

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

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FRIDAY BLAST

STOP THE MADNESS!

On Tuesday a shooting at Robb Elementary School in Texas tragically targeted children, an unimaginable loss for the parents, the staff and the community. Every day, our country loses people to gun violence. This must stop, and we must act. These mass shootings are a stark reminder of why the Senate must stop hiding behind arcane procedures to avoid preventing gun violence and take action. A bi-partisan bill in the House has sat for a year without the Senate's action. We must create laws that stop these preventable deaths. It could happen anywhere in the U.S., including our own schools. The recent shooting has proven that all the safety measures we put in place still could not stop a shooter. The shooter in Uvalde wasn't legally allowed to buy beer, but he could purchase firearms. We have reached a point where common-sense gun laws should be put in place.

This is a workplace issue. This is a union issue. This is a school issue. Teachers deserve safe workplaces without fear of a mass shooting, and our students deserve to learn and thrive in safe schools. Please remember this on election day!

Below are several resources NEA have developed for our members.

To support our members and their students – we have developed a number of resources related to care, support and mental health including:

- The NEA School Crisis Guide – [Link](#)
- NEA Grief Resources - [Link](#)

- NEA Mental Health Web Page – [Link](#)
- NEA Today Article on ‘How to talk to Students about Violence’

We will launch a new web page today that curates all these resources into one place at www.nea.org/gunviolence

NEA’s Initial Response to the Media included a **joint statement from TSTA and NEA- [National Education Association and Texas State Teachers Association issue joint statement in response to Uvalde, Texas school shooting](#)**

We also have these **talking points on school safety** - [Link](#)

AHEM Recognition Dinner 2022

On Wednesday night union volunteers were invited to meet in person to celebrate and be recognized for all of their work the past two years. The dinner was held at the Bunker Hills Event Center and entertainment was provided by the Anoka High School Jazz Band, and the Jesters Comedy Improv Group.

Some of the groups who were recognized were the Building Reps, Executive Board Members, Member Engagement Volunteers, Retired and members of several Committees.

Congratulations to the Lifetime Achievement award winners: Vicki Czerwinski, ECFE and Andy Owens, Mississippi Elem!
 Good fellowship, conversation and fun was had by all. THANK YOU TO ALL THE AHEM VOLUNTEERS!



TICKET THIS!

AHEM Members-Only Ticket Program



Valleyfair Ticket Savings!

Regular Admission Price:

All Ages: \$34.36

AHEM Member Price:

All Ages \$30.00 (Maximum of 5)



MN State Fair Ticket Savings!

Regular Admission Price:

Adults (13-64) \$17

Seniors (65+) and kids \$15

AHEM Member Price:

All Ages \$12 (Maximum of 5)

Children (4 and under) Free

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

SPED Paperwork = Too Much Work in Too Little Time

The secondary SPED delivery model is shifting services away from para supported classes to a more direct instruction from SPED teachers. Because of this change, SPED case managers were directed to accomplish hours of due process paperwork under an unreasonable timeline. The workload is unmanageable and is a blatant disregard of the time it would take from case managers' personal time in the evenings. Marta Biegler and Val Holthus spoke at the School Board meeting Monday night and distributed a copy of the unreasonable expectations placed on SPED case managers, and provided a solution: District SPED Leadership need to respect their teachers by sending out a letter to all SPED parents advising them a change would be coming, and allow the case managers to complete their IEPs as they become due, unless the parents object in writing.

Trivia Question

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

The answer to last week's question was:

What was NOT brought to us by labor unions?

O. Environment Protections

Congratulations to:

Joe Foss, CED ABE

Cory Forslund, Anoka HS

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

This week's Question:

First three correct answers will win a coffee gift card.

Based on the mounts in the hallway, It looks as though Middle School Students have been going on safari, but what are these heads REALLY made of?

1. Decoupage
2. Paper mache
3. Plaster
4. CelluClay



Legislative Updates

Candidate Screenings: Ever wanted to actually know who you are voting for? This is easy and you can do it from your back patio on Zoom. We have 2 dates coming up on the calendar for candidate screenings: **Thursday, 6/16, 1-4:30** and **Tuesday, 6/21, 1-4:30**. It's likely to be shorter than this time frame, but allows for flexibility with scheduling. Please join me to help interview candidates and deciding who AHEM is going to support this year!

Pledge to Vote: This week at our AHEM Recognition Dinner, President Holthus challenged us to imagine a state where the Governor, Senate, and House were all controlled by conservative, anti-public education supporters. There is a real threat

of this happening this year. As in our neighboring states, our rights to bargain for wages and working conditions would dry up overnight. When this happened in Wisconsin, teachers lost an average \$10,000 in wages in 2 years. 2 things to help: 1) Show up at the polls in November. 2) Sign up to be a Worksite Action Leader. Help your building rep with 2 Get Out the Vote events in the fall. We're offering you \$150 for your time and energy this time around. Please talk with your rep to make a difference!

MN Legislative Session: Gov. Tim Walz stated Wednesday that there are "reasons to be optimistic" that legislators could reach agreements on unfinished tax and spending bills but that they may need to "shrink it down a bit." After meeting with legislative leadership, they agreed to wait until after the Memorial Day weekend before pushing ahead.

Education Minnesota Summer Seminar is Back On!

In 2022, Summer Seminar is planned on being held in person, with educators gathering at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota from Monday, Aug. 1-Wednesday, Aug. 3.

All Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota members are invited to attend. AHM will pay for whichever registration option you chose; you can come for all of summer seminar or a portion of it. You can room with friends or stay in your own room.

Not only is there excellent professional development for both your career in education and in unionism, but there are lots of fun opportunities available for you and your colleagues to participate in like Bingo, Karaoke night at the legion, yoga in the park, ice cream social and more.

Check out the [Education Minnesota Summer Seminar Registration Page](#) for the agenda, course catalog and registration. **Remember, when you register, select that Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota will be paying for your registration.**

Hope to see you all there!

Union Wear Still Available

We have some extra pieces of union clothing, and if you are interested in buying one or more, please email Becky.marshman@edmn.org. You can still use your \$25 credit if you haven't done so.

Men's Performance Full Zip: **Two** Size L \$42
Long Sleeve T-Shirt: **One** L, **Two** XL \$25



Capital Connection

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

Coming Up

- When can I afford to Retire? [Click for more details](#)
- May 30: Memorial Day
- May 31: EdMN Degrees, not Debt Webinar 4:30-6:30pm, [Click here for more details and to register.](#)
- June 6: Executive Board Meeting 4:45
- June 9: Last Day of School
- June 29 – July 5: NEA Convention
- July 12: Executive Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- July 13 – 17: AFT Convention
- June 21: ICYMI Minnesota Statewide Virtual Job Fair for Educators 3-7pm, [Click here to Register](#) and [Click here for More Details](#)



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