



March 2011

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

Volume 5, Issue 6

## FZEA Officers

### **Candi Blanton**

President

### **Kim Garbs**

Vice President Certified Staff

### **Sheila Broyles**

Vice President Support Staff

### **Becky Maltman**

Secretary

### **Casey Huff**

Treasurer

### **Matt Hansen and Christine Nanney**

Membership

### **Connie Johnson**

Government Relations

### **Sharon Schertel**

Communications Chair

### **FZEA Office**

1011 Peruque Crossing Court

O'Fallon, MO

## CONTRACTS ACCEPTED

The Association voted to accept the new two year contract on March 23. Check in your building for the specifics. You should have received calendars from Dr. Corum for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. We extend our thanks to all of those members who worked selflessly to represent us during negotiations. THANK YOU!

## THIS JUST IN: KIM GARBS WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BY A LANDSLIDE!!

Next time you are at North High, stop by to see our new FZEA president for the 2011-2012 school year, **KIM GARBS**. Kim, born into a strong union family and attending college on a teamster scholarship, hails from Doe Run, Missouri, where her favorite pastime was playing tag on a horse. While the horse is long since gone, the memories remain. Currently, she is teaching science at North High and raising two boys to be world renowned scientists. Kim's hope for the future of FZEA is to be one voice with one message. "We are only strong in numbers," says Kim. Congratulations Kim!

Our new Vice President Certified Staff is Matt Hanson from West Middle School. Congrats to Matt! All other positions were unopposed and, surprisingly, everyone won!

Save the Date:

**FREE!!!!**

I THOUGHT that would get your attention!

**Capitol Action Day:**

April 13

If you know of any non members who would just love to become members of an exclusive organization like FZEA (and who among us would not?), now is the time! Early enrollment begins April 1. Non members can sign up and not pay dues until the first pay check of next school year, which, unfortunately, is still not until September 15. Check with your nearest and dearest building rep and get a membership enrollment form. Send the completed form to Matt Hansen (who, by the way, is our new vice president. Yay, Matt!!) at West Middle School. Be sure to write early enrollment on the top of the form. Then, just like magic, you will be among the elite.

**Retiree Party:**

Way too early

**Summer Academy:**

TBA

And for all of you who already belong, do not forget to deduct your association dues on your 2010 tax forms. For certified teachers: Full membership is \$586.50; Half Time membership is \$343.50. Support Staff Dues: Full membership is \$336.75; Half Time membership is \$293.75. Dues for first year teachers and transfers may be different. Your building rep has a dues sheet showing the different fees and the breakdown of the fees among MNEA, NEA, and FZEA and the amount deducted each paycheck.

NEA RA:

June 30—  
July 5, 2011

**School Board Elections**

**Rep Mtg:**

April 20

School board screenings are complete and the school board screening committee has recommended the following candidates: Renee Porter, Mike Swaringim, and Mike Price. The other three candidates were not screened because of the following reasons:

Dr. Jeffrey Kuetter—did not respond to the survey, phone calls or emails.

**Exec Board:**

April 6

Laure Schmidt—did not want any recommendations from organizations.

Terrell Herring—did not want a recommendation from a union.

According to our bylaws, we cannot recommend candidates who have not been screened by the screening committee. The recommended candidates' surveys and applications are available in your buildings. If they are not posted, please see your building representative.

Missouri NEA Daily Legislative Update  
Week 11, No. 2, March 15, 2011  
By Otto Fajen  
MNEA Legislative Director

#### TENURE REPEAL

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee may vote on the latest proposed HCS for HB 628 (Scott Dieckhaus) on March 16. The draft HCS would still eliminate teacher tenure and place all currently tenured teachers on three year contracts and all other teachers on one to three year contracts at the district's discretion. Teachers would still have a right to a hearing before the board if the district seeks to terminate the contract early, but teachers would have no expectation or right to renewal once the one to three year contract has expired.

