

# DMEA TEMPO

Volume 24 Issue 1

Des Moines Education Association

September 1999

## President's Report

By President Paul Mann

### The DMEA Sales Tax Campaign "Members Helping Members Helping Students"

At the September FR Assembly, the FRs voted overwhelmingly to develop a "strong, independent, hard hitting, highly publicized campaign with members to help pass the local sales tax on November 23! We are, accordingly, calling upon each one of you to examine the following outline of our campaign and join with us in helping secure funding for the multimillion-dollar repair and replacement of our aging infrastructure. Our campaign will include the following:

1. A request for \$8,000 for NEA to fund political advertising of elements of our campaign,
2. A joint press conference with other Polk County Education Association Presidents,
3. An "every staff member" campaign to request, receive and return absentee ballots (at school),
4. Public rallies with staff, children and parents (with students as the focus),
5. Newspaper and other paid advertising spots (with students as the focus),
6. Door to door "petition" drive to locate positive votes,
7. Member to member "petition" drive to secure 2 hours of volunteer help per member,
8. Consultation with district and county campaigns to avoid duplication of efforts,
9. Phoning non-absentee voters on November 22 to get out the vote, and
10. Participation in election day "get out the vote" efforts.

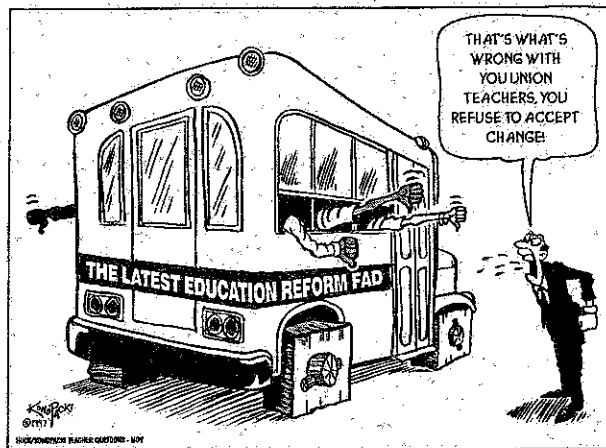
In voting for a strong, hard-hitting, independent campaign, the FRs recognized the difficulty in urging members to support an administration-led district campaign when we are still in a position of "no confidence" in the school board and top administrators. But, faced with the dire prospect of the loss of the sales tax and the likelihood of millions of dollars of budget cuts next spring, they urged us to offer you a credible way to help pass the sales tax without compromising your strong stand against the district reorganization plans. We urge you to put aside your anger and dismay at the plan's negative effects on students and teachers, as far as the sales tax campaign is concerned.

This is your opportunity to help Members Helping Members Helping Students. Please plan to give us as much support as you can in these trying times! The countywide sales tax may be the "last great hope" for the school district and the city of Des Moines.

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### October Calendar

4	Governmental Affairs	4:00	DMEA
7	Executive Board	4:15	DMEA
19	Dept. of Associates	4:00	DMEA
21	Faculty Rep. Assembly	4:00	North



### ***Prohibited Practice Complaints***

Prohibited Practice complaints filed by the DMEA are still alive with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). The complaints allege bad faith bargaining by the district when they withheld vital information in last year's bargaining. Information about the proposed addition to the school day and the cost of Phase III classes through the AEA was withheld. Attorneys for both the DMEA and the district continue to have discussions about resolving the dispute. A formal hearing conducted by PERB is likely in the near future.

### ***Timely Benefits***

Horace Mann Insurance Company has been paying attention. The insurer of educators has announced an addition to the auto policies for association members at no cost. You are now covered for victim assistance, hospitalization, and accidental death and dismemberment for assaults in the workplace. Last year, Horace Mann added coverage for association members who transport students. Check it out by calling 1-800-999-1030 or 278-4333 locally.

### ***Planning Time***

Check your planning time by comparing yours to the following district standard:

K - 2	180 minutes per week
3 - 5	270 minutes per week
Middle/High	One period per day

Planning time should be available in useful lengths. Five to ten minute breaks are called bathroom breaks, not planning time. Call us if you fall short as we need to bring the issue to the district's attention as soon as possible.

### ***Deadline Set for National Board Applications - November 15, 1999***

If you're interested in pursuing National Board Certification, there may not be a better time than now. Thanks to legislation passed during the 1999 session, the Iowa Department of Education will subsidize up to the full \$2,000 registration fee, and successful candidates will receive a financial award of up to \$2,500 per year for the next ten years. Applications for the fee reimbursement, along with a check for \$500 payable to the NBPTS, are due at the Iowa Department of Education by November 15. But members are encouraged to get their applications in early so they are sure to receive important information and updates. An informational session on National Board Certification for interested teachers is scheduled to be broadcast on Saturday, Oct. 2, 1999. The sessions run from 9 - 11 a.m. and will be held at Johnston High School and West Des Moines Valley-Southwoods. Additional ICN sessions will be scheduled for actual candidates throughout the process as part of a unique support program sponsored by the ISEA and the University of Northern Iowa.

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### **➡ *Briefly:***

#### **Overheard and reported without comment:**

- On the occasion of a relocated school opening. "We made them look good, as usual."
- "I will not volunteer for building or district committees."
- "It is hard not to volunteer for building needs and projects."
- "I will not voluntarily use my planning time to cover for a lack of substitutes. If ordered to, I will do so reluctantly."
- "The added 30 minutes may work for some students. But what a lousy way to do it."