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Connected**

Des Moines Education Association

DMEA TEMPO

Legislative Reception Draws Large Turnout

Nearly 50 DMEA members provided one of the largest turnouts in recent years for last Wednesday's Polk Suburban/DMEA Legislative Reception. The annual event gives members an opportunity to meet area legislators and to share their feelings with them on a variety of education issues.

Among those legislators in attendance were:

- Senator Jack Holveck
- Senator Doug Shull
- Senator Mary Kramer
- Representative Kent Kramer
- Representative Carmine Boal
- Representative John Connors
- Representative Jo Oldson
- Representative Janet Peterson
- Representative Jodi Tymeson
- Representative Jack Hatch

DMEA President Chris Miller introduced each legislator. They were then given the opportunity to make a brief comment about their expectations for the upcoming legislative session. Most legislators stressed the importance of education to the state, but warned that the budget is extremely tight. Representative Janet Peterson warned those in attendance to "closely watch what happens with allowable growth during the session."

Special thanks need to go to Polk Suburban Secretary Cheryl Smith and DMEA Secretary Sharon Nelson for organizing the event. Deb Henry, DMEA Governmental Affairs Chair, also deserves recognition. Deb called and e-mailed many members and was instrumental in getting members to turn out for this event.

DMEA Receives \$5000 NEA Urban Grant

The National Education Association (NEA) showed its support and commitment towards improving public education by recently announcing 25 winners of its popular urban grants program. The winners, from school districts across the country, received \$5,000 awards for exemplary programs designed to improve the quality of education in urban schools.

The grants fund grassroots initiatives that school staff develop along with local Association leaders. This year's projects focus on improving teacher quality and retention, orientation programs for new teachers, creating diversity awareness, and forming literacy programs for at-risk students.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Legislative Alert	2
Polk County Legislators	3
George Fischer Scholarship	3
DMEA Election Information	3

We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—this is the true goal of education.

Martin Luther King Jr.

DMEA Member Alert! Keep a Close Eye on Legislative Action

The state legislature has returned to action and one of the first items expected to receive their attention is the allowable growth rate for schools. The allowable growth rate determines the amount of new funding a district receives from the state. The average allowable growth for next year is 2%. In Des Moines this translates out to an additional \$2.3 million dollars of revenue.

Senator Jeff Lamberti, a Republican

from Ankeny, created a stir earlier this month when he suggested that the allowable growth rate may need to be cut. Several legislative leaders were in attendance at the recent ISEA Legislative Conference. They indicated a desire to keep allowable growth at the current rate. Governor Tim Vilsack also stated that it is one of his top priorities.

What can you do? DMEA will notify members when important debate is

taking place in the legislature. We make ask you to contact your legislator about an important issue. Legislators often tell us that they have not heard from teachers. If we ask you to make contact please try to do so. In addition, the DMEA Governmental Affairs committee is planning several activities where members can lobby their representatives. We would encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities as they arise.

DMEA Receives Urban Grant

(Continued from page 1)

NEA President Reg Weaver said: "Outstanding programs like those of this year's grant winners directly address one of the major problems faced by urban districts— attracting and keeping highly qualified teachers and school staff in those schools where they are needed most. These 25 projects— whether aimed at professional development, increased parental involvement, student achievement, or the creation of safe schools with environments that are conducive to learning—are geared to this problem and should serve as examples for other districts."

This year's grant winners come from 21 states. In addition to Iowa other Midwestern states that were recognized include Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

The urban grant awards are a part of an effort by NEA to make public schools great for every child. Over the past decade, NEA has invested more than \$100 million in public school projects that empower teachers and school employees to address specific issues. More than 200 grants have been awarded since the program's 1985 inception.

The Des Moines Education Association

grant will be used to create a new curriculum entitled, "Teaching in an Urban Environment". The curriculum will be shared with the teacher education programs from five area universities that provide the majority of new teachers to Des Moines public schools. The materials will highlight the problems and the benefits of working in an urban environment and help develop survival strategies for teachers who will be working in those types of environments. The grant will also increase students awareness of the role of DMEA and will hopefully encourage more new teachers to join the organization.

Calendar of Events



- February 4, 2003
DMPS School Board
Open Forum 5:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- February 6, 2003
DMEA Executive Board
4:15 p.m.
- February 13, 2003
Faculty Rep Assembly
North High School Cafeteria
4:15 p.m.
- February 17, 2003
Public Forum on School Budget
East High
6:00 p.m.
- February 18, 2003
DMPS School Board
Open Forum 5:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- February 20, 2003
DMEA Executive Board
4:15 p.m.

Polk County Legislators

Since many of our members live in suburban Polk County we are including the names of all Polk County legislators in this year's list. You may want to save this page to use when we request that members contact legislators on important issues. This listing will also be available on the DMEA web site

