

DMEA TEMPO

Volume 24 Issue 1

Des Moines Education Association

August 1999

What Did We Do For You Last Year?

By President Paul Mann

Each year DMEA leaders work very hard to address the literally hundreds of concerns that are brought to us by you, our members. For instance, last year we were visible in the press and also worked behind the scenes with school board members, administrators, and community leaders to help affect positive changes you requested, such as:

- ◆ Helped elect a truly pro-education Governor and Lt. Governor,
- ◆ Helped elect a former DMEA faculty representative, Chet Culver, to the position of Iowa Secretary of State,
- ◆ Elected our two recommended candidates to the school board,
- ◆ Won grievances,
- ◆ Filed a prohibited practice complaint against the district for the process used in extending the student day and elimination of planning time and elementary collaboration days,
- ◆ Generated press regarding our statement of no confidence in the administration and school board over lack of collaboration on revolutionary proposed changes,
- ◆ Led picketing of district administrative offices by 100 Faculty representatives,
- ◆ Funded 21 delegates to the ISEA Delegate Assembly, 14 delegates to the NEA RA in Orlando, 10 participants to the NEA Midwest Regional Conference, and 9 participants to the ISEA Leadership Conference,
- ◆ Implemented our \$18,250 Member Benefits Grant from NEA,
- ◆ Offered 150 new teachers a free luncheon catered by Christianis and two opportunities to attend a free dinner at Hoyt Sherman,
- ◆ Successfully bargained health insurance payments by the district for early retirees again,
- ◆ Implemented a very successful Read Across America campaign involving over 50 celebrity readers (including Governor Vilsack, Lt. Gov. Peterson, Mayor Daniels, and legislators) in many schools,
- ◆ Worked successfully through our unified bargaining team to win 5.1% raises for our certificated members, 5.3% raises for associates, 5.3% raises for our secretaries with only 2.8% new money available,
- ◆ Conducted a successful spring DMEA Instruction and Professional Development Workshop,
- ◆ And handled literally hundreds of employment questions and member concerns!

In addition, your NEA and ISEA dues led to significant new federal and state funding for 32 additional DSM elementary reading and math teachers and blunted many anti-public education initiatives! In doing so, you helped make things better for all children in DSM public schools! We do it all for you.....and them!



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