



FZEA Officers

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Sharon Schertel

Communications Chair

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Stand up for your Rights: The theme of this Year's Spring RA

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times — at the MNEA Spring RA. Congratulations to Jodi Englehart at North High School who won \$100.00 for her donation to PAC (Political Action Campaign). Her name was drawn from a raffle which included all pay roll deduct (PRD) PAC contributors. It was an honor to be from the Fort Zumwalt Association and see our own member's name scroll upon the screen for long-term generous contributions. See list below. There were so many, I beg forgiveness if you were overlooked. Just send me your name and I will make sure you are mentioned in the next issue. If you are interested in contributing to PAC through pay roll deduction, let me know and I will forward your name to Connie Johnson, so she can put a form in the pony for you.

Honors PAC Awards (\$100 or more during September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010)

Asher, Dana	Bergfeld, Nancy	Harris, Jeannette
Michaud, John	Maltman, Rebecca	Fearn, Nancy
Datt, Vicii	Grosch, Amy	Hussmann, Sharon
Johnson, Connie	Stitar, Sara	Price, Bruce
Schulte, Larry	McGillycuddy, Mary	

Save the Date:

Local Association PAC Award:

Local Contributed from \$5—10 per member

Capitol Action Day:

DONE

Fort Zumwalt Education Association

Retiree Party:

May 18, 2011

I decided to invest in our organization by joining the MNEA-Retired program. You too can become a member for life for \$350 through easy payment methods such as E-Z Pay. Just go to mnea.org and click. See a building representative if you have any questions or contact me.

Summer Academy:

July 19-22

While at the Spring RA, delegates generously donated \$9,000 to MNEA PAC. Our members amaze me by giving generously of their time on the weekend to listen to legislative updates passionately debated, approve the MNEA budget for 2011-12, approve resolution changes, and become informed on reformation. We managed to squeeze in social time over conversations at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I encourage you to consider becoming a delegate for one year. It might become contagious. It is powerful to be in a room full of educators and support professionals. Educators need to unite and support each other and defend public education. Only we know best the wonders that occur within our rooms. Stand up for your rights and our children's rights. Remember, educators' working conditions are our students' learning conditions.

NEA RA:

June 30—

July 5, 2011

Rep Mtg:

May 18

Exec Board:

May 4

The MNEA Hope Charitable Fund grew richer over the weekend by over \$1,000 due again to the generous contributions of delegates present. This program is for youth in need that touch the lives of our members. It is our way of spreading hope where hope is needed. Beautiful Hope cards can be purchased or purple Hope T-shirts. Visit the MNEA.org web site to learn more and spread a little hope.

Congratulations to Sherry Walsh from Hope High. She received a Future Leader Scholarship and will be participating in the program. Connie Johnson

from North Middle is a recent graduate. Connie Johnson was elected as alternate minority at large for the MNEA Review Board, and I, too, was elected as a member of MNEA Review Board and am looking forward to working with Connie on this committee. Currently she is leading our Government Relations. Becky Maltman served in previous years in this position and is acting as her mentor.

Speaking of mentors, we do that for each other at FZEA. We encourage you to attend a meeting and find out how you can help and get involved. We help you along the way and you are guaranteed to build new friendships.

As mentioned in my opening statement, it was also the worst of times. Salaries are frozen in many districts, Ritenour's School Board is at an impasse with its teachers, and unions are under attack in more than one state. Basically public education is under attack. One of our handouts from the Spring RA included the following Q and A:

Q. How widespread are the attacks against educators?

A. The attacks by governors and state legislatures mound daily. As of 2/24/11 they include:

- 49 states—all except South Dakota—face pension threats
- 20 states face collective bargaining challenges
- 12 states face right to work legislation
- 13 states are trying to do away with tenure
- Other battles include due process, vouchers, charter schools, teacher evaluation, etc.

Missouri falls into ALL of the categories.

Your continued membership is valuable. With that said, the MNEA approved budget is requiring an increase in dues. The MNEA delegates voted in a \$10 increase for the year. I promise to serve on our FZEA budget committee and take a hard look at how we can cut our budget even greater to somehow absorb the rising costs. Last year at the Spring RA, MNEA dues rose \$10, yet the FZEA Executive Board and building representatives approved a proposal by our FZEA budget committee based on President Candi Blanton's recommendation to trim the budget and absorb the cost. This is a practice that we won't be able to sustain. It was our hope and continues to be our hope that we can ride out this recession. You will be kept informed of our progress in the upcoming local budget talks.

Kim Garbs,
Vice President FZEA

**Uniserv Director
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Special election

We will be having a special election during the May 18th meeting of the building reps for membership chairperson position. This position's duties are:

- * Act as the Membership Task Force Chairperson
- * Maintain orderly membership records
- * Arrange new teacher reception during new teacher work day
- * Attend and assist educational support personnel ESP membership
- * Process all membership forms on the local and state level
- * Disseminate current membership lists to each building rep
- * Act as liaison with payroll department
- * Verify accuracy of local and state membership lists with treasurer

Stipend for this position is \$2,000.00 per year.

If you are interested in running for this position please email Candi Blanton by May 17 at 4:00 PM. We will be electing a chairperson at the May 18th meeting.

Please contact Candi if you have any questions.

Summer Academy

Summer Academy will be July 19—22 at Columbia, Missouri. Scholarships are available. Please email Matt Hansen.

Free Benefits!

If you join Missouri NEA now as a first-time active member, you can receive early enrollment benefits until September 1, 2011. Request a membership form from your building rep or contact any officer. You can also visit www.mnea.org for more information about the benefits of MNEA membership.

READY TO PARTY!

Retirement Party!! May 18, 2011!! North Middle School.

You do not want to miss this!