House of Representatives

District 42

Geri Huser

Home Telephone: 967-7846

E-mail: geri.huser@legis.state.ia.us

District 47

Ralph Watts

Home Telephone: 993-4850

E-mail: ralph.watts@legis.state.ia.us

District 59

O. Gene Maddox

Home Telephone: (515) 225-1390

Office Telephone: (515) 223-0574

E-mail: gene.maddox@legis.state.ia.us

District 60

Libby Jacobs

Home Telephone: 223-1225

Office Telephone: 248-3641

E-mail: libby.jacobs@legis.state.ia.us

District 61

Jo Oldson

Home Telephone: 255-2805

E-mail: jo.oldson@legis.state.ia.us

District 62

Frank Chiodo

Home Telephone: 287-5245

Office Telephone: (515) 778-5245

E-mail: frank.chiodo@legis.state.ia.us

District 63

Scott Raecker

Home Telephone: (515) 276-5987

Office Telephone: 271-1911

E-mail: scott.raecker@legis.state.ia.us

District 64

Janet Petersen

Home Telephone: (515) 279-9063

E-mail:

janet_petersen@legis.state.ia.us

District 65

Wayne Ford

Home Telephone: (515) 271-0605

E-mail: wayne.ford@legis.state.ia.us

District 66

Ed Fallon

Home Telephone: 243-8828

Office Telephone: 288-5364

E-mail: ed.fallon@legis.state.ia.us

District 67

Kevin McCarthy

E-mail:

kevin.mccarthy@legis.state.ia.us

District 68

John Connors

Home Telephone: 262-3345

E-mail: john.connors@legis.state.ia.us

District 69

Kent Kramer

Home Telephone: 276-1613

Office Telephone: 226-9000

E-mail: kent.kramer@legis.state.ia.us

District 70

Carmine Boal

Home Telephone: 964-3335

Office Phone: 281-3221

E-mail: carmine.boal@legis.state.ia.us

District 73

Jodi Tymeson

Home Telephone: 462-5081

Office Telephone: 252-4211

E-mail: jodi.tymeson@legis.state.ia.us

District 74

Mark Davitt

Home Telephone: 962-9345

Office Telephone: 288-8490

E-mail: mark.davitt@legis.state.ia.us

Senate

District 30

Mary Kramer

Home Telephone: (515) 224-7613

Office Telephone: 281-3811

E-mail: mary.kramer@legis.state.ia.us

District 31

Matt Mccoy

Home Telephone: (515) 282-4510

Office Telephone: (515) 245-2959

E-mail: matt.mccoy@legis.state.ia.us

District 32

Jack Holveck

Home Telephone: (515) 277-5064

Office Telephone: (515) 245-3860

E-mail: jack.holveck@legis.state.ia.us

District 33

Jack Hatch

Home Telephone: (515) 243-2033

Office Telephone: 244-2941

E-mail: jack.hatch@legis.state.ia.us

District 34

Dick Dearden

Home Telephone: (515) 262-1203

E-mail: dick.dearden@legis.state.ia.us

District 35

Jeff Lamberti

Home Telephone: 965-1067

Office Telephone: 965-1200

E-Mail: jeff.lamberti@legis.state.ia.us

District 37

Doug Shull

Home Telephone: 961-4310

E-mail: doug.shull@legis.state.ia.us

It is often easiest to contact the legislators office at the Capitol. You can contact the Senate switchboard at 281-3371, and the House switchboard at 281-3221. The phones are usually answered by staffers. Members can leave a short message and ask that it be given to their representative.

Des Moines Education Association

206 Center Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515-471-8040
Fax: 515-471-8043
<http://www.dmea.org>

Chris Miller, President
christopher.miller@dmeps.k12.ia.us

Randy Richardson, Executive Director
RRichardson@isea.org

Sharon Nelson, Office Manager
SNelson@isea.org

George Fischer Scholarship Applications Now Available

George Fischer Scholarship applications are now available at the DMEA office and at many of your high school guidance offices. Each year DMEA awards two \$1000 scholarships to deserving high school graduates. Students must meet the following guidelines to be eligible to apply:

1. Must be a 2003 high school graduate.
2. Must be accepted to the college of their choice.
3. Must be willing to participate in an interview to be held in April.
4. Must file a personal letter of application and provide two letters of recommendation from current/former teachers.
5. Must provide a high school transcript showing grades and standardized test scores.

Students will be selected based upon their scholastic potential, academic achievement, involvement in activities, and honors they have received. Completed applications are due in the DMEA office by March 14, 2003.

DMEA Needs You to Serve Our Members!

Election time is rapidly approaching and a number of positions are open. DMEA is continually looking for bright, creative people with new ideas to run for association office. It is important to the vitality of the organization that members are always presented with a choice in an election for their leaders.

Members wishing to run for office will need to complete a Statement of Candidacy form and submit it to the DMEA office by 4:30 p.m. on February 13th. These forms are available from your FR. Please consider running for an office or being a delegate. It is a great way to get involved. If you have questions about the time commitments or duties involved please check with your FR for details or call the office at 471-8040.

Elections will be held the week of March 3rd. Ballots will be due at the March 6th Faculty Rep meeting. The ballots will be counted and results will be announced at the meeting.

The following positions will be contested this year:

DMEA Secretary (2-year term)
DMEA Treasurer (2-year term)
Executive Board High School Representative (2-year term)
Elementary Executive Board Representative (2-year term)
ISEA Executive Board Representative (3-year term)
Department of Nurses
Secretary
Treasurer

Department of Associates
Secretary
Treasurer
Department of Secretaries
Secretary
Treasurer



DMEA will also be electing nine delegates to the ISEA Delegate Assembly to be held April 3-4 in Ames. The following members will be serving the second of a two-year term and **do not** need to run for re-election:

Karen Reese	Kris Mesicek
Paul Mann	Alice Boyd
Linda Young	Carmen Winters
Deb Henry	Toni Austin
Sarah Perdue	Alan Young
Bert Testa	Lesley Martin

If your name does not appear on this list and you want to attend Delegate Assembly you will need to complete a Statement of Candidacy form so that your name will appear on the ballot.

In addition 13 delegates to NEA Representative Assembly will be elected. Representative Assembly will be held July 1-6 in New Orleans. Delegates will serve a one-year term as delegates to RA.