

AHEM FRIDAY BLAST

Valerie Holthus, President

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Happy May Day

May Day is not just about May baskets and children dancing around a maypole in celebration of spring. May 1st was chosen by international labor groups to recognize and celebrate laborers and the working class.

International Workers' Day, also known in some countries as May Day, is promoted by the international labor movement which occurs each year on May 1st.



Queen Guirievre's Maying by John Collier



Haymarket Affair

demands of the proletariat, and for universal peace.”

Originally, the date was chosen to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on May 4th, 1886. Striking workers, demanding an 8 hour day, held a peaceful strike, but when police were called, a bomb was thrown, and several were killed.

In 1904 the Sixth Conference of the Second International, called on "all Social Democratic Party organizations and trade unions of all countries to demonstrate energetically on the First of May for the legal establishment of the 8-hour day, for the class

We must never forget the hard work and frightening risks that have been taken by those before us so that we can enjoy the employment rights we so often take for granted.

Internationally Labor Day is celebrated on May 1st, and United States and Canada celebrate Labor Day on the first Monday of September.

Elections

Secretary/Vice President Laura Bratland has accepted a position as temporary field staff alongside David Kundin. Laura has had considerable training as a field representative from Education Minnesota, and will do a fantastic job supporting teachers in Anoka-Hennepin as well as the St. Francis District, Local 1977. She will be taking Anna Dougherty's position. Anna has taken a job as an organizer to work on full-funding education in 2021.

AHEM Vice President/Secretary Election on May 13 and 14

Three Candidates are running:

Mark Duffy

Math/Social Studies
Regional High School

Jon Kohonen

Grade 3
Sunrise Elementary

Kristi Weidlein

English
Technical High School

Elections will occur electronically.

The election will be electronic, and will be held on May 13 and 14. The winner of the election will fulfill the remainder of Laura's term, which will be from May 18, 2020 - June 30, 2022. The filing period opened on March 30 and ended on Monday April 20, 2020.

Thank you to Traci Intihar for filling in as interim Secretary/VP until the permanent VP/Secretary is elected.

The permanent position of Vice President/Secretary is a very important position in our union. The VP/Secretary primarily keeps records of union meetings, and facilitates Meet and Confer with the School Board, but there are also other unnoticed duties involving this position. The VP/Secretary serves on the budget committee, and assumes delegate status for the annual state Education Minnesota Representative convention and the annual National Education Association Convention. The VP/Secretary also assists with organizing and membership which is a never ending process for AHEM, and involves recruiting new members, and welcoming new members to our union events. The VP/Secretary also helps mobilize members to engage in events giving voice to teacher's needs.

I would like to thank the three candidates who put themselves on the candidate stage, it's not easy to run for any office, and even more difficult to run against your fellow colleagues.



With school closures impacting millions coast to coast, the NEA Foundation (NEAF) has been inspired by the many ways that educators are going above and beyond to meet student needs. This pandemic also has exposed the pervasive inequity associated with public education in America.

In response to educators' immediate and emerging needs, the NEA Foundation is offering **three new grant opportunities to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on teaching and learning:**

1. [COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants](#) *(to be awarded during the Spring and Summer, 2020)*
 - The NEA Foundation's COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants will support educator-led initiatives to adapt to the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, these \$1,500 to \$5,000 six-month grant opportunities will help educators to address contributors to educational inequity and educational opportunity gaps. Applicants requesting this funding should be prepared to begin their projects during the Summer 2020.

2. [COVID-19 Response - Learning & Leadership Grants](#) (to be awarded in September 2020)

- NEAF COVID-19 Response - Learning & Leadership Grants will support educators' professional development focused on adapting to the unique challenges of the 2020-2021 school year. Applications submitted for one-year grants of either \$2,000 or \$5,000 should particularly address how the applicant(s) would use grant funds to prepare themselves, their colleagues, their students, or school community to respond to the increased educational equity and opportunity challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. [COVID-19 Response - Student Success Grants](#) (to be awarded in September 2020)

- COVID-19 Response - Student Success Grants will support educator-led initiatives that increase educational equity and opportunity, responding to student needs that emerged or intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants in amounts of either \$2,000 or \$5,000 will be awarded for a one-year period, beginning in September-October 2020. Applicants requesting this funding should be prepared to implement their projects during the 2020-2021 school year.

A full description of these grant opportunities, including related criteria, guidelines, and timelines, can be found at www.neafoundation.org/for-educators/covid-rapid-response-grants/.

Some financial support options:

<https://www.educationminnesota.org/member-benefits/your-pocketbook/Coronavirus-resources>

Announcements:

- AHEM Scholarship Application Deadline – Fri., May 1.
Planning Days, No Student Contact Days: May 1 and 4
- AHEM Executive Board – Mon., May 11, 4:45 pm
- School Board Mtg. – Mon., May 11, 6:30 pm
- AHEM Election Voting – Wed., May 13, through Thurs., May 14
- Last Dues Deduction – Friday, May 15
- AHEM Rep. Assembly – Mon., May 18, 4:45 pm
- Memorial Day Holiday – Mon., May 25
- School Board Mtg. – Tues., May 26, 6:30 pm

