

**FR Council**

<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>

**December 20 , 2007**

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

**BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT:** Arnold, Beattie, Belmont, Bryan Community, Calvert, Dawes, Hawthorne, Huntington, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, McPhee, Norwood Park, Park, Pershing, Pyrtle, Saratoga, Sheridan, West Lincoln

**“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING:** Linda Freye, Maxey, won a \$10.00 gift card to Valentino’s from Mary Oestmann of Rossi Financial Services.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Arlene called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Thank you Tiffany Wlaschlin and Lincoln High School DECA for the mitten/scarf/hat drive and inviting LEA to be a part of this activity.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of November 15, 2007 were approved as printed.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Marcia Benner

The Financial Reports ending October and November 2007 were in the FR materials. Marcia reminded FR’s that we are two months into this fiscal year and monthly costs are normal. “As a part of my job as LEA Secretary-Treasurer, I know that LEA is committed to paying our bills on time. I sign checks twice a month so that Elaine can send checks out on time. I am very appreciative of the work that Elaine and LEA do to make sure we are timely with all of our payments.”

**DRAWING:** Gregg Widdick, Goodrich, won a \$20.00 gift card to Lee Booksellers and a cell phone holder from 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Cheri Karr, Clinton, won a \$10.00 Weekender Coupon from Diane Bechtold.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

President’s Report –Arlene Rea

Negotiations Survey—As of today (12/20/07) 1,270 LEA members took the survey—that is 55% of our membership. This response sends a powerful message during negotiations. The top concerns were salary, fringe, and workload. ProCom continues to work on teacher workload; we are narrowing the concerns on PLCs and FLEX time. Jim Rea asked for specific feedback from FR’s at the 12/20/07 meeting; members were given time to fill out the form; some buildings asked for more time or time to talk with the members.

ProCom and the Workload Report—The discussion will continue throughout the year. A report will be issued in January 2008. Some issues will need more time to be resolved.

Election Timeline—The 2008 Election Timeline with March 3-16 noted was approved by the LEA Board at the December 17, 2007 meeting. Members will vote for LEA positions, Capitol District positions, NSEA Board seats, and for delegates to DA and RA. This year all districts in Capitol district will be voting electronically for the Capitol District and NSEA positions. Please remind your members to vote and to support LEA members who are willing to serve the Association at all levels. It is important that LEA’s voice be heard.

Elections Committee: Paula Buckner, Elections Committee Chair said, please invite and encourage members to be active. One way is to vote in March 2008. Please read the January and February issues of the NSEA Voice magazine to learn about the candidates and know who is running. The first message is: **VOTE** (Voices Of The Election) – LEA members are the voices and this is the way for your voice to be heard. The second message is: **RUN** (represent/unify/negotiate) for LEA, Capitol District, and NSEA positions. We need your help! Publicity materials are being created. Mark your calendar and get the message out: March 3-16, 2008...VOTE!

Tammy Schafer, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher /Holmes, shared her experiences with LEA and attending RA. “It is true—one person’s voice can be heard at the national meeting. The process works! Now more than ever, it is important to me and to you to be actively involved in the Association.”

### **The deadline to apply for NSEA Board Seats??**

*I Can Do It* - FLEX Staff Development— On January 30, 2007 and February 6, 2008, the training will be offered for district FLEX time. Please encourage members to participate in this opportunity; it has been highly recommended by those who have participated

### LEA Foundation and Fundraiser—Marge Keep

Marge asked that members post the yellow information sheet; it contains current information and changes to the Foundation. You are the one members go to for information NEW! Teacher Grants are available to LEA members. Each semester one elementary member (K-5) and one secondary member (6-12) can be awarded a grant for up to \$250. The Grant deadline is March 30, 2008. Applications will soon be able to be submitted on line. See your Building FR for more information.

Catastrophic Assistance for LEA Members is now available! Members can apply or a member can apply for a member. It is on an application basis and the member must be facing a catastrophic event. Assistance will be awarded four times a year. This school year’s deadlines are March 1 and May 1, 2008. Assistance will be given approximately March 15 and May 15, 2008. Again, forms will soon be available for you to submit on line!

Payroll Deduct. If each member gave \$1.00 per month, we could raise over \$24,000 for the Foundation. Watch for the flyer coming to your mailbox.

