

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

*Valerie Holthus*

*President*

*October 7, 2022*

*Vol 5, No. 5*



# Friday Blast

**2022 MEA Conference**

# 2022 MEA CONFERENCE

IN-PERSON  
AND VIRTUAL!

THURSDAY, OCT. 20  
8 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.  
SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE &  
ONLINE

REGISTER: [EDMN.ME/MEA2022](https://edmn.me/mea2022)



Take advantage of the PSLF waiver!

Deadline = Oct. 31, 2022

[Learn more and apply now](#)

Our union achieved a [major victory](#) late last year when the Biden administration announced a new temporary waiver process for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. This PSLF waiver can give you credit toward loan forgiveness for past federal student loan payments, even if those payments didn't count before. That's exciting news that could help you and hundreds of thousands of other borrowers finally get your federal loans forgiven.

In Minnesota, members have already seen more than \$1 million in student loan debt discharged.





STUDENT  
BORROWER  
PROTECTION  
CENTER



# MINNESOTA

## State of Student Debt

**1-in-4**

consumers in Minnesota  
owe student loan  
debt

**127%**

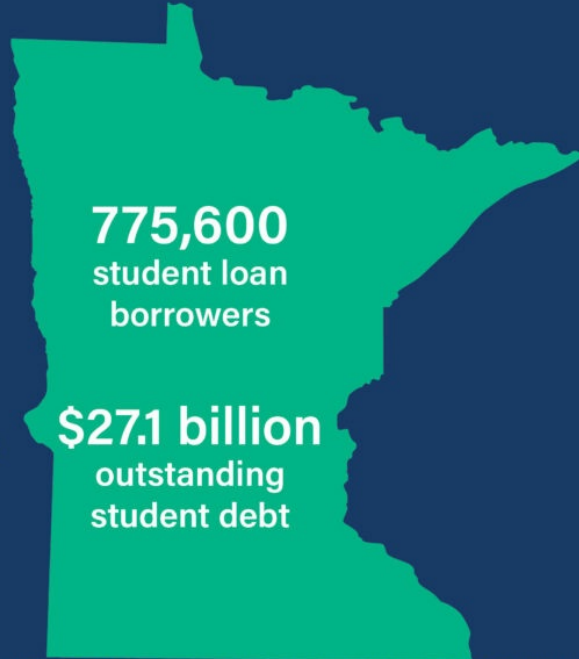
increase in student loan  
debt across Minnesota  
(2007-2017)

**174,510**

student loan borrowers  
living in rural communities  
across Minnesota

**51.4%**

of millennials living in  
rural Minnesota have  
student debt



Source: SBPC's analysis of data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, & U.S. Department of Education

## nea Member Benefits

Exclusive Members-Only Online Offer  
The NEA® Customized Cash Rewards Credit  
Card

**ONLINE BONUS OFFER:**  
**\$200 Amazon.com Gift Card**  
**after you make at least \$500 in purchases**  
**within the first 90 days of account opening**

**(students not eligible) – plus choose how you earn rewards monthly**

†Please see **Terms and Conditions** for rate, fee and other cost information, as well as an explanation of payment allocation. All terms may be subject to change.



*Visit our website to learn more or to apply*

## Weekly Trivia

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

**The first three people to get the  
correct answer will receive a coffee**

gift card.

The answer to last week's question was:

How much less did WI teachers make on average 4 years after collective bargaining was taken away by WI law makers?  
d. \$10,483

**Congratulations to last week's winners:**

Chelsea Regan, Monroe Elem  
Jill Disrud, River Trail LC  
Jamie Lamotte, AMSA Washington



Previously, 99% of student loan forgiveness applications were denied. What year did AFT successfully sue to have student loans forgiven, ushering in the beginning of current student loan forgiveness programs?

- a. 2016
- b. 2017
- c. 2018
- d. 2019

Please email your answer to [Valerie.Holthus@EdMN.org](mailto:Valerie.Holthus@EdMN.org)

## Government Relations

from Aaron Balzer

### Election Day is November 8th!

**Voting and Union Rights:** Members, the governor's race this fall is critical. When you vote pro-union, you vote to preserve our collective bargaining rights. In Wisconsin, unionized teachers lost 8,000-12,000 in wages and benefits in 1 year. They also lost...

- workday/hours
- paid and unpaid leave days
- insurance and other benefits
- discipline and just cause
- ability to fight a dress code
- rights to collect dues deductions
- automatic annual union membership
- loss of membership (Wisconsin lost over half their membership)

**Your #1 way to be heard is to Vote. Your essential voting resources:**

- [What you need to know to vote in Minnesota's November election](#)
- [Minnesota 2022 voter's guide: Who's running in the election, where they stand on the issues.](#)
- [MN Secretary of State website](#): voting info, applying for absentee ballot



**Door Knocking:** The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation and AHEM are having a door knock for Zach Stephenson, Jerry Newton and EdMN endorsed local candidates.

