



September 2010

An affiliate of the Missouri National Education Association and the 3.2 million member NEA

Volume 5, Issue 1

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FZEA Office

1011 Peruque Crossing Court

O'Fallon, MO

And another school year begins...

Dear Members,

Can you believe that we have already been in school for 20 days? We will have our first district wide early release tomorrow (Thursday, September 16) which is also midpoint for the first quarter. Time is flying by!!!

I wanted you to know what is on my "To Do" list for this semester:

- **Organize FZEA committees:**

- * **Middle School Committee.** This committee has been picked and is ready to begin the study of our middle schools and help come up with the best educational schedule for our 6th, 7th and 8th graders.
- * **Grant Committee.** Applications for our new \$250.00 grants for FZEA members were handed out at tonight's building representative meeting. Read more about these on the website FZEA1.com or inside this *Insight*. I can't wait to hand out those checks!!
- * **American Education Week.** This committee will purchase, divide, and send out gifts in November to all of our members.

1297 total members! WOW – We just keep on growing!
- * **Martin Luther King and Law Day Committee.** Representatives will collect and mail in the posters from our elementary school students and essays from our middle and high school students for these MNEA contests.

We are proud of **Lauren Wilson** from West High School. She won first place last year in the Law Day Contest. She received a \$300.00 savings bond for her essay. YEAH for Lauren and her TEACHER!

- **Attend Local President's Meetings.** Once a month I will attend, along with other local leaders, meetings with our state President Chris Guinther and Vice President Charles Smith to discuss issues and concerns at the local, state, and national level.
- **Meet with Dr. DuBray and Dr. Corum** about issues and concerns which are relayed to me by building representatives or individuals.

Save the Date

Spring RA:

TBA

Retiree Party:

Way too early

Summer Academy:

TBA

Fall RA:

Nov. 13th
Kansas City

Rep Mtg:

Sept. 15

Exec Board:

Oct. 6

- **Visit buildings.** I will be trying to get to all the buildings in the afternoons or during faculty meetings. I will let your building reps know when I am visiting your building in case you have a concern you would like to talk about during my visit.
- **Communicating daily** with teachers who have district or personal concern. Please don't ever hesitate to contact me with concerns.

Please email or call with any concerns, issues, or recommendations you might have for our local or our school district. No matter how busy I am, I will always have time for our members.

Sincerely,

Candi

Tired of spending your own money for your classroom?

GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE FROM FZEA

We have a new grant committee who is anxious to choose our first grant recipients from FZEA.

The association is giving back to our members by offering \$250.00 grants to district members.

6 total—3 first semester, 3 second semester

The FZEA Grant Application is found on our web site FZEA1.com.

It is easy to apply.

Fill out the application and email or snail mail it to the grant committee.

All the deadline dates are on the application.

Go To FZEA1.com and apply today!

According to Dr. Corum, the district added 75 new teachers this school year. And, yes, many of them were for kindergarten!

Member at large

We are short one Member At Large (not to be confused with a Large Member) due to an oversight during last year's election. Members at large attend the executive board meeting as part of the checks and balances for our local. They also help with buildings who do not have a building representative. Candi will appoint a person who would like to serve in this position until the election in March. If you are interested in being a Member At Large, please notify Candi ASAP.

Maids in the South Circa 1960

A history lesson in the making. Try *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, an intriguing story about the relationship between southern ladies and their black maids during the 1960s. Being raised in Missouri by my own mother and not a maid, I had no idea about what was going on in the South. A good read.

Contribute to PAC

Sign up to have \$10.00 moved from MNEA to political action. Nothing comes out of your pocket. Sixty percent goes to state and forty percent goes to local.
OR — Sign up to have a political action donation come out of your payroll deduction. Half will go to MNEA and half will stay local. It is a continuous deduction for one year only.

Let's coordinate that bargaining council!

Coordinated Bargaining Council will be holding a Bargaining Training Session on Saturday, September 18 from 8 AM until noon at Parkway Central Middle School. It is free for any of our members to attend. We will be negotiating salary and calendar in the spring and FZEA is always looking for members who want to get involved. Possible topics to be covered are collecting essential financial information to take to the bargaining table, working with member strengths on a negotiation team, and negotiating through "NO". Email grace.garland@mnea.org if you plan to attend. If you DO NOT SHOW, the association will be charged \$25.00 per person.

