

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2017

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Greetings-

This year seems like it is flying by already. I can't believe it is the beginning of October, and at the end of this month, we will be having parent-teacher conferences. I hope that all of you are enjoying the year, which has had an unusual start to say the least. We had extreme heat at the end of September, and we had an entire school relocated in the span of a week. Fortunately, the teachers in our district are resilient and can deal with anything that is thrown our way. We are warriors in more ways than one.

The biggest news so far this year is the fire at Franklin. What started as a tragic story ended as a story of community and generosity. It was so heartwarming to see the outpouring support from our community for the students, teachers, and staff at Franklin as they faced having to move to a new building with little to no supplies. The new facility was made into an inviting safe place for the students in just a matter of days, and we can thank the teachers, staff, and administration for making that happen. We can be very proud of the strength of our school district and our community.

In regards to the addition of Academic Freedom to our contract, Matt DeBaene and I have been going to each school to present the roles of the district administration, building administrators, and teachers in the daily lessons, activities, and assessments of our students. I feel that our presentation helps make it very clear that teachers are encouraged to be creative in the classroom, while still addressing the standards and following scope and sequence. A teacher who is passionate about what he or she is teaching is the best teacher for students.

We have some openings in the district that still haven't been filled, and I feel that the shortage is the result of the negativity towards teachers that has occurred over the last several years and

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the continuous threats to our retirement. I am hopeful that people are starting to realize our importance and ending the blame of society's ills at the feet of teachers. That isn't just wishful thinking, is it?

We are planning an MEA social at the end of this month. We would like to encourage new teachers, as well as our more experienced ones, to come and have some fun for a few hours on Friday, October 20th. I will email the details as we get closer to the date.

In closing, I would like to reiterate how impressive our members are, which has been evidenced by these first weeks of school. Enjoy these beautiful fall days and 70 degree weather. Before we know it, we will be bundling up in our winter coats and boots--Ugh!

Have a great week-  
Susie

## AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the IEA office, Moline. The ARs introduced themselves; pizza was provided. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:52pm. There were 28 ARs and 12 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Raegan Jones, to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, AR meetings. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Liz Finch. **Motion** passed. It was voted (January 2015) to not publish the dollar amounts in the MEA budget in neither the minutes nor the Monitor. Members with questions regarding the MEA account balances are asked to contact Treasurer Mary Nelson.

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President Susie Hafner yielded the floor to Treasurer Mary Nelson. Treasurer Nelson read the names of the appointed Committee Chairs: Membership – Heidi Norcross; Elections – Lori Wesemann; Legislative – Dave Strafford; Public Relations – Kim Anderson; Social – Aubree Krol and Tina Ferreri; Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet and Susie Hafner. A motion was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Raegan Jones, to approve the appointed Committee Chairs. **Motion** passed.

President Susie Hafner resumed the floor.

#### Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – Heidi Norcross and Mary Nelson will be taking an Association Day to finalize membership forms and count. Heidi asked that ARs take the Teacher-to-Teacher contact fliers and distribute them to the new teachers in the buildings. Completed fliers may be returned to the IEA office or brought to the October AR meeting.
- Elections – no report.
- Legislative – Dave Strafford reported on current attempts by lobbyists to eliminate Fair Share in the state of Illinois, and reminded ARs of the many things IEA/NEA does for its members.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – Kim Anderson asked ARs distribute Years of Service pins and certificates that were left at the first day institute. Members who think they should have received a pin/certificate and did not are asked to contact Kim. The MEA blog (MEA40.org) was updated.
- Social – no report.
- Grievance/Negotiations – Colette Guerdet reported that the contract is being finalized, and is awaiting the BOE and Negotiations Team signatures. Contract copies will soon be available on-line, and printed contracts will be distributed to members when they are ready. Colette asked that members with questions or concerns regarding “academic freedom” contact her.

#### New Business:

- President Hafner reported that salary statements will be forthcoming and reminded members to check the employee portal.
- President Hafner was informed by Superintendent McGuire that teachers will be receiving Apple laptops, and that teachers may keep their older desktop computers.
- President Hafner reminded the ARs that “academic freedom” was now in the contract. The created units are considered a framework.
- President Hafner e-mailed ARs a list of AR responsibilities and thanked them for their service.
- Correspondence from Anna Finch was read, thanking the MEA for the scholarship award.

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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 Hafner 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.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sherri Martin, seconded by Tricia Leibovitz. **Motion** passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The MEA Association Representatives met Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the IEA office, Moline. President Susie Hafner welcomed and thanked Sue Krismanits, a member of the MEA Scholarship Committee, who then announced and introduced the recipients of the 2016-2017 MEA Scholarships: Janie Adams, daughter of Teri (LO) and Tim Ehlers, and Anna Finch, daughter of Liz (WMS) and Steve Finch. Janie Adams plans to attend Indiana Wesleyan University, majoring in English Education; Anna Finch plans on attending Greenville College, majoring in Biology/Pre-Nursing.

President Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:52pm. There were 24 ARs and 7 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Jill Bogart, seconded by Deb Sturges, to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, AR meetings. **Motion** passed.

Treasurer Mary Nelson reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lori Wesemann, seconded by Sherri Martin. **Motion** passed. It was voted (January 2015) to not publish the dollar amounts in the MEA budget



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in neither the minutes nor the Monitor. Members with questions regarding the MEA account balances are asked to contact Treasurer Mary Nelson.

Committee Chair Reports:

- Membership – no report.
- Elections – no report.
- Legislative – no report.
- Region 18 – no report.
- Public Relations – President Hafner reported that the MEA blog was updated and the site was working.
- Social – Aubree Krol informed the ARs that the next social event would be Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00, and the Barrelhouse in Moline.
- Grievance/Negotiations – President Hafner reported that the first official training for the Negotiations teams would begin May 25; Sangeetha Rayapati would represent the BOE.

Old Business:

- President Hafner reported that the MEA Budget audit was completed, and thanked the Audit Committee members Liz O'Hern and Deb Sturges for their work.

New Business:

- President Hafner discussed the results of the Co-teaching survey with Matt DeBaene and Kristin Sanders. Survey concerns included teacher burnout, scheduling issues, and the appropriate placement of students. President Hafner noted that changes for Instructional Rounds included: 1) schools new to co-teaching would do a walk-through to learn; 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, LO, WI, and LI schools would receive help and feedback from partner schools already involved in co-teaching. President Hafner also stated that at the middle school and high school levels, teachers might opt out of instructional rounds if the teacher and principal agree.
- President Hafner informed the ARs that Kristin Sanders would present the recommendation that MSD re-join BHASED to the BOE at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- MEA election results: President – Susie Hafner; Vice-President – Christine Watts; Secretary – Emily Roberts; Treasurer – Mary Nelson; MHS At-Large – Scott Ehlers and Katie MacLennan; Middle Schools At-Large – Jill Bogart and Marlene DeLong; Elementary At-Large – Chris Ballard, Dinah Leibovitz, and Leslie Perkins; Region 18 elected members – Reagan Jones, Lisa Mihalopoulos, and Lori Wesemann.

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 Hafner will discuss most issues in the “President’s Corner” section of

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the Monitor or send superintendent's responses directly to the ARs for dissemination to members.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Colette Guerdet, seconded by Liz Finch. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

## MEA Member News

### **Congratulations to:**

- The staff at Franklin School for their perseverance and dedication

### **Condolences to:**

- The staff at Franklin School for the loss of their school
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