

# MEA MONITOR

Moline Education Association

October 2020

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## President's Report - Susan Hafner

Hello Everyone-

We have survived nearly our first quarter of hybrid and remote teaching. It has been chaotic, stressful, and enlightening--all at the same time. I have realized how much my students benefit from being in person, even if it is for just two days. I guess we really do make a difference.

I want to thank all of the individuals who have taken on the AR roles at our schools. The ARs are a valuable support and are there to help with any contractual concerns. They help ensure that we have effective communication with administration, which leads to a working environment that is beneficial for all.

To the new certified staff members, I would like to say, "Welcome to Moline." I know this has not been the typical school year, but if you can survive the current situation, you can survive anything. Remember to reach out if you have any questions along the way. The MEA is here to help.

We have been in constant communication with our administration at Allendale, who have been receptive to ideas and concerns. Throughout the summer, we discussed the various needs of the upcoming year, including the student schedule, teacher expectations, administration expectations, and so on. At this point, we are definitely meeting more than normal, but this year is far from typical. This level of communication is very important to all involved, for we know the need of helping to make the workload sustainable, which seems impossible for many of us at times.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of our union. Our membership continues to be over 99% and we are stronger than ever. In our current conditions, our unified voice is more necessary than ever. All of you have been amazing in handling this new normal, and hopefully

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at some point, we, as well as our students, will look back and think of our strength in persevering through a year of so many challenges and changes. We are Moline.

Take care-  
Susie

## AR Secretary's Report - Emily Roberts

Moline Education Association  
Association Representatives Meeting  
Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The MEA Association representatives met via Zoom on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. President Susie Hafner called the meeting to order at 3:37pm. There were 24 ARs and 14 Executive Board members in attendance; a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Lisa Welvaert, seconded by Heidi Norcross, to approve the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, AR meeting. **Motion** approved.

Treasurer Steve Sundberg reported balances in all accounts. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Heidi Norcross, seconded by Jill Bogart. **Motion** approved. 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 Steve Sundberg.

### Committee Chair Reports:

- **Membership** – Heidi Norcross reported that all new hires, except two, had joined MEA. She will take an Association Day to complete the roster.
- **Elections** – Marigrace Alonso reported there would be an election in late December. She is currently trying to determine options for electronic voting.
- **Legislation** – Raegan Jones reported that the IEA office has yard signs in support of the Fair Tax proposal, and encouraged members to help dispel the misconceptions regarding the Fair Tax.
- **Region 18** – Lori Wesemann reported there was a meeting scheduled for 4:30pm.
- **Public Relations** – Kim Anderson reported she is still trying to resolve issues with the MEA blog. Years of Service pins and certificates were being delivered to buildings.
- **Social** – Aubree Krol reported plans for an event were being discussed.
- **Grievance/Negotiations** – Colette Guerdet asked members to note what made their work easier/more difficult this year. An example given: academic freedom.

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Old Business:

- President Hafner noted that WMS had added a teacher for the ED room; Matt Perkins gave a brief explanation of that room's structure and use.
- President Hafner noted that Vice-President Watts had worked with Dr. Prybil on elementary issues.

New Business:

- President Hafner encouraged members to continue with the good communication amongst the union, and asked that everyone complete the survey recently sent by Dr. Savage.

A.R. Concerns:

- It was voted (2010-2011) to not publish the 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 Erin Stuedeman, seconded by Heidi Norcross. **Motion** approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Roberts  
MEA Secretary

## MEA Member News

\*Please send any member news to  
[cwatts@molineschools.org](mailto:cwatts@molineschools.org)



