

Lincoln Education Association
<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>
FR Council
May 21, 2009
Union Bank, 4732 Calvert Lower Level, 4:15 p.m.

BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT: Arnold, Belmont, Dawes, Hartley, Humann, Huntington, Kahoa, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, Lux, McPhee, Norwood Park, Park, Pershing, Pound, Pyrtle, Randolph, Saratoga, Sheridan

“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING: Connie Lacy, Lincoln High, \$25.00 gift card to Olive Garden from Horace Mann.

CALL TO ORDER: Arlene called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of April 16, 2009 were with the following correction on the bottom of page one regarding LEA Retirement Dinner—“celebrations” should be “celebration.”

TREASURERS REPORT: Marcia Benner

The Financial Report for March 2009 showed no irregularities.

AWARDS—Part I

LEAF Scholarship and Professional Grant Awards

LEAF Christa McAuliffe Scholarship: Dan Bunde, Park.

LEAF Barbara Buckingham Patronsby: Jolene Walker, Clinton.

LEAF STAR Student Scholarship: Taylor Mack, Lincoln Southwest (child of Lori Mack, LEA member).

LEAF SOAR Student Scholarship: Jeff Morrison, Lincoln East.

LEAF Professional Grants—Fall: Jennifer Northouse, Bryan Community and Chris Rafat, Zeman. Spring: Sibyl Gruhl, Maxey and Heidi Martindale, Irving.

Special Awards

LEA Volunteer Friend: James and Alice Dam of Hooper, NE.

Corporate Friend: Christine Dean and Barry Gates, US Bank.

Special Friend of Education: Keith Prettyman, former LPS School Board member.

NSEA Rookie of the Year Finalist: Tiffany Wlaschin, Lincoln High.

NSEA ESP of the Year: Kathleen Wingard, LPS Transportation.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION—Part I

President’s Report—Arlene Rea

At the April FR Council, nominations were taken for the vacancy of the At-Large Position of the LEA Board. Nominated were: Marge Keep of East and Karen Shelton of Everett. Matthew Kutscher of Lincoln High was not able to attend. Michael Geist of Lincoln Southwest chose to not run. Each candidate had the opportunity to give a two-minute speech. The candidate who received 50% of the vote plus one was declared the winner. The election results were: Matt Kutscher, 6; Marge Keep, 18; and Karen Shelton, 33 votes. Karen Shelton was elected and will fill the At-Large Board seat.

AWARDS—Part II

LEA Building Membership Awards (85% or greater): Calvert, 85%; Mickle, 85%; McPhee, 86%; Norwood Park, 86%; Zeman, 87%; Hartley, 87%; Pyrtle, 88%; Meadow Lane, 89%; Randolph, 90%; Kahoa, 95%; Arts & Humanities Focus

Program, 100%; Instructional Technology Focus Program, 100%; Science Focus Program, 100 %; and Yankee Hill, 100%.

Buildings Showing an Increase in Membership: 1%—Kahoa, Lincoln High, Lux and Randolph; 2%—Everett, Hartley, Lakeview, and Lincoln Northeast; 3%—Culler, Lancaster Youth Services, Mickle, Pound, and West Lincoln; 4%—Belmont, Huntington, Lincoln Southeast, and Morley; 5%—Cavett, Norwood, and Pershing; 6%—Fredstrom, Meadow Lane, and Saratoga; 7%—Bryan and Clinton; 29%—Yankee Hill; 33%—Science Focus Program.

LEA Elementary FR of the Year: Suzanne Oldham, West Lincoln.

LEA Middle School FR of the Year: Paula Buckner, Scott.

LEA High School FR of the Year: Jim Danson, Lincoln Southwest.

LEA Nurse FR of the Year: Dianne Frydendall-Smith.

Recognition of LEA-PAC Co-Chairs: Jan Olmstead, Lefler and Kathy Spahr, Culler.

Recognition of ProCom members: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Doreen Ainslie, Mickle; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; Matthew Hoffman, Lincoln North Star; Arlene Rea and Jim Rea, LEA; Daniel Ross, Cavett; and Resa Wiltse, Meadow Lane.

Recognition of the Appraisal Committee members: Linda Freye, Maxey; Clay Hollmann, Southeast; Bob Reeker, Eastridge; Karen Shelton, Everett; and Jen Van Winkle, Lux.

Recognition of the Negotiations Committee members: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Tom Ahlschwede, Lincoln Southwest; Michael Geist, Lincoln Southwest; Jan Olmstead, Lefler; Arlene Rea and Jim Rea, LEA; and Daniel Ross, Calvert.

LEA Board of Directors: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; Julia Doerr, Lincoln High; Linda Freye, Maxey; Matthew Hoffman, Lincoln North Star; Jan Olmstead, Lefler; Deb Rasmussen, Goodrich; Daniel Ross, Cavett; Tammy Schafer, Holmes; Karen Shelton, Everett; and Resa Wiltse, Meadow Lane.

