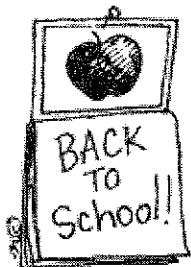


# DMEA Board Recommends Patch, Hildebrandt, Borgen



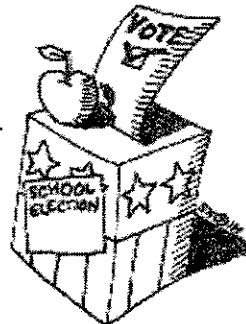
# Des Moines Education Association DMEA TEMPO

The DMEA Executive Board voted to recommend challengers Jim Patch and Ben Hildebrandt, and incumbent Margaret Borgen for the three open seats on the Des Moines Public School's Board of Education. The recommendations followed three days of interviews of all seven declared candidates.

Jim Patch is a name familiar to all DMEA members. Jim taught for 37 years in Des Moines schools before retiring. He is a former DMEA Executive Board member and has been active in Association work for many years. Jim is a strong advocate for career and vocational programs.

Ben Hildebrandt works for the Iowa Bankers Association. Ben wants to improve communication between the district and the Association. He is very concerned about discipline and attendance

problems in the district.



Margaret Borgen is currently president of the school board and is finishing her second three-year term. Margaret impressed the interview team with her knowledge of the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) legislation. Margaret recently

traveled to Washington, D.C. where she spoke to legislative leaders about the impact of the new legislation.

The School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. This election is extremely important. Electing candidates that support our positions will help DMEA gain a role in decision making. We need a big educator turnout on election night and we need to you to encourage your friends and neighbors to support our candidates.

## Welcome from DMEA President Chris Miller

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to another year of providing the best education possible to the students of Des Moines. The excitement and promise of a new year fills the air as we greet the next round of

students at whatever grade we teach.

Once again the Des Moines Education Association stands ready to provide its members with whatever support is needed

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"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."

George Jean Nathan

# Welcome from DMEA President Chris Miller

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to carry out your professional duties.

United. Protected. Connected. This has been the theme for DMEA for three years and continues to encapsulate what our Association is about.

By working together we do make a difference. Last year, because of united actions beginning with the school board election, we were able to make substantial progress in improving conditions district wide. With the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) on the horizon, we are connected to expert help and clarification from ISEA and NEA.

Our members are protected as our Executive Director worked on over 500 different issues with members last year. He also represented numerous members in meetings with administrators and parents.

Membership does pay. Savings from NEA Member Benefits can help offset the cost of membership. Discounted auto and homeowner's insurance can save a family with three cars enough money to pay dues for one year. A

discount buying service available on the new NEA web portal OWL.org promises to save members even more.

This *Tempo* goes to all teachers with an invitation to join us in your professional organization. With all comprehensive agreements open for negotiations this year, we will be seeking input from members on our bargaining priorities. Only members will be given the chance to offer this input.

The united professional organizations DMEA, ISEA, and NEA will be monitoring both the Iowa Quality Teacher Act and the ESEA to provide our members with the most current information.

We will be calling on all members to be politically active. We have a critical school board race that will climax in the September 10<sup>th</sup> election of three new board members. We are supporting retired teacher and DMEA member Jim Patch as well as Ben Hildebrandt and Margaret Borgen. If we can get our members to vote, we can decide this election. Electing our candidates will help insure improved communication between the district and DMEA.

In November we will be electing state legislators, a senator, representatives and re-electing a governor. It is important that we put pro-education people in office.

We are also seeking to revitalize our committee system this year. We have openings on our Governmental Affairs, Membership, and Instruction & Professional Development Committees. This is a great way for newer members to become more involved in the organization. If you are interested in serving on a committee please contact our office at 471-8040.

We've had a great response from our new teachers this year with over 100 of them already enrolling as members. This promises to be an exciting and challenging year. We hope you have a great year and remember that DMEA is here for you.

**Special Member Benefit**  
Ramsey Auto is offering special pricing on any new 2002/2003 Subaru or Mazda in stock. Vehicles will be priced 1% over invoice with proof of membership

## Calendar of Events



- September 3, 2002  
DMPS School Board Meeting  
5:00 P.M. Public Forum  
6:00 Board Meeting
- September 5, 2002  
DMEA Executive Board  
4:15 p.m.
- September 5, 2002  
Southwestern Hills/PTA School  
Board Candidate Forum  
Brody MS Auditorium  
7:00 p.m.
- September 10, 2002  
School Board Elections
- September 12, 2002  
Faculty Rep Assembly  
North High School Cafeteria  
4:15 p.m.
- September 17, 2002  
DMPS School Board Meeting  
5:00 P.M. Public Forum  
6:00 Board Meeting
- September 19, 2002  
DMEA Executive Board  
4:15 p.m.
- September 21, 2002  
Iowa Education Summit  
Adventureland Inn  
10:00 a.m.

# Phase III Grievance Arbitration Hearing Held

As last year drew to a close, the fate of over \$1.4 million in Phase III money was yet to be determined. As many of you remember, the legislature passed a law during a special session last November that gave school districts the ability to use Phase III money to cover shortfalls in the General Fund budget. When the District followed this path, DMEA filed a grievance stating that the action violated the Comprehensive Agreement.

