

LEA • LANSING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

LEEA • DISPATCH

Letter from MEA President Iris Salters

You will be receiving a letter via U.S. mail, from MEA President Iris Salters. The letter outlines Race to the Top (RTTT), and where we stand as an organization on this issue. **It's important that you read this letter carefully, as RTTT has the potential to change working conditions for all public educators in Michigan.** Your LEA leadership is receiving regular updates from the MEA regarding Race to the Top, and as always we will keep you informed as the situation changes.

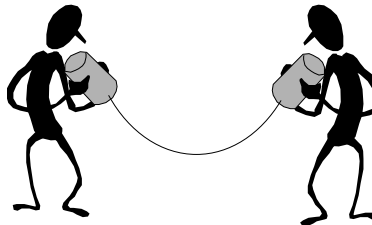
January 21st & February 12th—Half Days

Thursday January 21st and Friday February 12th are half days for students. The afternoon has been set aside as individual planning per the LSEA contract. For **all LEA members, including lunch assistants** both days will be regular work days. All LEA staff is to work their normal number of hours per the calendar members received in the fall (your regular work hours). All assistants should contact their building administrator to receive work assignments for both afternoons.

Communication Is Key

As we have seen over the last few weeks, there are a number of major issues impacting schools across the state and within our district.

As a result, the re-



mainder of the school year promises to be challenging. With this in mind, it will be imperative that the lines of communication between membership and leadership remain open. **It is more important than ever that we have accurate addresses**

and phone numbers for our entire membership and that you keep us up-to-date on any changes in the buildings.

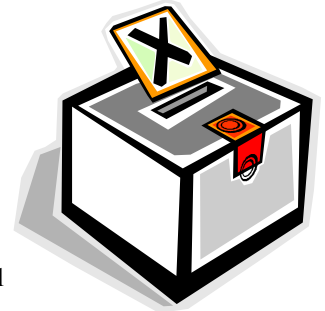
In order for your leadership to effectively do their jobs, we need consistent input from you. We must make sure there is at least one LEA member on **every** SIT Team. It's also important to make sure that each building has at least one building representative as well as an alternate, if possible. Working through our building reps is the quickest way to reach the membership in a crisis situation.

Grievances & Arbitrations

LEA grievances and arbitrations are moving forward. Your LEA leadership continues to work with MEA to see that our backlog of arbitrations moves forward. We have approximately two arbitrations scheduled every month for the remainder of the school year.

Elections

Local elections for LEA President, LEA MEA Delegates and LEA NEA Delegates will be held in conjunction with the region elections in March. As was the case last year, Region-8 elections will be held online. If necessary, arrangements can be made to receive a paper ballot through MEA. Local election procedures are being discussed and will be available at the February 11th AR meeting.



Educator's Night at the Museum

Mark your calendars! Our next joint LEA/LSEA event will be held **Friday, February 19th at Impression-5 Museum.** The museum will be closed to the public, but open to all LEA/LSEA members. Come

out and enjoy free admission to the museum, pizza and a cash bar. There will be plenty of parking in both museum lots as well as on the north side of the building. Join us as we collaborate with our LSEA colleagues and savor one of Lansing's greatest assets!

Watch for The LEA Professional Development Survey

Your LEA Professional Development Committee has put together a survey for the November 3rd professional development day. Although the sessions offered, were much improved over PD days in the past, we know we can do better. To do this we need your help. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to the LEA office either by courier or U.S. mail. Your input will help guide your Professional Development Committee, and allow us to make appropriate suggestions to the district so that further professional development offerings are meaningful, and geared to individual groups within our bargaining unit. This means no more "One Size Fits All" Professional Development!



January Brings New Committee Assignments

Per the LEA bylaws, new committee assignments will take place in January. If you are interested in working on a committee please inform the LEA office in writing. The following is a list of current LEA committees:

- Public Relations
- Professional Development
- Crisis
- Budget
- Bargaining
- Elections
- Grievance/Arbitration
- Membership
- AR Committee
- Regional Educators Political Action Committee

Quotation for January

With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men, than any other association of men.

~ Clarence Darrow

LEA Board Members:

President: David Hockaday
 Vice President: Sharon Mason
 Treasurer: Karen Bates
 Secretary: Debi Rasmussen
 Director at Large: Jordan Johnson
 Membership Chair: Patricia Pendarvis
 NEA Delegates:
 MEA Delegates:



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