The Association strongly opposes the latest HCS version of the bill. Teacher tenure is not a guarantee of a job, just a process to address issues of concern and ensure teachers are not fired arbitrarily. Where districts face challenges with under-performing teachers, the real issue to address is establishing a quality evaluation system that provides teachers with feedback and support in improving performance and addressing concerns.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Your help is needed! The committee vote on the bill is expected on March 16. If you haven't already done so, please call, write or e-mail to urge your state representative to oppose HB 628 (Scott Dieckhaus), the tenure repeal bill. The following link will connect you to the MNEA Legislative Action Center Action Alert on HB 628.

Type in your zip code and the alert will automatically be directed to your state representative. The Action Alert contains a brief summary and a brief, editable message box to help you send an email to your state representative on the issue. Your message will have a greater impact if you personalize the message and add your own concerns regarding the bill.

Click here to send your message now

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/mo/issues/alert/?alertid=34897556&type=ST>

#### OPEN ENROLLMENT IN UNACCREDITED DISTRICTS

The Senate General Laws Committee was scheduled to hear SB 370 (Jane Cunningham) on March 15, but the hearing was canceled due to expected floor debate on SB 8 (Jack Goodman) relating to worker's compensation. SB 370 creates additional open enrollment options in unaccredited districts, including a transfer program that includes the option for a voucher to private schools. The bill is a response to Turner v. Clayton, the Missouri Supreme Court ruling from 2010 that accredited school districts must allow students from other, unaccredited school districts to enroll in their district at the school of their choice, regardless of local capacity to serve those other students. The Association opposes payment of public funds to private schools not subject to the standards of accountability applied to public schools.

#### VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee will meet on March 16 to hear HB 463 (Cole McNary). The bill allows nonresident students to attend a school district or a charter school to access virtual courses or programs. The state will pay the district or charter school the greater of 85% of the school's tuition rate or the state formula base per pupil amount. The Association is concerned that the bill will fragment the enrollment and guidance process for students and compensate virtual schools in excess of their actual cost of instruction.

#### SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Education Committee will meet on March 16 to hear a number of bills:

1) SB 391 (Brad Lager) to require school districts to establish high-quality teacher and teaching evaluation systems and commit resources to implement high-quality evaluations. The bill also requires districts

**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](mailto:Lori.Roach@mnea.org)



to establish standards for professional improvement plans. The Association strongly supports this approach to enact a state policy that will support local efforts to improve of instruction.

- 2) SB 184 (Robin Wright-Jones) to allow the Special Administrative Board governing the St. Louis City School District to sponsor charter schools.
- 3) SB 294 (Joe Keaveny) relating to alternative charter schools.
- 4) SB 291 (David Pearce) to allow school districts to sponsor charter schools and enact revisions to charter school accountability.
- 5) SB 228 (David Pearce) to change the composition of the school board of the Kansas City School District. The bill would change the number of members from nine to seven, with one at-large member instead of the current three at-large members and district-wide elections for the six members elected from sub-districts.

Missouri National Education Association  
1810 E Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone (800) 392-0236  
[www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org)

Candi Blanton, President FZEA  
Twin Chimneys Elementary  
636-578-3595

## **VOTE: LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

The next election, April 5, holds some important issues for us as educators. Be sure to vote for Zumwalt School Board candidates. Also, vote yes for Proposition 1 which will reorganize district debt.

Contact your legislature concerning HB 628 (discussed above) because this piece of legislation and its companion bill in the senate could have a major impact on all of our jobs.

## **CAPITOL ACTION DAY**

FZEA is going to Jefferson City. We have 19 members attending Capitol Action Day this year to explain our view on the latest developments that concern our profession.

## **FZEA SCHOLARSHIPS**

The FZEA scholarship forms for this year's graduating seniors are located on our website, [www.fzea1.com](http://www.fzea1.com). The scholarship tab is located on the top left. The applications are due at the FZEA office by April 1.