

AHEM FRIDAY BLAST

Valerie Holthus, President

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AHEM OFFICE IS CLOSED, not all phone lines are working. If you have questions or concerns, please email either david.kundin@edmn.org, laura.bratland@edmn.org or valerie.holthus@edmn.org.

Thank you, sorry for the inconvenience.

AHEM Officer Opening

Our VP/Secretary, Laura Bratland, has taken a job as field staff. Please consider filing to fulfill the remainder of the Secretary/Vice President's term, which will be from May 18, 2020 - June 30, 2022. The filing period ends on Monday April 20, 2020. The stipend for this position is \$6,696.00 per year, and is a great opportunity if you have been considering leadership in the union. Contact janie.hemmelgarn@edmn.org to file.

AHEM SCHOLARSHIP

12th Grade dependent children of AHEM members are eligible to apply for \$1,000 Scholarships from AHEM. The application deadline has been extended to May 1st. Here is the link to apply: <http://bit.ly/AHEMScholarship>

UPDATES ON COVID-19 FINANCIAL RELIEF

From student debt to taxes to monthly bills, coronavirus is affecting your finances. This round-up can help you find the information you need now.

<https://www.neamb.com/personal-finance/coronavirus-financial-relief-updates>

NEA will be hosting a live webinar, *Student Loan Relief: What the COVID-19 Relief Law means for Student Loan Borrowers*, on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT).

Congress has enacted the CARES Act, a COVID-19 relief law that includes big changes to those who have student debt. These changes include a suspension of interest and payments for borrowers who have federal student loans from April 10, 2020 to September 30, 2020. NEA is still fighting for a more expansive and more extended suspension of payments. And NEA is also fighting to cancel some or all of our members' federal student loans.

Join NEA for a Zoom webinar to discuss:

- Details on the student loan provisions in the CARES Act;
- What it means for you and what you should be thinking about doing with your student loans during the suspension period;
- The support available to NEA members to help them manage their loans; and
- What you can do to fight for broader suspension and cancellation.

Register

here: https://www.mobilize.us/nea/event/267150/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=staffsend

What Happens to my QComp?

You will be receiving information from your peer evaluator soon regarding how your evaluation cycle will conclude.

Data Privacy while conducting Distance Learning

Regarding data privacy concerns for both students and staff, and questions about provisions of special education services: Please see MDE's current guidance on these topics:

Student data privacy: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/MDE032171>

Special education: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/spedcovid19/index.htm>

NON-RENEWAL (PINK SLIP) NOTICES TO PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

On Monday, March 30, 2020, at a virtual Anoka-Hennepin School Board meeting, the School Board approved a motion to non-renew/terminate approximately 264 probationary teaching contracts at the end of the 2019-20 school year. This means that all of those teachers will be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits and should receive pay and insurance benefits through the end of this school year, or through August 31, 2020.

Under Minnesota teacher tenure law, if a teacher completes three (3) consecutive years and is rehired for the following year, the teacher has earned tenure. Once the three year period is completed, if a teacher moves to a different school district, or has a break in service, they only need to complete a one year probationary period to regain tenure. For most of the probationary teachers who were non-renewed, you will be eligible to apply for other vacancies in the District, and may even be encouraged to apply for the vacancies created by your non-renewal.

Unfortunately, in approximately 20 cases, the District added language that reflects that the non-renewal decisions were based on performance concerns which building administrators identified with those specific probationary teachers. Those teachers will not be considered for rehire in AH #11 for the upcoming school year. We are in the process of reaching out to those individuals with specific advice on how to respond to those notices.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Education Minnesota Field Staff, David Kundin, at david.kundin@edmdn.org.



For more information from Education Minnesota: The address below will take you to the newest FAQ from the Education Minnesota Rapid Response Team:

<https://educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus/Legal-considerations-for-distance-learning-FAQ>

More Helpful Links:

1. Expanded unemployment eligibility and benefits under Gov. Walz's Executive Order and the federal emergency stimulus bill, called the CARES Act: <https://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus/Unemployment-FAQ>
2. Expanded sick and child care leave benefits provided by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA): <https://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus/Paid-sick-and-child-care-leave-FAQ>
3. Guidance on delivering equitable special education instruction and services through distance learning: <https://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus/Special-education-FAQ>. This includes many questions our members have been asking about IEP modifications, deadlines, and other compliance issues, as well as accommodations for students.
4. Updated guidance on local elections, including an overview of LMRDA requirements for mail ballot and electronic voting: <https://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus/Local-elections-FAQ>

Postponements and Cancellations

Professional Development Classes at AHEM, are cancelled.
Executive Board Meeting, Monday, April 13, will be held virtually.
Safe Schools Meeting, Wednesday, April 15, will be cancelled.
Lobby Day, April 16, will be cancelled.
Representative Assembly, Monday, April 27, will be held virtually.

Recognition Dinner, May 13, will be rescheduled to occur this Fall.