

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

February 3rd, 2023

Vol 5, No.19

Friday Blast



Pension Advocacy Session at AHEM

Pension Advocacy

Plan Update

PRESENTATION GIVEN BY
ADAM JANIAK OF
EDUCATION MINNESOTA



WHAT WILL BE COVERED

- How the pension works
- History of pension changes
- What EdMN's advocacy plan is for the 2022-23 legislative session
- How you can get involved
- Answer any questions

EVENT DETAILS

February 7th, 4:45-6:15 p.m.
Anoka Hennepin EdMN Office
3200 Main Street NW, Ste. 360
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Light refreshments will be served.
Please submit your questions at registration.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://forms.gle/LPhVav2RCmcNAZoa7>

CONTACT US

Anna Dougherty
651-247-6255
Anna.Dougherty@EDMN.org

AHEM Store Re-Opens!

Your AHEM Union Gear Store is OPEN

Friday, January 27 - February 10th!

\$25 CREDIT TOWARD PURCHASE

(LIMIT ONE CREDIT PER YEAR)

Click the link below for **HOW TO** place your order.

How to Order

Click the link below to **SHOP** and complete your order.

SHOP

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 13

First Bill coming in the next week or two

Organize, organize, organize!

Continue to talk to members in your local and get them signed up for our Pension Updates. Close to 5,000 members have already subscribed, and almost 400 members have attended one of our live Pension Advocacy Plan presentations. But we have a big fight ahead. We'll need as many members as possible working to get the Legislature to invest in educators and our schools.

[Click to read on](#)

[Click here for most up to date articles](#)

More Pension Information

Join Education Minnesota members from across the state for a presentation on our 2022-2023 Pension Advocacy Plan

Education Minnesota members and staff are continuing their work fighting to improve educator pensions this legislative cycle. Many members are interested in learning more about their pensions and the work they can do to fight for improvements. Adam Janiak, Education Minnesota negotiations specialist, will cover our advocacy leading up to this year, pension plan essentials and organizing around our advocacy plan.

Sign up to receive more information and organize every member to be a part of implementing our 2022-2023 Pension Advocacy Plan this legislative session!

[Click for Event Details](#)

2023 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is proud to have scholarships available for union members and their dependents.

The MN AFL-CIO scholarship will be awarded to **five (5)** recipients in 2023. **Four (4)** scholarships will be granted to **graduating high school seniors** who are **union members or the dependents of union members** who are going to college or community college, and **one (1)** to a student attending a trade school.

The scholarship application deadline is May 1, 2023.

To request a copy of the application or if you have any questions regarding the scholarship programs offered by the Minnesota AFL-CIO, please email Val Holthus, AHEM President: Valerie.Holthus@edmn.org

Apply Now! Educator Scholarships



Money to learn.

\$2,000 Educator Scholarship applications NOW available!

APPLY FOR MONEY

Deadline: February 3, 2023

expeditioncu.com/scholarships

EXPEDITION
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Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

How many people serve on the District Calendar Committee?

B. 30 people

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Jami Eilers, ESC-SPED
Dawn Kugler-Park, Jackson MS
Kari Nick, Oak View MS

Please reply to this email to submit your answer.
anokahennepin@gmail.com



3 winners will be selected at random to win a coffee gift card. Submit your answer by 11:59pm Friday (day of Blast) to be entered to win!

There is a lot of buzz about bills in the Legislature right now. Which bill is NOT being considered?

- a. Required Recess
- b. No suspensions for K-3 (w/ exceptions for safety).
- c. Personal finance class required for high school graduation.
- d. Funding for Anoka County; HOPE 4 Youth homeless drop-in center
- e. Punxsutawney Phil to be moved to a MN Animal Shelter.

Government Relations

By Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

MN Legislature: Bills are being proposed and moved forward quickly, including many relevant bills to education. If you are interested in tracking progress on any bill, the MN Legislature website is excellent:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/billsum.aspx>

<https://www.senate.mn/summaries/bill/2023>

Coffee and Politics: Our first event in district 34 was a big success. We had 20-25 members in attendance who asked Senator John Hoffman and Representative Danny Nadeau questions about pension reform, simplifying the driver's license test, and providing adequate educational funding. Rep. Nadeau has a social studies background and was eager to learn more about how schools operate and what they need.