Please join us on **Saturday, 10/15 at 10:00 a.m.**

For more information or to RSVP, email [volunteer@minneapolisunions.org](mailto:volunteer@minneapolisunions.org).

Please come and bring the kids!

## 2022-2023 Pension Advocacy Plan

All educators deserve the ability to retire with financial security.

Pensions provide educators with a guaranteed, reliable source of income in retirement. They are also a tool to attract and retain qualified, experienced educators to the profession.

[Read More](#)

[Click Here for the 3 Phases](#)

## Practical Guidance for New(er) Educators

JOIN OUR

# NEW(ER) EDUCATORS

AT MEA!



## GATHERING SPACE

If you find yourself needing a break from the hustle and bustle of MEA, come find us in Ballroom D from 10 AM until 5 PM to relax in our gathering space. Unwind, reflect, and connect with other new(er) and aspiring educators.

## SESSION

Join us in Conference Room 15 for our session at MEA (3:45-4:45 PM - session 4) called **Practical Guidance for New(er) Educators**, where a panel of educators will share their experience in the classroom.

SEE YOU THERE!



THURSDAY, OCT.  
20 @ ST. PAUL  
RIVERCENTRE



## RELAX IN OUR UNWINDING SPACE.

Stretch away your worries MEA style. We will have space available to pause and be present.



## GET CRAFTY WITH US.

We'll bring the supplies, you bring the creativity. But don't worry, we have community-building ideas for you!



## SNAP PICS TO TAKE HOME!

There will be a polaroid camera and selfie signs available to commemorate your wonderful time at MEA.



# MN Wild Educators Appreciation Night





[More Details Here!](#)

## Member-Only P.D. Opportunities

The following re-licensure classes will be available this trimester.

All classes will be virtual.

Sign Up is now open!

[October 25, 2022 \(Tuesday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Best Practice for English Language Learners Class](#)

[October 27, 2022 \(Thursday\) ~ 4:30-5:30 pm ~ AHEM Suicide Prevention Class](#)

[November 1, 2022 \(Tuesday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Key Warning Signs - Mental Health Class](#)

[November 3, 2022 \(Thursday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Class](#)

[November 10, 2022 \(Thursday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Reading Instruction Class](#)

[November 15, 2022 \(Tuesday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 ~ Accommodation, Modification and Adaptation of Curriculum, Materials and Instruction](#)

## Building Resiliency and Voice with Early Career Educators

Are you within the first five years of your education career? Are you interested in strengthening your own resilience and professional voice alongside other early career educator members in Minnesota?

Join us for this free professional development opportunity!

**[If you haven't registered yet, you still can! Don't miss out!!](#)**

**[Click to find out more and to register!](#)**

## Happy Birthday!!!



**October 16 - October 22**

Shelley Montbriand  
Katie Yankovec  
Melissa Ferreira  
Gary Luke  
Heather Loeffler-Rostad  
Heather Stottler  
Courtney Decowski  
Nicole Sobania  
Alyssa Longberg  
Rebecca Rosenbaum  
Kathryn Naomi  
Judith Cazeao  
Sarah Svedberg  
Anne Micklin  
Linda Walker  
Lois Zak  
Tammy Berg  
Julie Waldock  
Kari Kalsow

Julie Ramsland  
Laura Loo  
Darcy Weingartner  
Lynnsheree Lesmeister  
Darrin Bless  
Ann Leaf-Johnson  
Kathryn Mcdowell  
Wendy Konchal  
Sara Klein  
Kristin Karlson  
Justine Kim  
Victoria Carlson  
Lori Harris  
Rebecca Scheibe  
Ashley German  
Monica Mathison  
Anne Dillon  
Allison Rose  
Sydney Mracek

Elizabeth Eckhoff  
Liesel Hauge  
Shannon Erne  
Seth Hinrichs  
Amy Churack  
Keri Fraser  
Carole Mandis Birchem  
Rachel Karel  
Amy Thiel  
Shauni Goss  
Gwen Thielke  
Alyssa Koski  
Emilie Buesing  
Trisha Thorson  
Cindy Houle  
Lea Yager  
Sarah Valley  
Kelly Greene  
Paul Tatkenhorst



\*If you don't see your name and you should, please email us to let us know!

## Coming Up

**Absentee Ballots can be requested at any time.**

- Sweetest Day - Oct. 15
- Education Minnesota MEA Conference - Oct 20 & 21
- United Nations Day - Oct 24
- AHEM Exec. Board Meeting - Oct 24, 4:45p
- School Board Meeting - Oct 24, 6:30pm ESC
- Big Parade of Little People - Oct 28
- Anoka Halloween Grande Day Parade - Oct 29
- Anoka Grey Ghost 5K - Oct 29
- **Halloween** - Oct. 31



**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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