.org](mailto:elaine.koch@nsea.org) or 489-7500. All applications are also available on the LEA website at <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/Scholarships.html>.

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## **LEA Money Savers**



New LEA Discount Card Participant!

✓ Kohler Care – Year-Round Lawn Care

Click on the following link to view the additional ways your dues can “pay-off” for you...

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



### **Kohler Care Year-Round Lawn Care**

John Kohler  
[kohlercare@yahoo.com](mailto:kohlercare@yahoo.com)  
(402) 202-2929

15% off to LEA Members

Mowing, landscaping, debris removal, tree and shrub trimming, mulching, fertilizing, concrete work. Free estimates!

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## LEA Tidbits



- ✓ LEA Retirement Dinner—May 22
  - ✓ The LEA and the District Administrative Appraisal Committee invites you to a Spring Appraisal Forum!
  - ✓ Table Leaders for Appraisal Forum Needed
  - ✓ LEAF Fundraiser
  - ✓ Children's Fund Golf Tourney: June 10 at Yankee Hill in Lincoln
  - ✓ NSEA: 'Yes' on Amendment One
  - ✓ NSEA Membership Cards to Arrive in December
  - ✓ Stipend Eligibility for ESPs Studied
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### LEA Retirement Dinner—May 22

Mark your calendars for May 22 for the LEA Retirement Dinner. This dinner recognizes the long time service of LEA members to Lincoln Public Schools. The dinner will be held at the Lincoln Firefighter's Hall. Invitations will be extended to LEA members who have indicated that they will be retiring. Each retiree will receive two dinner tickets. Additional tickets can be purchased. Details will be forthcoming.

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### The LEA and the District Administrative Appraisal Committee invites you to a Spring Appraisal Forum!

- Who: All Certificated Staff
- When and Where: 4/10/08, 4:15 – 5:30 at Scott Middle School  
Or  
4/21/08, 3:45 – 5:00 at Lux Middle School
- What: An interactive table discussion about your values and beliefs about the LPS Appraisal Process
- Why: We are in Year 1 of a study of the appraisal process. **By contract the Appraisal Process is jointly studied. The final LPS Appraisal is approved by both the LEA and LPS.**

**To help us have a big enough room and enough table top leaders, your registration would be appreciated. If you are unable to register, please come anyway. We want to hear your voice.**

How to Register: Go to this website  
[http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pZ4xYjz7\\_o8bMnz4\\_qYnJYQ](http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pZ4xYjz7_o8bMnz4_qYnJYQ)  
or See your principal

Please bring your friends. We are excited to start this conversation!

Please contact Bess Scott (bscott@lps.org) at 436-1150 if you have questions.

**Table Leaders for Appraisal Forum Needed**

**[LEA would like to have LEA members take on the role of a table leader. If you are interested, please let Arlene know at [arlene.rea@nsea.org](mailto:arlene.rea@nsea.org) and she will submit your name to the district.]**

Teacher leaders will lead the discussion for all attendees (teachers and administrators). Table leaders will have a table of 6 to 10 attendees. We will provide 3 - 4 questions for the group to discuss. Table leaders and their table will write the ideas on paper at the table. At the end of the discussion, table leaders will stay at their table to share their table ideas while the rest of the table goes on a "table tour" to see and hear what other tables were thinking. There will be no official large group share out. Table leaders will be expected to come 30 minutes early to the forum that they will lead at for the "facilitator training."

After the forum, the table notes will then be compiled, analyzed for themes and shared with participants, the Appraisal Committee, and any other interested parties.

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**Fundraiser**

The LEA Foundation Fundraiser is March 25.

Plan to support and attend the LEAF Fundraiser at the Cornhusker Marriott on April 25. Click onto <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org/> to view the raffle and silent auction items. See your FR for raffle tickets or contact Elaine at the LEA Office, [elaine.koch@nsea.org](mailto:elaine.koch@nsea.org) or 489-7500.

Please support your LEA Foundation!! Money raised is used for scholarships, professional grants and grants for catastrophic needs in the lives of members

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**Children's Fund Golf Tourney:  
June 10 at Yankee Hill in Lincoln**

It may be too early to golf for some folks, but it certainly isn't too early to schedule time to play in NSEA's annual Children's Fund Golf Tournament! The 12th annual tournament will be held Tuesday, June 10, at Yankee Hill Country Club in Lincoln.

Details and sponsorships are still being arranged, but all proceeds will benefit the NSEA Children's Fund. The 2007 tournament raised nearly \$20,000 for the Fund.

Founded in 1994, the NSEA Children's Fund attempts to meet the modest needs

of students encountered by NSEA members during the working school day. For instance, teachers often see students who need new eyeglasses, shoes, or coats. Any NSEA member can apply for funds. Assistance is immediate and confidential. A phone call to NSEA is all that's required.

The Fund's goal is to ensure that personal need is not allowed to interfere with a student's ability to learn. Financed by donations, well more than \$20,000 in assistance was delivered to students thus far this school year.

To register for the tournament, contact NSEA's Sally Bodtke at 1-800-742-0047 or via e-mail at: [sbodtke@nsea.org](mailto:sbodtke@nsea.org)

Those interested in donating to or requesting assistance from the Children's Fund should call Bodtke.

For details on Yankee Hill, go to: <http://www.yankeehillcc.com/>

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### **NSEA: 'Yes' on Amendment One**

The NSEA Board of Directors has voted to support Amendment One, a constitutional amendment that would give community endowment funds more latitude in their investment options.

Community endowments are investments that provide support to local senior centers, parks, public education and other services for Nebraska towns and communities, often paying for services or items that might otherwise be paid for with tax dollars.

Endowments are created when a benefactor leaves money or income-producing property to a community, or when a community decides to sell an asset, such as unused land. Only the income generated by the endowment can be spent, never the endowment itself.

However, under current investment opportunities for endowments, the average annual return is about five percent. The average annual return for the investment options allowed under Amendment One would be nine percent — almost double. Over a 20-year span, that means that a community's endowment fund would have nearly 80 percent more income to put toward local services.

Amendment One has widespread support. U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson and Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning are the campaign's co-chairs.

Nebraskans will vote on Amendment One at the General Election in November.

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### **NSEA Membership Cards to Arrive in December**

Over the past three years, NSEA members have received their membership cards on or about Aug. 1. That date will change this year.

In an effort to provide the same great service and discounts, and to save your Association money, the cards will now be delivered in early December.

Because the 2007-08 membership cards are valid for Access discounts through the end of December 2008, service to members will be uninterrupted.

Watch for your new NSEA membership card, set to arrive in early December.

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### **Stipend Eligibility for ESPs Studied**

Education Support Professionals (ESPs) may become eligible for consideration in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska scholarship program.

The NSEA Board of Directors has asked President Jess Wolf to appoint a committee to consider ESP eligibility for the scholarships.

As it stands, ESPs have not been considered for the scholarships, which cover up to one-half the cost of tuition for one post-graduate college course. The stipends are offered three times each year, to cover costs for spring, summer and winter session coursework.

NSEA Board Member Mary Ann Niemoth, Hastings, chairs the committee that reviews scholarship applications.

“We do feel there is a need to address this issue and felt that it was important to review the needs of our ESP members in this regard,” Niemoth said.

Rebecca Marks, Omaha, said many ESPs are furthering their education.

“Our ESP membership covers a wide gamut of jobs. We have one ESP in Omaha with a master’s degree,” she said.

The scholarship program began in 1986, before ESPs were eligible for Association membership. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarship monies to NSEA members.

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## Calendar of Events



Click on the following link for the LEA Calendar of Events ...

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