AHEM FRIDAY BLAST

Valerie Holthus, President 5/8/20 Vol. 2 No. 32

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week

Your Vote Matters

Every national and state political office will be up for election this year except for the gubernatorial seat.

AHEM will be conducting screening town hall meetings for several of the legislative districts who serve our school district. These screenings are very important, as we will learn who is willing to commit to fully fund education, and support us, as educators and union members.

The candidate who receives our endorsement will be decided on by those who participate in the screening process. All of the screening town hall meetings will be virtual Zoom meetings.

Screenings will take place on:

Wednesday, May 27	**District 35: Ramsey, Anoka, Andover, Coon Rapids**
Wednesday, June 3	**District 36: Champlin, Coon Rapids**
Thursday, June 4	**District 37: Blaine, Coon Rapids**

We are looking for members to volunteer to ask a question of the candidates during the virtual meeting. If you are willing to ask a question, either your own, or provided by AHEM, please email AnokaHennepinEM@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Week Deals

Here is a list of Teacher Appreciation Week deals. You can always ask if there is a teacher discount anywhere and anytime you shop. Most restaurants are offering discounts for your carry-out order.

- 1800Flowers.com: NEA members can save 20% on flowers and gift baskets.
- 23andMe: Teachers save $20 to $100 on select DNA kits.
- Adobe Creative Cloud: Teachers save 60% off monthly Creative Cloud subscriptions.
- Ann Taylor LOFT: Teachers save 15% off full-price purchases.
- Apple: Apple Education Pricing is available to teachers on select devices.
- Barnes & Noble: Get 20% off purchases for classroom use throughout the year, and 25% off purchases during Educator Appreciation Days.
- Ben Franklin Crafts: Save 10% on classroom materials.
- Bookmans: Get 20% off all purchases.
- Books-a-Million: Get 20% off purchases for the classroom with a BAM Educator's card.
- Budget Truck Rental: Teachers get 20% off local moves and 15% off one-way moves
- Coolframes.com: Teachers get a 5% discount on frames.
- Costco: NEA members will receive a $30 Costco Shop Card with a new Costco membership and access to more than 500 member-only warehouse locations across the country.
- Dick Blick Art Supplies: Get 10% off art supplies for the classroom.
- Eduporium: Get a 20% discount on most products.
- E-Z Rent a Car: Teachers get a 10% discount.
- GE Appliances Store: NEA members receive several discounts and free delivery on appliances costing more than $399.
- GelPro: Get 25% off your purchase of cushioned floor mats.

- GM Educator Discount: Current employees of a public school, private school, college or university can enjoy special pricing below MSRP on the purchase or lease of eligible, new Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac vehicles.
- Half Price Books: Get 10% off purchases when you sign up for the Half Price Books Educator's card.
- Hanes: Get 10% off when you sign up with ID.me.
- Hertz Rent a Car: NEA members can save 25% on rentals.
- J. Crew: Get 5% off for in-store purchases.
- Joann: Teachers save 15% on purchases.
- Karen Kane: Teachers get a 20% discount.
- Lakeshore Learning: Save 15% when you join the Teacher's Club.
- Michael's: Get 20% off every purchase.
- Microsoft: Educators will get Office 365 free, plus 10% off Windows devices.
- National Geographic Geno 2.0: Teachers get $50 off on Geno 2.0 DNA kits for classroom use.
- National Rent a Car: NEA members save up to 20% on rentals.
- Pencils.com: Sign up to receive a 10% discount on purchases.
- SIXT Rent a Car: Teachers get a 5% discount on rentals.
- The Container Store: The Organized Teacher program offers educators discounts throughout the year.
- T-Mobile: Save $100 on smartphones and tablets with a new-line activation.
- TOMS: Teachers get a 10% off their purchase with verification.
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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	Jon Kohnen	Kristi Weidlein
Math/Social Studies	Grade 3	English
Regional High School	Sunrise Elementary	Technical High School

Elections will occur electronically.

The election will be electronic, and will be held next week 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.

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/.

Announcements:

· School Board Work Session – Mon., May 11, 6:30 pm, SEC

· AHEM Election VP/Secretary -- May 13-14, Vote On-line

· Last Payroll Dues Deduction – Fri., May 15

· AHEM Representative Assembly – Mon., May 18. 4:45 pm, Virtual Meeting

· Memorial Day Holiday – Mon., May 25

· School Board Mtg. -- Tues., May 26, 6:30 pm, SEC

Candidate Screening, Dist. 35 – Wed., May 27, 4:30 pm, Virtual Meeting

· AHEM Executive Board – Mon., June 1, 4:45 pm, Virtual Meeting