Linda Freye kicked off the fourth year of the LEA Foundation Fundraiser. This is the big event for fundraising; payroll deduction is another way to support. It will be held at DA at the Cornhusker Hotel. Basket ideas are always a hit. If you want your idea to be included in the NSEA Voice—January 14 is the deadline. Baskets need to be submitted to LEA by April 1, 2008. It is a fun activity and another way to help our members when they need it most! Ideas have included artwork, services (massage, handyman for 2 hours, ...)—think about your talents and submit an idea. Contact Linda Freye at [lfrey@lps.org](mailto:lfrey@lps.org) or Jenni Absalon at [jabsalon@lps.org](mailto:jabsalon@lps.org) or LEA if you want to be a part of this event.

Basket ideas are due on January 14, 2008 in order to be included in NSEA publicity. If you cannot meet this deadline, they will be accepted up to April 1.

**DRAWING:** Cindy Swanson, Pound, won a private tennis Lesson From Nebraska Tennis Center, 7600 N. 70<sup>th</sup> and an Ice Scraper. Carole Glenn, Maxey, won a \$10.00 coupon for Weekenders from Diane Bechtold. Cindy Paulson, Lefler, won a \$20 gift card to Lee Booksellers and an ice scraper from 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Educators Credit Union.

### Executive Director’s Report—Jim Rea

The Nebraska Legislature convenes on Wednesday, January 9, for a short session—which is 60 days. The NSEA renovation continues on target. The NSEA staff will move out of the state headquarters on February 22. The temporary location will be at 2701 Old Cheney Road. Renovation is expected to take 16 months. Discussed a memorandum of understanding between the LEA and LPS which was signed on December 12, 2007 concerning Math Graduation Demonstration Exams. The LEA worked on this contract issue since August 10, 2007. The agreement outlines that teachers will receive up to two hours of workshop rate pay for grading exams outside of the contract day. The 2007 audit is complete and will be presented to the LEA Board of Directors for approval on February 4, 2008.

President and Executive Director’s Calendar were available at FR Council.

Member Rights Report was included in FR materials.

**DRAWING:** Angela Bates, Southwest, won a \$20.00 gift card to Lee Booksellers and a cell phone holder. Susan Bauer, Clinton, won a \$10.00 coupon to Weekenders from Diane Bechtold and a cell phone holder. Karen Heafer, Hartley, won a \$20.00 mall gift card from Candy Specht of Horace Mann Companies. Bill Myers, Lincoln High,

won a \$20.00 gift card to Lee Bookseller from 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Viphanee Thongdee, Elliott, won a \$10.00 coupon to Weekenders from Diane Bechtold and an ice scraper.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:** none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Jim Rea was elected a Regional Director of the Urban Directors Association. Congratulations Jim!

Lincoln Southeast, Group Concern: We are still struggling with Docushare-related issues and confusion with what is truly happening. Recently some of us were told one thing by one district representative, and then another thing by a different representative. We need straight answers, and ALL teachers need to hear the same thing, and it should be done in writing. As it stands now, we've been told by one person that we have to painstakingly move files one at a time from ulocker, which means a lot of us will spend many, many hours on this project; another time another district rep said we could maybe move groups of files at a time but it would cost teachers \$80 per person to do it. We've also received conflicting information about Docushare vs. e-disk, and which one of these we're supposed to be using for primary file storage. The problem with e-disk is we can't access it at home; portable storage media aren't always failsafe to use between school & home. The district needs to correct the miscommunication, lack of communication, and workload overload that we feel is the result of these software changes. *Response: Your concern has been forwarded.*

Lincoln Southeast, Individual Comment: I liked starting August 20 this year, and the idea that we will be done on May 31. As more and more buildings get air conditioning and warm-weather scheduling becomes less of an issue, I would like the district to please revisit the idea of trying to make first semester end when winter break begins. What we do to kids in high school with finals after a week or two break is NOT best practice! *Response: When all buildings are air conditioned, LEA is certain that your proposal will be reviewed.*

**DRAWING** for ½ day of Guest Teaching: Brooklyn Schwab, Elliott

**ADJOURNMENT:** Arlene adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcia Benner*

Marcia Benner  
Secretary-Treasurer