

**FR Council**

<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>

**March 13, 2008**

**Lefler Middle School, 4:15 p.m.**

\*Note: In April and May, FR Council will meet at the Union Bank Building at 4723 Calvert.

**BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT:** Belmont, Bryan Community, Dawes, Fredstrom, Hartley, Hawthorne, Holmes, Huntington, Lux, McPhee, Park, Randolph, Roper, Saratoga, Sheridan

**“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING:** April Jorgensen, Mickle, won a gas card to U Stop from Horace Mann.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Arlene called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of February 21, 2008 were approved as printed.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Marcia Benner

The Financial Report for January 2008 showed the following items: funds have exceeded the budgeted amount in two areas: 1. Program & Building/Supplies to update the Lower Level, and 2. Collective Bargaining and Research/Bargaining Team for the supplies to cover the supplies for the joint LEA/LPS joint training in Interest Bargaining. The January 2008 Month End amount showed a marked increase because of the payment to the district to cover Arlene’s salary.

**DRAWING:** Shelley Clayburn, Rousseau, won a gift card to Office Depot from Horace Mann.

FRs were asked to fill out a card to request a Planning Calendar from Horace Mann.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

President’s Report –Arlene Rea

Elections –LEA members can vote on line through Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. As of today, 805 members had voted. LEA sent an email to FRs today; please use the information to encourage members in your building to vote! LEA members are wanting to serve at the local, district, state, and national levels—please give them your support.

ProCom Update—Building principals should have sent it out today. If you did not receive it, LEA will also be sending it out to members. It is important that all members know this information. The Workload discussion is complex and time is being taken to discuss and study related issues.

LEA Leaders LINK—On the LEA website, you can now find monthly calendars for Jim and Arlene, the Executive Summary, and Dan’s Member Rights Report. The Executive Summary and the Member Rights Report will continue to be a paper copy, so that it can be posted in buildings. This is another effort to save paper and members dues money. You can find the Leaders link on the left hand side of the LEA home page.

T-shirts at LEA—NSEA gave LEA about 900 t-shirts. They are plain with no logo and no labels, sizes L and XL. If you have any interest, please call or stop by the LEA Office. 489-7500

New Leader Institute—The Institute has been happening since 1990. This year’s dates are June 8-11; it will be held in Lincoln and all expenses are paid. Please encourage new leaders in your building to attend. Contact Arlene before March 20, 2008 if you have members you would like to be a part of this experience.

Dues Proposal—Marcia Benner

The LEA Board has been reviewing, adjusting, and balancing the LEA budget for the past several months. We discussed it at scheduled Board meetings and we met on a Saturday for three hours. The LEA Board is recommending that Active full-time dues for 2008-2009 be set at \$154.00 which is a \$5.00 increase. With the other membership categories adjusted accordingly and to increase this year’s current active full time membership by 20 members. As a reminder, the LEA Board approves the budget, while FR Council approves the dues proposal. At the

April FR Council, FRs will vote on this proposal. NSEA Dues proposal will be \$14.00 at Delegate Assembly in April and NEA will recommend a \$5.00 increase at Representative Assembly in June.

LEA PAC—Jan Olmstead and Kathy Spahr

The LEA-PAC Co-Chairs reported that LEA-PAC members will be busily engaged interviewing legislative candidates for possible recommendations by both LEA-PAC and NSEA on March 18 and 19. District 21 has six candidates in the race, District 25 has three candidates, District 27 has three candidates, and District 29 has two candidates. In order to be considered for a recommendation, candidates must (1) complete a written questionnaire approved by the NSEA Board of Directors and (2) complete an in-person interview with LEA-PAC members who either live or work in the candidate's district. Interviews will last up to an hour and will occupy many hours after school and well into the evening.

FRs expressed their appreciation for the hard work that LEA-PAC and the Interview Teams will be doing with the interview process. It is a valuable process and the time it takes is greatly appreciated. The interview is focused on education questions only! The process helps to identify candidates who support public education.

LEA Foundation—Marge Keep

The following scholarship applications which can be accessed on line at [www.lincolneducationassociation.org](http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org) are due April 15: Christa McAuliffe available to certificated and classified members; Barbara Buckingham Patronsky available to certificated members; Future Teacher available to LPS high school juniors and seniors planning to attend a four-year Nebraska institution. At this time the application response has not been as high as we would like. Encourage your staff members to apply or to recommend others. Six applications have been received for the Certificated Professional Grants which are due March 30. The Catastrophic Assistance Grants have a deadline of May 1.

**Drawing:** Bonnie Rosenberger, Pyrtle, won a bag with goodies and \$20.00 gift certificate to Lee Booksellers from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Kathy Greco, Arnold, won a bag with goodies and \$20.00 gift certificate to Lee Booksellers from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union.

LEA Foundation Fundraiser—Jenni Absalon and Linda Freye

Over \$12,000 has been raised in the past three years of the annual fundraiser. Because of these funds, LEAF is able to fund scholarships, grants and catastrophic assistance. Cash donations collected using the paper bag will be made into a "cash" raffle. See the Executive Summary for the LEA Foundation Fundraiser time line.

**DRAWING:** Lisa Kollbaum, Pershing, won a bag with goodies and \$20.00 gift certificate to Lee Booksellers from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Marcia Benner, Lincoln High, won a bag with goodies and \$20.00 gift certificate to Lee Booksellers from First Nebraska Educators Credit Union.

Executive Director's Report—Jim Rea

Legislative Update—State aid to education is up for grabs at this point. Nothing will be certain until the end of the Legislative Session on April 17.

President and Executive Director's Calendar were available at FR Council. Check the website for future Leadership Calendars.

Member Rights Report was included in FR materials.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:** none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Linda Nelson of Irving stressed that members will need to keep abreast of the state-wide testing debate and how it will impact students and members if the CRT's and state tests are both administered. A concern was raised that the state

would lose federal dollars if we did not comply with having a state-wide test. In doing research, Title I funds could be at risk but, it is unlikely. NSEA has not yet completed a study of the number of days spent on testing.

**DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching:** Stephanie Nantkes, Arnold

**ADJOURNMENT:** Arlene adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcia Benner*

Marcia Benner  
Secretary-Treasurer