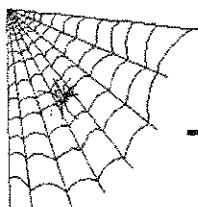
With no solution in sight, the District

and DMEA entered into binding arbitration. The case was heard before arbitrator Lisa Salkovitz Kohn on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The hearing lasted over eight hours. Executive Director Randy Richardson presented the case for DMEA. Dave Wilkinson, former Phase III Coordinator, provided much of the expert testimony. Chris Miller, President of DMEA, also testified.

Following the hearing the District's attorney requested that the two sides

write a post-hearing brief to submit to the arbitrator. These briefs were exchanged on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The arbitrator plans to issue a ruling within 30 days of receipt of the briefs.

This case in no way influences Phase III for this year. That money has been allocated by the state. The Phase III Committee has decided that all money will be sent to the building level.



## Caught in the Web NEA's OWL Portal Finally Takes Wing

After months of waiting the new NEA web portal, OWL, is up and running. OWL, which stands for Our Web Location, is a service of NEA and its state and local affiliates. It is designed to be an online community where educators connect to share their knowledge and experience and help make American public education even better.

Registration is free and open to anyone interested in kids and public education. However, members of NEA enjoy access to a special, members-only area of the site, as well as special offers and discounts from OWL.org's partners.

OWL.org addresses every part of NEA member's lives—professional and personal. The site provides members with education tips, strategies and materials, as well as access to some of the top Web resources for educators. The site also contains online discussion boards where members share opinions and make connections.

Members can also participate in a

variety of staff development opportunities at OWL.org. NEA, in partnership with Skylight professional development, offers a wide range of classes for graduate credit through Drake University, as well as a number of non-credit offerings. Classes can be taken online or via video tape. NEA members receive a \$75 discount on graduate courses and a \$20 discount on non-credit courses.

Another NEA partner, OnlineLearning, also offers online, instructor-led professional development courses. Courses are offered through UCLA and the University of San Diego. NEA members receive a discount of \$75 or 15% (whichever is greater).

Members can shop at OWL.org. Companies such as Amazon, Coldwater Creek, Dell, Eddie Bauer and Land End plan to offer significant discounts to NEA members.

Association members interested in using OWL.org can register by following these simple steps:

1. Go to [www.Owl.org](http://www.Owl.org). On the right hand side of the home page you will see the OWL Login box and the Registration box. Click on the Register button.
2. Fill out the registration form. Note: All fields are required. Click on the left-hand button that indicates you are a member.
3. Fill in your membership ID number and the subsequent fields. (Your NEA ID number can be found on the address label of NEA Today). If you do not have your membership ID number, or, if the system fails to recognize you, click on the link in the line above the Membership ID field. This will take you to an alternative screen that will ask you for additional information that will allow us to validate your membership. Note: New members may have difficulty signing on since membership information is currently being processed.

## Des Moines Education Association

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## Iowa Education Summit Scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>

While the Des Moines School Board race demands our immediate attention, another election is just around the corner. In the November 5<sup>th</sup> election we have the opportunity to re-elect our governor, change control of the General Assembly, elect a senator and representatives. This election is so important that ISEA has decided to do something unprecedented—they are hosting an Iowa Education Summit to kick off the campaign.

Governor Vilsack and Senator Harkin have been invited to speak at the meeting (neither has confirmed as we go to press). Participants will learn about how to become actively involved in the campaigns of our candidates.

All members are invited to participate in the unique event. The Education Summit will take place on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Adventureland Inn. If you would like to attend please call the DMEA office to register. Lunch and materials will be provided to participants free of charge.

## In the Spotlight



Several of our DMEA members have been busy over the summer reaping the rewards of their hard work. The following members (in bold) were among the 200 nationwide winners of the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education Innovation Grants.

**J. Richard Hood**, Speech Language Pathologist at Smouse Elementary  
Partners: **Roberta Brookes**, **Chris Harmeyer-Logsdon**  
Mr. Hood, Ms. Brookes, and Ms. Har-

meyer-Logsdon use literacy centers to give students hands-on experiences designed to improve reading skills.

**Dorothy Lifka**, Family Educator  
Capitol View Elementary School  
Partner: **Janet Rosenbaum**  
The *Family Storyteller Program* at Capitol View develops the literacy skills of both parents and children.

**Joan Looker**  
Roosevelt High School

Partner: **Roger Miller**  
Ms. Looker and Mr. Miller combine language arts with science to create a biology course for English language learners.

In addition, **Janice Reutter**, Edmunds Title Math teacher, was notified that several of her ideas will soon be published in a new professional math series from Scholastic.

## NEA Provides September 11 Resources

The National Education Association and NEA's Health Information Network just released a new web site, *Remembering September 11*. Designed to be a comprehensive resource site for teachers, educational support professionals and parents, it includes more than 100 age-appropriate lesson plans to commemorate the first anniversary of this tragic day in U.S. history. These study guides mirror themes of democracy, patriotism, and freedom.

Each lesson plan is geared to a specific age group: kindergarten through second grade, second through fifth, sixth through eighth and grades 9-12. In addition the site will include links to over 60 other sites that will include information on how Americans plan to remember September 11th, a debate on how to rebuild at Ground Zero, the current state of the war on terrorism, and information for parents.

The lesson plans were submitted by

NEA members and gleaned from special disaster response programs developed by the American Red Cross, the National Association of School Psychologists, and several other NEA partners. The web site is funded in part by a generous grant from Johnson & Johnson. You can access the site by visiting the newly redesigned NEA web page at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and clicking on the link to *Remembering September 11*.