MEA MONITOR

April 2014

*Moline Education Association*

***Special Interest Articles:***

* Add a highlight or your point of interest here
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***Individual Highlights:***

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 3

Inside Story 4

Inside Story 5

Inside Story 6

Inside Story 7

Last Story 8

## President’s Report – Susan Blackall

We made it through April!!! Congratulations. Testing and bad weather (?) should be behind us now and the end is in sight. Negotiation’s training has been completed and negotiations are under way for our next contract. I want to thank all who took time to respond to the negotiation’s survey, to all the schools that volunteered food for the negotiation’s nights, and for the volunteers serving on the negotiation’s committee. Internal transfers are finished and placement of returning teachers from the Honorable Dismissal List is under way. Hopefully we will have everyone placed and notified next week. May should be a good month.

* **Master Teachers**
	+ Congratulations to Kim Anderson, Nick DiGioia, and Robin Heiar for being honored as Dispatch Master Teachers on May 2. A reception is being held at 5:30 at the I-Wireless Center, followed by dinner at 6:30. These awards are well deserved.
* **School Calendar for 2014-15**
	+ We have an approved calendar that offers the fall break from October 27 through October 31. These days will not be used for heat day make-up as previously thought. Please be aware, however, that there are five days at the end of the school year that will stand as emergency make-up days.
* **CPDU’s**
	+ Joe Vermiere spoke to the district AR’s on April 8 about the changes in the laws are changing dealing with CPDU’s. Please remember that you have until July 1 to enter all your CPDU’s into the ELIS (Educator Licensure Information System) website.
	+ After that you will only have a 60-day time limit in which to record the CPDU after an event.
	+ All CPDU’s have to be identified as having a purpose from A-E. “A” addresses Illinois Content Area Standards, “B” addresses developing knowledge and skills for state priorities, “C” addresses knowledge and skills for local school improvement plans; and “D” addresses expanding knowledge and skills in an additional teaching field.
	+ Purpose “E” addresses the needs of serving students with disabilities. Joe recommends that special education teachers need to have at least 50% of their CPDU’s in this area and general Education teachers must devote at least 20% of their activities to this purpose.

* + **Insurance for Retirees**
	+ Lanty McGuire has said that he and Sarah Bartels, in the Insurance Office at Allendale, would like to have a one-on-one discussion with each retiree to explain their options for retirement insurance.
	+ Just call Lanty at 743-8119 or e-mail him for an appointment.

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* **Elections**
	+ Elections will be held next week on May 7, for MEA officers, At-Large-Members, and Regional Council. Thank you to Teresa Armes for coordinating the voting and the AR’s for facilitating the voting procedure.
* **Closing Day**
	+ We have asked Dr. Moyer to look into the state requirements for closing day. Although no changes will be made this year, he will look at the specifics and alternatives for next year.
* **Fair Tax Act**
	+ Because the state senate adjourned on Tuesday without voting, time has run out for the Fair Tax Act resolution to move through the senate in time to meet the legislature’s deadline for this session. This means that there is not enough time to get the Fair Tax amendment on the November ballot.

* + This is not the end by any means. The graduated income tax (Fair Tax) remains a top priority for IEA, and they will fight on in the next session for the Fair Tax.



**Public Relations- Kim Anderson**

Attention members! Did you know that the MEA has its own website ([http://mea40.org/](http://mea40.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))? On this website, you can find archived copies of past Monitors and Connecting Lines. In addition, you can find lists of who the MEA Exec Board members and ARs are and when their meetings are held, MEA election applications and bios, how to access our contract and your Weingarten rights, tax info, John Deere-Moline / Moline Schools Special Recognition Awards, MEA Scholarship info, and links to the District, IEA, and NEA. But there is more we can do with this site!

In a section called Good News, we will feature fun, planned events by the newly formed MEA Social Committee. In addition, I would be willing to post other things such as special classroom or events or school fundraisers, outstanding awards or achievements of students or staff etc. Please feel free to send me text and pictures of anything you would like to share that you believe would qualify!

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**AR Secretary’s Report – Emily Roberts**

The MEA Association Representatives met Tuesday, April 8th, 2014, at the IEA office, Moline. Joe Vermiere addressed the membership about the changes with ELIS and CPDU records. He suggested that teachers put 50% of the CPDUs (now called “activity hours”) under purpose “E.” All teachers will need 120 hours for each 5-year cycle, as well as two pieces of proof for all hours completed. After July 1, 2014, teachers will have 60 days at the conclusion of a professional development activity to input hours. President Blackall will e-mail a power point presentation on how to update CPDU records.

President Sue Blackall called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. There were 29 representatives and 13 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 13th, 2014, AR meeting was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Tina Ferreri. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Lori McCaw reported balances of $5,878.98 in checking, $55,045.41 in savings, and $178,784.44 in cds. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Fran Grier. **Motion** passed.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

* **Elections** – Teresa Armes informed the membership that names were still needed for the middle school and high school at-large positions for the May 6th election; nomination forms were included in the March Monitor.
* **Legislative** – Fran Grier reported on the Paycheck Fairness Act and that the National Women’s History Museum was trying to gain a space on the Mall in Washington, D.C.
* **Region 18** – Bonnie Lartz complimented the MEA’s effort on the Fair Funding petition drive, noting that Moline ranked number seven in number of signatures obtained.
* **Membership** – no report.
* **Public Relations** – Kim Anderson ordered Years of Service pins and noted that the district secretaries would also receive pins and certificates through MEA.
* **Social** – no report.
* **Grievance** – no change.
* **Negotiations** – Amber Sensabaugh reminded members that the negotiations survey would close April 9th; there 295 responses to the survey. Negotiations are scheduled to begin April 24th.

