



ANOKA HENNEPIN LOCAL 7007

Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

February 11, 2022 Vol 4 No. 19

Attention! Meet and Confer date changed

The Date for **Meet and Confer with the school board** has been changed to **March 10** at 5:30 at the Staff Development Center/Educational Service Center (SDC/ESC).

Do you have an issue and/or an idea for the school board? Do you have suggestions on how things could be improved or made more efficient? Here is your chance to bring your idea forward.

Please contact valerie.holthus@edmn.org if you would like to have your topic on the agenda.

Trivia Question

Congratulations to the winners of last week's trivia question!

Each year in October, Education Minnesota holds their state-wide conference. For many years it was called MEA, or Minnesota Education Association conference. Then for several years it was called something different. However, the term MEA still stuck, so the acronym "MEA" was reinstated and referred to as "Minnesota Educator

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

Every site in Anoka-Hennepin has an AHEM union representative. How many sites are there? (Hint: There are sometimes more than one site in the same building, and some sites include more than one building)

- a. 48
- b. 52
- c. 55
- d. 60

Academy." What was the conference called between the times it was Minnesota Education Association Conference and Minnesota Educator Academy?

Please email your answer to valerie.holthus@edmn.org

b. Education Minnesota Professional Conference

Congratulations to Cindy Heilman, *Oxbow Elementary School*, Jon Hirt, *Blaine High School*, and Ashley Brown, *Champlin Park High School*

Contract Connections

February 11, 2022

This is the first in an ongoing series highlighting elements of our working agreement. The more we all understand about our contract, the more its provisions can support us all.

As a starting point, several of you have reached out about the retirement and 403(b) provisions in the new working agreement. First up, retirement health care. We did reach an agreement with the district to reduce the number of sick days subtracted to qualify to convert days to a health care savings account at retirement (sometimes called the "threshold"). This threshold was previously 90 sick days and has now been reduced to 80 days. Unfortunately, while both sides did agree to that change, the actual language was not updated in the draft of the contract prior to both sides voting on it. To address this oversight, you will find a memorandum of understanding in the back of the printed version of the working agreement that reflects the change to 80 days.

There is also a minor typo in the 403(b) section (Article XVIII, Section 2). The \$1500 amounts have periods instead of commas. Both AHEM and the District have acknowledged that the intent was for this amount to be \$1,500 and will recognize it as such.

Speaking of the 403(b) contribution match benefit, did you know that only about 70% of eligible bargaining unit members take advantage of this benefit? The 403(b) match is a bargained benefit that is a part of your overall compensation. For those of you that don't know, a 403(b) is a retirement account for public employees that is similar to a 401(k). You are able to make contributions to a 403(b) account pre-tax via payroll deduction. Once you reach the eligibility dates

listed in the contract, you qualify for a matching contribution from the district in the amounts listed. Starting in the 2022-23 school year, eligibility for the match will begin in a teacher's first year in the district.

EDMN Member Benefit Highlight

Most of us at some point find ourselves in the situation of caring for and making decisions for an aging parent. This can be a treacherous field to navigate and hard to know which decisions are best for your loved one and family. EDMN has a great benefit for members that help answer your questions, offers support and helps you navigate senior care.

Senior care navigation

- Free senior care navigation with 24/7 access to specially trained navigators.
- Provide information to help you save money and find best-fit, reliable resources.
- Assistance with short- or long-term care and wellness support.

<https://lifepark.com>

952-345-3317

Email: ShineOn@lifepark.com

New Communication Method

AHEM will begin using *Constant Contact* to send communications with our members instead of relying on the District e-mail system. Communicating through this platform should improve confidentiality of our messaging and allow us to communicate more effectively with you, our membership.

Coming Up

- Pay Day – Feb. 11
- Valentines Day – Feb. 14
- Presidents Day, District closed – Feb. 21
- **ESI: When Can I Afford to Retire virtual seminar**, 6 pm – Feb. 23
- School Board Meeting, 6:30pm, ESC – Feb. 28
- Executive Board, 4:45pm, AHEM – Feb. 28



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