Absentee balloting….Already??

This year Minnesota will see a significant change as it will replace caucusing to a primary election. March 3, 2020 is the date set for the first presidential primary. The primary election for other federal, state and local offices will continue to be held in August.

What Changes from Caucus to Primary?

- Voters can vote absentee starting this week.
- Votes are private, but party choices are public: the name, address, year of birth, and voting history of each registered voter in the county are available.
- Voters would have to attest that they agree in general with the principles of the party of the candidate for whom they are voting.
- Contrary to the caucus system where anyone eligible to vote in the November presidential election may participate, in a primary only registered voters are allowed to cast a ballot.
- Party caucuses would continue for the parties’ business to be conducted.
- The state assumes the associated costs and staffs the polling places with local election judges. The cost is estimated to be around $4 million.
- Only the GOP and DFL presidential primaries would have costs covered by the state.

  Independents: You’re on your own.

~Sources: Pioneer Press & MN House News
WIN TICKETS
To the Northern Stars Celebration

Would you like to win tickets for you and a guest to the Northern Stars Celebration?

On February 8th the Anoka - Hennepin Educational Foundation hosts the Northern Stars Celebration at the Bunker Hills Event Center in Coon Rapids. Enjoy Dinner, Live and Silent Auction, games, raffles and entertainment by Kat Perkins, a finalist on season 6 of The Voice. This event raises money for our wonderful students.

For More information: https://www.ahef.us/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2020/02/08/northern-stars-celebration/270438

AHEM is excited to announce a drawing for tickets to the event.

To enter the drawing follow these two steps:

1. Like “Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota” on Facebook
2. Share on your feed with or without a comment.

On January 31, 2020 we will pick the winners!
2020-21 Education Minnesota Unity Summit
Radisson Blu, Mall of America
2020-21 Political Conference
Two options: January 31, - February 1, 2020
4:30 PM-1:00 PM
February 1 – 2, 2020
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

As we look to 2020, voting is a high priority, and through our union, we have the collective power to win a fully funded public education system in 2021.

The power of the educator vote only translates into real changes for students and for our democracy with a visionary movement in our workplaces and within our communities.

Our plan for public education for 2020-21:
· Get out 100 percent of the educator vote on Nov. 3, 2020.
· Collectively organize at least 33,000 parents and community voters in the election and beyond.
· Unite in a statewide movement for full funding of public education in the spring of 2021.

The unity summit is a place for educators to learn about the tools they'll need to build unity around electing pro-public education candidates in the 2020 election and fight for fully funding schools in the 2021 legislative session.

The summit will also feature a public meeting with key elected officials.

Apply for a scholarship under AHEM, Local 7007 for your stay to be paid for. After your scholarship is approved, you will receive an email and there will be a link to register. Here is the link to apply:

https://cvent.me/XBoAk
Become a Building Member Engagement Coordinator

*Job Description:* The member engagement building coordinator will work with the building rep to recruit and retain members by using a variety of activities to engage members in unionism, develop new leaders, develop a building communication plan, and create an effective structure within building membership in order to organize and mobilize members around an issue. This will be one of the most essential positions with the organization.

Educators are powerful when we have a collective voice. Working in a union gives us the power to make meaningful improvements for students, our profession, public education and our communities – we need you!

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Member Engagement Training
February 21
Planning session for AHEM members to develop plans and strategies for member engagement within their individual buildings

**Coordinators are encouraged to attend the Unity Summit (see above).**

This is a $350 - $600 stipend position depending on size of site.

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Paid for through a grant from Education Minnesota
Filing is now open for AHEM President, Constitution & Bylaw Amendments, and State & National Delegates. Filing closes on Jan. 28th. If there are more than 40 who would like to attend the EdMN Rep Convention, and more than 15 who would like to go to the NEA convention, an election will occur. If there are fewer than that, the registration window will be extended to 3/27/20 for the RC, and 5/15/20 for the NEA Convention.

The Education Minnesota Convention will be on April 24 – 25.
The National Education Assoc. Convention will be in Atlanta from July 2 - 6

Contact the Union Office (763)421-9110 for more information.

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**The 2020 Census is coming: Why is that important to me?**

**The census is critical for students and educators in public schools!** The last census failed to count approximately 1,000,000 children from the ages of birth to 5.

Census data determine the distribution of more than $800 billion, including to programs that help our students. Some of those programs provide supports for children with special needs and those from low-income families.

These funds help schools reduce class sizes, hire specialists, continuously bolster teacher quality, offer preschool to low-income families, and ensure that hungry students can get breakfast or lunch to help them pay attention in class.

Census data are also critical to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which keeps millions of families out of poverty and has lasting benefits for children’s health and academic success.

www.nea.org/Census for more information.
Professional Development Classes
Offered at AHEM

All classes are held at the AHEM Office, 3500 Main St., Coon Rapids, Suite 360.

Participants must be members of Education Minnesota or retired AHEM members to attend.

Classes will satisfy the requirements for re-licensure in the area they cover as determined by ISD 11’s CEU Committee.

All classes begin at 4:30 and last 2 hours unless noted.

To maximize equity to members across the district, these classes will open at 7:00, January 24.

March/April 2020 Classes

March 5 - Thursday - Mental Health Class - 4:30-6:30

March 24 - Tuesday - Suicide Prevention Class - 4:30-5:30 (This is the last time this class will be offered this year through AHEM.)

March 26 - Thursday - Cultural Competency Class - 4:30-6:30

April 2 - Thursday - Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Class - 4:30-6:30 (This is the last time this class will be offered this year through AHEM.)

April 7 - Tuesday - English Learners Class - 4:30-6:30 (This is the last time this class will be offered this year through AHEM.)

April 14 - Tuesday - Mental Health Class - 4:30-6:30 (This is the last time this class will be offered this year through AHEM.)

April 21 - Tuesday - Cultural Competency Class - 4:30-6:30 (This is the last time this class will be offered this year through AHEM.)

I look forward to welcoming you to AHEM PD!

~ Kristi Weidlein, Professional Development Committee Chair
UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Martin Luther King Day Holiday, no school – Mon., Jan. 20
- AHEM PD Class: Cultural Competency – Tues., Jan. 21, 4:30 pm, AHEM
- AHEM Rep Assembly – Mon., Jan. 27, 4:45 pm, AHEM
- School Board Mtg. – Mon., Jan. 27, 6:30 pm, SEC
- AHEM PD Class: Suicide Prevention – Tues., Jan. 28, 4:30 pm, AHEM
- AHEM Filings Close – Tues., Jan. 28
- AHEM PD Class: Reading – Thurs., Jan. 30, 4:30 pm, AHEM
- Education Minnesota Political Conference, Unity Summit – Fri.-Sat., Jan. 31-Feb. 1
- Groundhog’s Day – Sun., Feb. 2 😁
- Executive Board Meeting – Mon., Feb. 10, 4:45
- School Board Meeting – Mon., Feb. 10, ESC, 5:30
- SEED Class – Thurs., Feb. 13 4:00 p.m.
- President’s Day – Mon., Feb. 17 – No Students
- Elem. PLC/Conf. - Sec. Staff Development – Tues., Feb. 18 - no k-12 Students
- Precinct Caucuses – Tues., Feb. 25
- Presidential Primary – Tues., March 3, PLC/Staff Development, no Students
- Meet and Confer – Wed., March 4, SDC, 5:30 p.m.