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**Old Business:**

**- Internal Transfers** – all requests are due April 9th; decisions should be known within two weeks.

**- Calendar** – Clint Christopher sent a letter of retraction; the calendar used will be the one originally approved with no make-up days scheduled during the fall break.

**- Non-negotiables** – President Blackall noted this issue had been discussed at every Executive Board meeting with Dr. Moyer, and that every school is at a different stage. President Blackall encouraged the ARs to ask the building principals for time during the Wednesday meetings to discuss non-negotiables.

**New Business:**

**- Closing Day/Opening Day** – the 2014-15 calendar is set with all-day student attendance on both closing and opening days; alternate suggestions, such as a one-half day attendance with one-half day professional development on closing and opening days, should be sent to the calendar committee.

**- MHS Professional Development Time** – President Blackall informed the members that Dr. Moyer suggested that staff “be creative” and present ideas for providing professional development time to the principal. She also noted that Dr. Moyer has not been informed of any complaints regarding the MHS schedule.

**President’s Report:**

**- Teacher Evaluation** – principals will be attending workshops next month and will provide video examples of teacher performances to staff next year.

**- Teacher Placement and Recall** – decisions should be announced in two to three weeks. President Blackall noted that non-tenured teachers, if RIFed, have a one-year right of recall.

- President Blackall thanked the ARs for the good communication to the principals and herself.

**A.R. Concerns:**

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish AR concerns in the Monitor. ARs were reminded to communicate concerns discussed at the meeting with the other MEA members they represent. President Blackall will discuss most issues in the “President’s Corner” section of the Monitor or send superintendent’s responses directly to the ARs for dissemination to members.

**Good of the Order:**

- Gift certificates were presented to winning ticket holders.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Sherri Martin. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Roberts

MEA Secretary

**YOUR DUES DOLLARS at work** (First in a Series)

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Your IEA membership guarantees representation at the bargaining table and ensures you have access to free legal services should the need ever arise.

UNISERV DIRECTORS – IEA’S FRONT LINE

UniServ Directors (UDs), located at 22 offices statewide, are IEA’s front-line support for your local association. UDs advocate for your best professional interests and support your efforts to provide high-quality education. Your working conditions are your students’ learning conditions. Like you, IEA wants both to be the best they can be.

Contract negotiations

As a public education employee, your union, as your exclusive bargaining representative, has the legal right to negotiate the terms of your employment. Your contract is the basis for most of your employee rights. It spells out your working hours, evaluation process, work/life benefits, job responsibilities, use of social media and school safety.

Your UD supports your local representatives as they negotiate contracts representing your and ultimately your students’ best interests.

Other areas of expertise

UDs also help your local association, at no additional cost, with:

Contract interpretation Grievance processing Job security protection Training programs to meet local needs

Employee counseling for work-related problems

Arbitration case presentations Unemployment information

Bargaining crisis preparation Retirement concerns Public relations programs development Governance matters assistance Civil rights violations processIEA/NEA benefits access  Bargaining crisis preparation

LEGAL SERVICES – PROTECTS MEMBERS

Protecting your rights as a public school employee is at the core of IEA’s mission. IEA employs nine in-house attorneys and legal support staff, and when needed, calls on highly skilled outside legal expertise – all available to you at no additional cost.

Legal Services staff are experts in education law who work directly with your UD and local leadership on issues such as:

* Wage and hour laws Unfair labor practices Layoff and recall Retirement Fringe benefits Unemployment compensationEducation funding Negotiations Discrimination  Health and safety Civil rightsContract enforcement

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#### MEA Member News:

*Congratulations to:*

Rowdy Fredrickson (Franklin) on the birth of his son, Micah

DeAnn Kerr (Willard) on the birth of her granddaughter

*Condolences to:*

Marcia Jacobs (Willard) on the death of her father

Cheryl Rasche (Washington) on the death of her husband, Tony

Sally Krantz (Lincoln-Irving) on the death of her brother, Tony Rasche

**Executive Board**

President-Susan Blackall

Vice President-Bonnie Lartz

Secretary-Emily Roberts

Treasurer-Lori McCaw

MHS at Large

Colette Guerdet

Jennifer Ulam

Middle School at Large

Susie Smice

Elementary at Large

Chris Ballard

Tina Ferreri

Dinah Leibovitz

Appointed Committee Chairs

Elections-Teresa Armes

Legislative-Fran Grier

Membership-Julie Bender

Public Relations-Kim Anderson

Social-Cassie Larvenz

 Chief Negotiators-

Amber Sensabaugh

Frank Boothe

Moline Education Association

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E-Mail: sblackal@molineschools.org

WEB SITE:

www.mea40.org



**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: MAY 6 AT 3:45 AT MEA OFFICE**

**NEXT AR MEETING: MAY 8 AT 3:45 AT IEA OFFICE**

**NEXT SUPERINTENDENT MEETING: NONE**

##### **About Our Organization…**

Moline Education Association

**Company Name**

**Street Address**

###### City, State 00000