Invitations have already gone out for our district 35 Coffee & Politics event. Representatives Stephenson and Newton have already committed. This is on

Saturday, February 18h, 9:00 at Caribou Coffee in Anoka. Please register through the link below: <https://forms.gle/Qu95jiFdGEckfLK79>



Lobby Days: Our first Virtual Zoom Lobby Day is also scheduled for district 32. I need volunteers to attend this event. So far, we're short on help. You can either attend and listen or share a story and ask a question. If you sign up, reach out to me and let me know your preference. The event will be February 16th at 3:30. You are also welcome to come on later than that. Register through the link below: <https://web.cvent.com/event/af9fe87f-9ea7-48ce-a73f-6925dc129fde/summary?previewToken=f7c9c95add082926651600026bb11482>

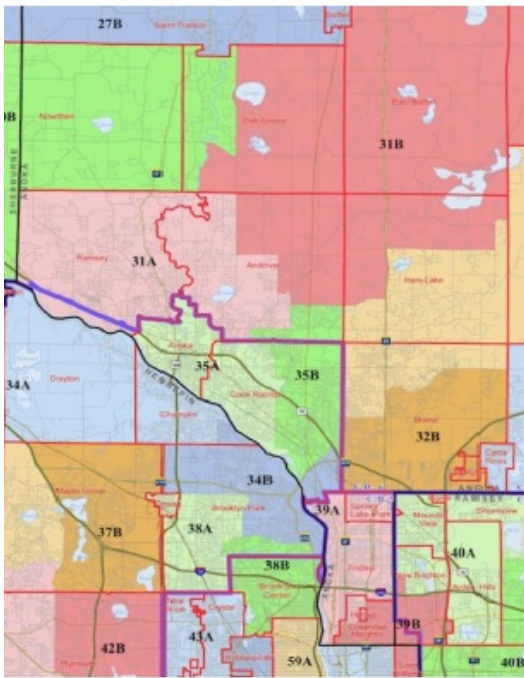
If you don't know which district you live in, use [Who Represents Me?](#) a handy quick resource to find out.

Pension: A pension advocacy plan has been agreed upon by TRA. Watch for legislation being processed throughout the month. The schedule for the legislative group assigned to work on this can be found here: [LCPR Meetings](#).

PELSB- need teacher volunteers for this board. We currently have no representative. Click the link to view openings and register your interest: <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Position/Details/1732>

Legislator Districts

This map indicates the legislative districts as they overlap the Anoka-Hennepin School District.



Senate Districts are shown in a separate color, the House districts are shown in a red border within each color.

Each Senate District has two Representatives or Legislative Districts.

[Click here for an enlarged view of map.](#)

Senators Include:

SD 30 Eric Lucero (R)

SD 31 Cal Bahr (R)

SD 32 Michael Kreun (R)

SD 34 John Hoffman (D)

SD 35 Jim Abeler (R)

SD 38 Susan Pha (D)



Representatives Include:

Dist. 30B Paul Novotny (R) Nowthen

Dist. 31A Harry Niska (R) Ramsey, Andover
Dist. 31B Peggy Scott (R) Andover, Ham Lake

Dist. 32A Nolan West (R) Ham Lake, Blaine
Dist. 32B Matt Norris (D) Blaine

Dist. 34A Danny Nadeau (R) Dayton, Champlin
Dist. 34B Melissa Hortman (D) Brooklyn Park, Speaker of House

Dist. 35A Zach Stephenson (D) Anoka, Coon Rapids
Dist. 32B Jerry Newton (D) Andover, Coon Rapids

Dist. 38B Smantha Vang (D) Brooklyn Center

**Capitol
Connection**



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

WELCOME TO SESSION



We Need More Support Staff

Educators concerned about the mental and physical health of their students urges legislators [*last Tuesday*](#) to pass [*Senate File 56*](#), which would pay school districts to hire dedicated staff to improve student health and safety.

