

February 1999  
Volume 1, Issue 4

# DMEA LEADERSHIP REPORT

## CALENDAR

### February

- 1 GA Committee  
4:00 PM - DMEA office
- 4 Executive Board Meeting  
4:00 PM - DMEA office
- 8 IPD/HR Committee Mtg  
4:00 PM - DMEA office
- 11 Faculty Rep. Meeting  
4:00 PM - North High
- 16 Associates Meeting  
Valentine Event  
4:00 PM - East High
- 18 Executive Board Meeting  
4:00 PM - DMEA office
- 23 New Member Dinner  
5:30 PM - Hoyt Sherman Place
- 25 DMEA Workshop  
4:00-8:00 PM - Samuelson

**I read this someplace but  
do not know who to credit!**

*"The trouble with education  
nowadays is that the teacher  
is afraid of the principal.  
The principal is afraid of  
the superintendent.  
The superintendent is afraid  
of the school board.  
The school board is afraid of  
the parents, and the parents  
are afraid of the children."*

### *1999 NEA Midwest*

#### *Leadership Conference*

We sent a great DMEA delegation of 12 associates, secretaries, teachers and counselors to the Midwest Leadership Conference last weekend in Chicago! None of the 12 had ever attended a Midwest Regional, but you wouldn't have known it from their excellent participation! They were: Rhonda Anderson, Phyllis Sutteck, Phyllis Brown, Justine Finley, Eunice Van Tuyl, Kevin McLean, Jean Riley, Susan Case-Card, Susan Pille, Linda Young, Becky Pool and Janice Redshaw. All have expressed appreciation for this excellent opportunity to talk with top NEA leaders and learn valuable leadership skills. Next year's conference will be held in Omaha and we will send a similar delegation. Plan now to apply!

#### *Schools First Update*

John and I meet with the DMPS Schools First committee and the County Citizens committee for several hours each week to help coordinate efforts to win passage of the one-cent sales tax. This is the first of many regular updates. If you have not already done so, please see that

all staff volunteer forms (yellow) have been returned to the DMEA office for our data base!

The latest information is:

1. Four building captains (DMEA-PTA-Principal AFSCME) have been designated to coordinate building efforts to identify:
  - ✓ 2 organizations where our speakers bureau volunteers can be invited to speak;
  - ✓ 10 volunteers to phone on March 13, 14, 15, 16.
  - ✓ 2 endorsements by community organizations
  - ✓ 10 volunteers to put up yard signs on Sat. 2-27-99 (Rain date is 3-6-99)
  - ✓ 2 organizations which will run Schools First articles
  - ✓ 2 people who will write sign letters to the editor
2. Secretary of State, Chet Culver will visit all high schools in DSM and many others in Polk County to register graduating seniors and encourage them to vote on March 16, 1999.
3. Each elementary school is asked to contact all daycare centers in their attendance area to send Schools First literature home to parents.

***Only you can make it happen!  
Thanks for your help!***

## Retirement

If you have a member that is considering early retirement but is confused about district actions and deadlines, tell them the following:

1. The Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> deadline published in the Staffer had nothing to do with early retirement.
2. The master contract specifies March 1<sup>st</sup> as the date by which teachers may apply for early retirement.
3. Early retirement at age 55 or later must be affirmed at the bargaining table (including health benefits to age 65).
4. Bargaining will not be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. We have asked the district to move the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline back to April or May. They have been willing to do that in the past years.
6. If the district refuses to set the date back and early retirees have to meet the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, they should write a conditional retirement letter. The conditions to include are the availability of the early retirement bonus and health insurance until age 65.

## Elections

Please watch for your February ISEA Communique! It will include a ballot for at-large delegates to the NEA Convention. DMEA members Jim Patch, Pat Papenheim and Paul Mann will be on the ballot. Rich Parker will be on the ballot in the retired member section (category 2). They would appreciate your support. DMEA candidate packets will be available at the Feb. 11th FR meeting.

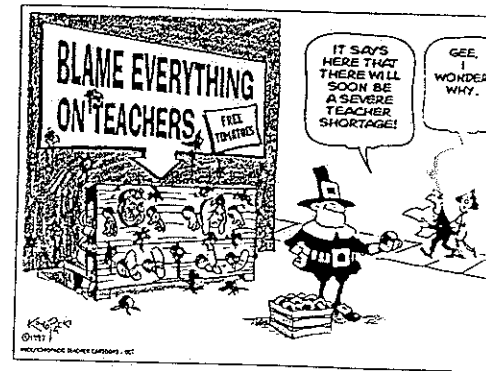
## Substitute Issue

Several DMEA leaders spoke forcefully to the Board of Education on Jan. 19, 1999 about the problems created by the lack of substitutes. Speakers included:

- Paul Mann, DMEA President
- Judy Carter (Douglas)
- Anita Allen (Edmunds)
- Jim Patch (Central Campus)
- Hance Throckmorton (McKinley)

The Board heard stories about early morning confusion when finding staff to cover assignments, the overload on teachers when they use their planning time to cover or become responsible for additional students in their class, and most importantly, lost educational opportunities for some students.

The district talks of reaching excellence. But to do that you must also do the basics well. That includes a bus schedule that gets kids to where they are supposed to be and in time and having enough adults in the building to work the program.



## FR Member Benefits Grant Opportunities

This is just a reminder that the provisions of our \$18,250 Member Benefits grant include:

- opportunities for purchase of a bulletin board for your building for posting DMEA communications and Member Benefits literature
- mileage reimbursement (up to \$30 per FR) for attendance at FR meetings
- reimbursement of treats for building DMEA meetings
- dinner on us at the New Member dinner on 2-23-99 for any FR who brings a new member
- speakers on member benefits as requested.

