



May 2011

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

Volume 5, Issue 8

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Candi Blanton

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Kim Garbs

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Membership

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Government Relations

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Communications Chair

FZEA Office

1011 Peruque Crossing Court

O'Fallon, MO

A FOND FAREWELL TO AND FROM THIS YEAR'S FZEA PRESIDENT

Dear FZEA members,

The last four years have gone by so fast it seems like a blink of an eye. As I think about what accomplishments have been made by our members, I am so proud of FZEA.

FZEA Members in the last four years have:

Developed a website for our members to find information, forms and be informed about what is happening around the state and district.

Increased the number of members attending our State RAs and Capitol Action Days

Rewarded Teachers with FZEA Grants

Don't forget to apply. The application is located at

www.fzea1.com

Successfully, negotiated master agreements for:

PARAs

Nurses

PATs

Certified Staff

Increased the number of FZEA scholarships to 12

Built better communications with members, district administration and building administrators

Addressed the needs, interest and concerns of our members to include areas of

Building Concerns

Curriculum issues

State Issues

Master agreement concerns

Many members have helped in so many ways to accomplish this list of successes for FZEA. The building representatives, committee members and the negotiations committee for the association are so important to keep our voice in the district. Thank you to all of you who have served FZEA these last four years.

As I conclude my Presidency of FZEA, I want to say "Thank you" to my executive board for the support and guidance throughout the past four years. I know Kim will continue to have these important people next to her in the coming years. I also want to say a big "THANK YOU" to my colleagues at Twin Chimneys for their understanding my schedule, your support and having patience with me on the stressful days. You are all fantastic friends.

Summer vacation is approaching fast ... less than 12 days to go. I hope everyone has a fantastic and relaxing break that is full of fun, sun and family time.

Save the Date:

Capitol Action Day:

DONE

Retiree Party:

May 18, 2011
DONE1

Summer Academy:

July 19-22

NEA RA:
June 30—
July 5, 2011

Rep Mtg:

Next Year

Exec Board:

Next year

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Being your FZEA President has been an honor,
Candi

And thank you, Candi, for all you have done these last four years! We all know it has not been easy! Enjoy your retirement and golf to your heart’s desire.

Posted in: Top Story

Missouri Education Activists Stop Slew of Damaging Bills

by cmccabe | May 18, 2011 | Discuss 2
Share



It was a bad few months to be opposed to public education and workers’ rights in Missouri. Let’s take a quick look at how legislation intending to curtail or eradicate both of those fared during the just-ended Missouri state legislative session.

By Cynthia McCabe

- * A bill making it a criminal misdemeanor to require employees to pay dues or other charges required of labor organization members **failed**.
- * Bills containing damaging provisions on teacher compensation, evaluation and tenure **failed**.
- * A bill making several harmful changes to the state's anti-discrimination law **failed**.
- * A bill that would remove employees' rights to have their dues deducted from their paychecks, or make political contributions **failed**.
- * Bills expanding charter schools, including "virtual" charters, **failed**.
- * A joint resolution amending the state's constitution to curb the right to card-check union votes **failed**.

The Missouri NEA's success in defending their state's students, educators and public workers came "We have a governor who, while not tethered to either base, fundamentally supports public education," Fajen said of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon. "He has a Department of Labor that looks like labor. He supports workers' rights."

That support helped Missouri NEA activists stand strong, Fajen said. "We didn't back down."

Coalitions of groups supporting public education and public workers were crucial as well, especially when it came to opposing expansion of virtual charter schools and educator tenure. Missouri NEA joined with AFT Missouri and other education groups and "we all pushed back hard," on those issues, Fajen said, adding that the coalition continues to communicate with the state Department of Education about what is best for the state's students.

They did that with the backing of dedicated activist Missouri NEA educators, who sent 10,000 emails to their state representatives when they received urgent action alerts and who lobbied every week in the capitol during the session.



One of those educator lobbyists, high school teacher Dana Asher, started out a little hesitant.

"A fellow teacher asked me to go to lobby day," said Asher, who teaches a number of subjects, including business and government, at a school for at-risk youth in the Fort Zumwalt School district in O'Fallon, Mo. "I wasn't very good at saying no, and went even though I was not sure that I was very interested. The more I learned, the more enthusiastic I became about being involved."

She's now seen personally how important it is to lobby, write and call elected officials. Asher doesn't hesitate to tell colleagues and friends upset about an anti-educator climate that they need to speak up in a constructive way. She even emails them information about their specific elected officials, with links to their web pages.

"For example, when someone starts talking about how ridiculous (NCLB) is, I point out that they need to contact their elected officials," says the energetic Asher. "I tell them they have an obligation to speak up if they don't like where the rhetoric is going. They have to ensure that every child have access to great public schools. After all, educators' working conditions are students' learning conditions."

Are you inspired by the success of Missouri activists like Dana Asher? You can make a difference in your own state. Sign up now to get involved in rallies, phonebanks and lobby events on behalf of public education and workers' rights in your home state at [EducationVotes](#).

Free at Last! Free at Last!
The following members have retired effective
The end of the 2010—2011 school year

Certified:

* Allen, Joe	Atteberry, Linda	Blanton, Candi
* Boecker, James	Browning, Betty	Dalton, Nancy Jean
* Daugherty, Barbara	Dunbar, George	Gaines, Elinor
* Hager, Laurel	Hedden, Jean	Holt, Teresa
* Kuhn, Marilyn	Leeser, Mary Jo	Meinhardt, Mary
* Myer, Terri	Newbold, Margaret	Peine, Barbara
* Pelleriton, Catherine	Pitts, Mark	Pollard, Garvis
* Rodes, Teresa	Schenck, Rebecca	Stuehmeyer, David
* Talbott, Barbara	Wilson, Nancy	

Paras:

* Chapman, Arlene	Nolan, Carol
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Nurses:

* Fine, Sue

CONGRATULATIONS!!

AND THE FZEA SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED TO:

East High:	Andrea Schroff and Abby Bextermueller
Hope High:	Alisha Foester & Samantha Toben
North High:	Brad Banowetz and Paloma Bernhardt
South High:	Catherine Connoley, Gina Pilla, and Megan Craft
West High:	Ben Richard and Katherine Amrnein Ellyn Yarde

Misc Info:

Good News! FZEA is not raising dues for next year even though state and national are raising dues. We managed to cut the budget to accommodate the increase.

\$500.00 from the Children's Fund was given to the Pattonville NEA to help victims of the tornadoes.

Political Academy will be held this year from July 19 until July 22. The theme is "Stand up for your Rights"

The last Summer Academy will also be July 19—22 at the Holiday Inn in Columbia, Missouri.



FZEA DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Membership Drive

Sign up at least 3 new members and receive a ticket to the Cards vs. Brewers game on Monday, Sept. 5, 2011 at 3:00

New membership includes new and existing staff who have never been members of FZEA

All new and existing members will have a chance to win a ticket in a raffle.



Membership forms due to Janet Harding at OES by August 26, to be eligible for a ticket.

ATTENTION: teachers, para's, nurses and PAT's

Join us in a Party Room for unlimited beer, food, coke products, good times and AIR CONDITIONING!!!

FZEA

Paid for by MNEA Grant

FZEA

Tickets valued at \$102