The bill provides \$96 million next year and \$106 million in 2025 of ongoing, sustainable funding so each school district and charter school in Minnesota can hire a licensed school nurse, social worker, counselor or psychologist.

Minnesota has one of the worst ratios of students-to-counselors in United States, in some cases with one employee assigned to more than 700 students. With more mental and physical health needs than ever, there's more urgency from lawmakers and educators to fill this staffing gap and provide holistic health teams for students in schools. We pulled [*this moment*](#) of support from Sen. Erin Maye Quade, it speaks exactly to what we're fighting for.

Help us advocate for this important initiative by [*sending a short email to your legislators*](#).

[Click to read on](#)

Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Nine Anoka-Hennepin Teachers are Candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

This year's program will name the 59th Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The program celebrates the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Eligible candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade, Early Childhood Family Education and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

An independent panel of leaders in the fields of education, business, government, nonprofit and philanthropy will read candidates' portfolios over the next few weeks and narrow down the list to a group of semifinalists. In March, the panel will convene again and review additional materials from the semifinalists to choose a group of finalists. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year banquet is set for May 7 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Organized and underwritten by Education Minnesota, the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program receives support from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, SMART Technologies and Expedition Credit Union.

Congratulations, and Good Luck!

Johanna Mueller, Hamilton Elementary School
Lisa Neaderhiser, Jackson Middle School
Kelley Nelson, Champlin Park High School
Wendi Delmore, McKinley Elementary School
Andrea Albright, Blaine High School
Rachel Brisbin, Hamilton Elementary School
Kristin Rutz, Brookside Elementary School
Lisa Thul, Ramsey Elementary School
Stephanie Ylvisaker, Blaine High School

United Health Care Benefits

This is FREE to all on the district's insurance, with the opportunity to earn gift cards, etc. Available since the start of 2023!

Rally

Join Rally, the new wellness program, and earn rewards!

Real Appeal

Learn more about Real Appeal, an online weight loss program!

New SEED Leaders Wanted

Have you considered taking your SEED journey to the next level? Are you interested in helping teachers grow their equity and inclusion toolbox? If so, check out this link for New SEED leader position prerequisites and expectations, and apply here for this paid position.

[SEED Leader Application click here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact SEED Co-coordinators Beth Heimerl (bethlynn33@gmail.com) or Beth Popalisky (sweetlily@gmail.com, 612-940-4441)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Birthday!!!



February 5 - February 11

Kathryn Teresi

Kori Gasser

Kristin Baden

Carrie Paske

Suzanne McCarthy

Rebecca Olson

Gloria Guiza

Cathy Jo Tastsides

Deborah Dille

Lindsey Letcher

Donna Wippler

Andrea Lanz

Brandi Czysen

Aimee Halverson

Jennifer Petersen

Chase Vasquez

Erinn Weinmann

Marcella Boles

Alison Sims

Sarah Donovan

Angela Pridmore

Emily Essen

Brent Munce

Krystyne Hable-Lafean

Jessica Moretter

Jana Rieck

Kristin Olson

Katrina Trullinger

Nicolle Kitt

Todd Springer

Joshua Dubay

Jaimie Feld

Nathaniel Albrecht

Julie Danielowski

Elise Miller

Mary Brown

James Wick

Kari Lohn

Kyle Iverson

Natalie Lupo

Melissa Strommen

Kelly Ausland

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

Coming Up

February 6 - Rep. Assembly Mtg, 4:45 p.m., AHEM

February 6 - School Board WS, 5:30 p.m., ESC

February 7 - Pension Advocacy Session, 4:45 p.m., AHEM

February 8 - LCAT Mtg, 4:30 p.m., AHEM

February 13 - Executive Board Mtg, 4:45 p.m., AHEM

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 16 - Lobby Day, 3:30 p.m., Virtual, [REGISTER HERE](#)

February 18 - Coffee & Politics, 9 a.m., Caribou Coffee [Sign up Here](#)

February 20 - President's Day - AHEM Office Closed
February 22 - Ash Wednesday
February 22/23 - AHEM Election
February 25 - MN Twins Spring Training Begins
February 26 - Pike and Walleye Winter Season Ends
February 27 - School Board Mtg., 6:30 p.m., SEC

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