What happened to my plan hour?

From Central Office, Dr. Corum: We recognize that teachers who have 2nd or 4th hour plan will lack some plan time over the course of the entire year (2 hours 40 minutes). Therefore, if a teacher would like to retrieve that plan time during an early release, he should inform the principal.

Tees Tees!

Coming soon: FZEA t shirts for one and all! What color will they be? What will they say? Can I get one for my dog (he's a BIG supporter of FZEA!)? If you have any of these questions, tune in to the October issue of *Insight* for the answers.

Got back pain?

There is a state law in Missouri that says that an insurance company cannot charge more for a chiropractor copay than 50% of what the insurance company pays the chiropractor for your visit. (HUH?) For example, if GHP has a contract with a chiropractic practice that pays them \$44 every time you go in, you cannot, by law, be charged more than \$22.00 for your copay. You will still pay that \$40.00 copay to the chiropractor, but then GHP will send you \$18.00 in the mail. Ask your chiropractors what GHP is contracted to pay them so you are educated about what to expect as reimbursement from GHP.

Teachers Supporting Teachers Abroad

By Kim Garbs

Uniserv Director Lori Roach

FZEA Office
6714 Mexico Road
St. Peters, MO
63376

Phone: (636) 970-3111
Fax: (636) 279-3663
E-Mail: Lori.Roach@mnea.org



I had the honor to participate this past July in the CHANCE program offered by Penn State University under the direction of Dr. Jacqueline McLaughlin and Dr. Kathy Fadigan. Our focus was to learn about biodiversity in both Costa Rica and Panama. The group consisted of both teachers and college students of all ages. Our itinerary began with leatherback sea turtles in Gondoca, Costa Rica; snorkeling coral reefs, sea grasses, and mangroves in Panama; and ending in La Selva Biological Station in the Braulio Carrillo National Park: a seventeen day journey from beginning to end.

One of the events in our schedule was a local school visit where we were encouraged to bring supplies for the teacher and students. Gondoca is a tiny rural town, reached only by a gravel road, nestled ashore the Caribbean coast just 45 minutes north of the Panama border. I was proud of the supplies I was carrying because they were purchased with donations from my local teachers' association. **Fort Zumwalt Education Association (FZEA)** donated \$200 for school supplies when they learned of my journey. Adorned in my NEA t-shirt, I proudly represented my association half way around the world.

The school was a simple building consisting of approximately six classrooms with one elementary teacher and four middle school teachers. The social studies teacher, Senor Fonseca-Matarrita, welcomed us and displayed our gifts on a table in the front of the room. One of the students made a funny comment when he saw all of the supplies delivered by CHANCE participants. He said, "Man, we're dead", meaning more school work for everybody. Of course, everyone burst out loud with laughter.

Senor Fonseca-Matarrita was proud of his students, and it was apparent that his students felt the same way about him. He showed us how they had been learning about countries all over the world. Immediately I felt the camaraderie of one teacher to another.

I inquired as to what inspired him to become a teacher. He said he fell in love with social studies while he was in high school. His two older sisters who are teachers encouraged him to follow his dreams. At his teaching assignment in Gondoca, the community provides him with a quaint bungalow within walking distance from the school. When asked what he loved most about being a teacher, Senor Fonseca-Matarrita said it was very fulfilling to see students grow up and succeed. When asked what he would like to say to the teachers back home who sent the supplies, he said that sometimes it is very hard for students to come to school without breakfast or even a pencil. Money is distributed based on school size, so by the time funds reach the small community of Gondoca, they are minimal. The school supplies provided by FZEA will help him teach by alleviating student stress over needed materials, and for that he is very thankful.

Senor Fonseca-Matarrita belongs to the teacher association in Costa Rica and three days a year he travels to the capitol of San Jose and participates in workshops provided by the association.

I asked him about his hopes and dreams for his students. His answer brought a tear to my eyes because it made me realize that as teachers we all share the same dream for our students. He hopes that one day he will pass a former student on the street and he will thank him for his encouragement to be successful.