

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

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FRIDAY BLAST

We've got the NAC!

The Negotiations Team is doing things differently next round. One of our early steps to involve even more of you in the process is recruiting a Negotiations Advisory Committee (or NAC). The NAC will consist of representatives from groups that may be less represented in the process than traditional classroom teachers. Some examples might be counselors, adult basic education, nurses, or early intervention program teachers. This is by no means a comprehensive list.

So what will the NAC do? Our initial plans are to have the group meet about once per trimester during the 2022-23 school year. Members of NAC will help the Negotiations Team better understand unique situations faced by members of the bargaining group and potentially help develop proposals to impact your work in the district. Subgroups of the NAC or individuals may meet more often to provide additional feedback. NAC members must be members of AHEM.

Already interested? [**You can apply to join the Negotiations Advisory Committee using this form!**](#) (Note: The application has a list of potential areas we are looking for representation from. If you believe we missed your area, please add your area using the form. We apologize in advance for any oversights that may happen in a local the size of AHEM.)

Interested in learning more before committing? You can email the Negotiations Team at [**ahemnegotiations@gmail.com**](mailto:ahemnegotiations@gmail.com)

Forming the NAC is just one of the initial steps we are taking to fight for an even better settlement in our next contract. While over a year remains before we begin meeting with the district again, the work starts now!

When Can I Afford to Retire?

One of the many things Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefits provides for members are informational seminars. We will be holding a When Can I Afford to Retire virtual seminar for Education Minnesota members in locals serviced out of the Anoka field office on May 10 from 6-7 p.m. This seminar will focus on those with a TRA pension.

During your working career your income comes from your salary. In retirement, your income comes from three sources; a pension, Social Security and other savings you have such as a 403(b). Whether you are an early career educator or nearing retirement, this seminar has valuable information for you.

Attending a When Can I Afford to Retire seminar will:

- Provide a general overview of defined benefit pensions
- Increase member level of understanding of retirement benefits
- Assist members with next steps for future planning

Please register [here](#) if you plan to attend.

Community Organizer - Summer Opportunity



AHEM is looking for members to work as Community Organizers this summer! Community organizer will work 20 hours over the course of the summer and would pay \$30/hour. You can find out more information and [apply here](#). Our school community goes beyond the walls of our buildings and AHEM is committed to creating relationships with parents, caregivers, and community partners who have shared values and a commitment to public education. We believe that by working together we can achieve bigger and better things for the students and educators in our communities.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Legislative Updates

MN Legislature: The MN House and Senate passed the frontline workers bill last week, resulting in:

1. 500 million for 667,000 Minnesotans who served the public during COVID, including you. This could mean up to \$750 each.

2. Replenishing the depleted unemployment trust fund, 1.7 billion
3. Making hourly school workers eligible for unemployment benefits. This a big win for paras and other school staff!

Education Omnibus Bill: Tell your legislators to support the provision in **HF4300** that invests in student support personnel! This legislation would give districts dedicated funding to hire the student support personnel needed to meet recommended student-to-staff ratios so we can make sure every Minnesota student has access to the mental and physical health staff they need in school!

Upcoming Pledge to Vote: Let's make sure our teachers are out in full force this election! Next week, May 9th-13th, we are asking each building to hold a nonpartisan Pledge to Vote event. Be on the lookout for communication from your Head Building Rep and/or a Worksite Action Leader!

Our WALs Program is BACK!

If you were here in 2018 you might remember a person in your building being referred to as a WALs, which stands for Worksite Action Leader. This person helps facilitate Get Out The Vote events at your site. Get Out The Vote events are fun, creative events at your building that promote voting in the upcoming gubernatorial election. There is money available to you to make these events fun and interactive. We also have staff that are able to provide you with some ideas, and assistance if needed.

Expectations – In the fall 2022 school year, host 2 non-partisan voter engagement activities in your building. Share non-partisan voter education materials about the candidates with members in your building. Conduct one-on-one conversations with targeted voters in your building. Participate with at least one other member from your site in a door knock for an EDMN endorsed legislature, and stay in contact with our GOTV leaders Aaron Balzer and Jinna Collins-Jwacu.

Training- Attend one 60 minute training on either Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm starting May 10th. New WALs should attend a single 1-hour training: [WALs Trainings](#)

Pay – There is a \$150 stipend available for a WAL at each building.

Ready to Apply? Please email aaronbalzer@yahoo.com and register on our [EDMNVotes WAL Website](#).

Elections matter, and your vote counts!

[Aaron Balzer](#) and [Jinna Collins-Jwacu](#)

AHEM Get Out the Vote Leaders

Volunteers Needed

In 2022, we have the power through our democracy and union to vote for public education and protect our collective bargaining rights.

But we need educators at the forefront of that movement. Please help interview or screen political candidates for possible endorsement, so we can put the candidates in office who we know will support us, our students and our profession.

Please email anokahennepinem@gmail.com to volunteer to be a screener. No experience necessary.

Trivia Question

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

The answer to last week's question was:

As of 4/23/22, Education Minnesota represents _____ members.
b. 73,505

Congratulations to:
Billi Ohm CBPA
Ryan Best Jackson MS



This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

Baron, Silicon, Arsenic, Germanium, Antimony and Tellurium are all:

- a. Lanthanides
- b. Transition Metals
- c. Reactive Nonmetals
- d. Metalloids

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

EdMN Degrees, Not Debt

Degrees Not Debt (DND) is Education Minnesota's program to support members in accessing loan forgiveness. Member training and direct support have helped thousands of Minnesota educators get their education debt forgiven.

[Click here for more details and to register for the upcoming Webinar on Tuesday, May 31st from 4:30 - 6:30pm.](#)

Capital Connection

[Click here to view your Weekly Capital Connection](#)

Minnesota Statewide Virtual Job Fairs

ICYMI: Minnesota Statewide Virtual Job Fairs for Educators

Minnesota's public school employers are actively recruiting and hiring for immediate placement, and the 2022-2023 school year. Current and aspiring educators have multiple opportunities to meet in private, 1-on-1 conversations with administrators from more than 50 Minnesota school districts and charter schools at any of the following virtual job fairs. PELSB licensing executives will be in attendance at these events to answer participants' questions related to licensing, including application, renewal, and qualifications.

All events are virtual. Attendance is free.

All events run **3:00 to 7:00 pm CT**

May 11 [Register to attend](#)

June 21 [Register to attend](#)

Coming Up

- When can I afford to Retire? [Click for more details](#)
- May 7: Kentucky Derby
- May 8: Mother's Day
- May 12: AHEM Non-Renewal Seminar - [Register Here](#)



Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
3200 Main Street, Suite 360
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Anoka Hennepin Education Minne | 3200 Main Street, Suite 360, 7634219110,
Coon Rapids, MN 55448 7634219110

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