LEA Board of Directors (new or in a new role): Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; Rita Bennett, Lincoln Southeast; and Jan Olmstead, Lefler.

Recognition of NSEA Board of Directors representing Capitol District: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; and John Heineman, Lincoln High.

Recognition of Capitol District Board of Directors: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; Linda Freye, Maxey; John Heineman, Lincoln High; and Tammy Schafer, Holmes.

Recognition of LEA Executive Committee: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Marcia Benner, Lincoln High; Jan Olmstead, Lefler; and Jim Rea, LEA

Recognition of LEA staff: Teresa Greve, Elaine Koch, Jim Rea, and Dan Studer.

LEAF Fundraiser Special Basket Awards: Highest Bid, Mark Shively; Most Colorful Basket, Clinton; Leisure Time Basket, Brownell; Heaviest, Norwood Park; Great Name Basket, Eastridge (Store It Stamp It or Stick It!); Most Baskets Donated, Lincoln East; and Funniest, Pound (Frog Basket—Green and Growing). Volunteer Appreciation Award: Linda Freye, Maxey.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION—Part II

President's Report—Arlene Rea

ProCom Report—ProCom met on Wednesday, May 20 to discuss the Action Plan. You may now go to: Human Resources and find a link to ProCom. Minutes of meetings and other documents will be found. SPED Forums were attended by about 100 people; information is being compiled and will be looked at more thoroughly in September.

State of the Association—In her final address to FR Council, Arlene shared what she learned the past six years. She addressed how collaboration, an established model with the district, is time consuming, stressful and rewarding. Arlene learned that everything having to do with education is political and that LEA must be a player in the school board and legislative arenas. Another area Arlene chose to address is the importance of volunteers to the well-being of the Association. She wished that all staff would understand the value of their membership from the insurance it provides to the cost savings that are available to those who wish to use them. Arlene pointed out that LEA has power, not in the military sense, but power in the form of respect. This respect comes from the scholarships and grants LEA distributes, the 120,000 books distributed through Harvest of Books over the past twelve years, the quality salaries and contracts that have been negotiated, the quality working conditions, and the volunteer work done in the community by LEA members across the city. LEA has helped LPS be a quality district because of the collaboration model practiced by both. Finally, Arlene pointed out that she has been riding on the shoulders of those who came before her—the fifty-two presidents, the countless officers and faculty representatives, volunteers and staff.

Association and Legislative Update—Jim Rea

The Legislature is in its final days. State aid will be finalized on June 1. Retirement contribution will increase 1% to help keep fund viable.

The leadership transition continues to go well. The new LEA Executive Committee met on April 28 and worked with the LEA staff on goals for next Association year.

Jim presented Arlene with a Crystal Apple Award from the Horace Mann representatives Perry Showers and Candace Specht.

Member Rights Update was enclosed and is also available at www.lincolneducationassociation.org.

Executive Summary was available at FR Council and is also available at www.lincolneducationassociation.org.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ACTION ITEMS: None.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Campbell, Individual/Group Comment/Concern: This is the third time this year that the report card entry has fallen over a holiday weekend. Many elementary specialist teachers have over 600 plus students to grade with multiple grading categories. It can take up to 10 hours or more to just enter these grades online and that does not include figuring the grades. The Maxey computer teacher has reported spending 11 hours every quarter entering his grades. Another problem is during peak times within this arbitrary window the system moves at a snail's pace and makes entering grades impossible. This limits working on entering grades during one's planning time. 1. Who decides when the window is opened and closed? 2. Can the report card window be open sooner and longer to avoid teachers from having to work over holiday weekends or fall/spring breaks? *Response: LEA will give building names to LPS and they will work with those buildings.*

East, Building Comment: My annual thanks to Horace Mann, First Nebraska Educators and Union Bank for their continued support of LEA—great treats, prizes and a welcoming, comfortable environment while we conduct Association business. Thank you for your support during the year that we don't even know about.

Recognition of two retiring teachers: Bill Myers, Lincoln High; Barb Hetcko, Prescott; and Suzanne Oldham, West Lincoln.

Jenni presented Arlene with a school house print as a Thank You for her leadership from FRs.

Flowers at the tables went to: Jenni Absalon, Maxey; Rita Bennett, Lincoln Southeast; Paula Buckner, Scott; Karen Dress, East; Dianne Frydendall-Smith, Health Services; Carole Glenn, Maxey; Karen Goldenstein, Campbell; Becky Hoefling, Meadow Lane; Cindy Johnson, Hill; Sheila Johnson, Everett; Connie Lacy, Lincoln High; Bonnie Malcolm, Lincoln North Star; Cheryl McMurtry, Roper; Alice Mildenberger, Adams; Bill Myers, Lincoln High; Jennifer Northouse, Bryan Community; Cindy Paulson, Lefler; Deb Rasmussen, Goodrich; Risa Udell, Morley; and Gregg Widick, Goodrich.

ADJOURNMENT: Arlene adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Benner

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Secretary-Treasurer