

**STRONGER TOGETHER**



**ANOKA HENNEPIN**

*Valerie Holthus*

*President*

*January 13, 2023*

*Vol 5, No.16*

# Friday Blast



MEA online will be down for maintenance starting Jan. 1, 2023. Please direct questions to [meaonline@edmn.org](mailto:meaonline@edmn.org)

## 2023 Elections

**Candidate filing is now open for AHEM President, EdMN Representative Convention Delegate and NEA Representative Assembly Delegate.**

The President position is a three-year term beginning July 2023. Duties of the President include representing and overseeing matters as chief executive of the Association. The position of President is a full-time position. To file for the position of President or EdMN or NEA delegate contact [Becky.Marshman@edmn.org](mailto:Becky.Marshman@edmn.org). Filing will remain open until Monday, January 30, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Voting will take place electronically on February 22 & 23 for office of President, convention delegates (if needed), changes in local Constitution and Bylaws, and renewal of Qcomp.

## Member Listening Session



**We Want to Hear From You!**

**January 18 - Negotiations  
Member Listening Session**



The AHEM Negotiations Team will be holding online listening sessions for AHEM members on January 18, 2023. Members of the team will be online from 3-7 pm. There will be a short presentation/orientation at the top of each hour, but you can join at any time that works for you. Most of the time will be set aside for the negotiations team to hear from you all.

RSVP with Link or QR Code— you will receive a zoom link prior to session:

<https://forms.gle/d1RB8XJt9SBXb9Uu7>

## 2023 Collective Bargaining & Organizing Conference

**2023  
Collective  
Bargaining  
&  
Organizing  
Conference**

**Jan. 20-21  
St. Paul**

**Register:  
[edmn.me/cboc](https://edmn.me/cboc)**



# AHEM Professional Development

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

[March 7, 2023 \(Tuesday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Class](#)

[March 23, 2023 \(Thursday\) ~ 4:30-6:30 pm ~ AHEM Reading Instruction Class](#)

[March 28, 2023 \(Tuesday\) ~ 5:00-7:00 pm ~ Accommodation, Modification and Adaptation of Curriculum, Materials and Instruction](#)

## Contract Connections

Volume 2, Number 6

### Information: The Gathering

As we enter 2023, the negotiations team is focused on the gathering information from AHEM Members about their wants and needs. The team will use the information we collect from these meetings and surveys to create goals and priorities for the upcoming round of bargaining. Here are a couple of the current ways the team is reaching out to hear from members:

#### **NAC**

The Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) met for the first time (ever) on January 10th at the AHEM office. NAC is designed to bring together the voices of members that are part of our bargaining group (aka covered by our contract) that are not traditional classroom teachers. In the space available here, it is difficult to provide a comprehensive list of all these member roles, but it includes people in positions such as school nurses, counselors, speech language pathologists, adult basic education (ABE) teachers, early childhood family education (ECFE) teachers and many, many more important roles that support both students and other educators. NAC members shared the unique challenges they face in their roles in the district. Members of NAC will also help the negotiations team maintain consistent communication with members in these roles. This first meeting laid the groundwork for ensuring that the voices of these members are heard as the negotiations process begins.

Watch the Blast in coming weeks to learn more about the diversity of positions our members hold in the district. Think you might be interested in joining NAC? Contact the negotiations team at the email listed below.



### **Member Listening Session**

On January 18th from 3-7 pm, the negotiations team is hosting an online listening session open to all members. There will be a brief presentation from the negotiations team at the top of each hour, but the real focus is hearing from all of you. You can drop in anytime that works for you. The team is planning on having breakout rooms based on some common topics such as salary, health insurance, and working conditions. Even with the breakout rooms, you can bring up any idea or issue that you have.

You can RSVP here to get the Zoom link for the listening session:

<https://forms.gle/qtRZBC6Q2EQCdf287>

The negotiations team can be reached anytime at

[ahemnegotiations@gmail.com](mailto:ahemnegotiations@gmail.com).

In solidarity,  
Your AHM Negotiations Team  
John Wolhaupter - Lead  
Luke Amundson  
Mark Corcoran  
Traci Intihar  
Jon Plotz

*Trivia Time*

**The answer to last week's question was:**

What year saw the return of party designation elections in the Minnesota House?

*D. 1973*

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

*Kara Ekman, Sand Creek Elem  
Rachel Karel, Blaine HS  
Colleen Worby, Andover Elem*

**Please reply to this email to submit your answer.**  
[anokahennepinem@gmail.com](mailto:anokahennepinem@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!**

Seven teachers hired in 1986 are still teaching in Anoka Hennepin. How many teachers hired BEFORE 1986 are still teaching in Anoka Hennepin?

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3
- e. 4

## Government Relations

Aaron Balzer  
Government Relations Chair

MN Legislature: Our new legislature was sworn in this week with the Democrats in the majority. If you want to make your priorities known, do so early, as bills will be moving faster than usual. There are already bills moving forward this first week of session. [Contact your legislator.](#)

2023 Legislative Plan: The draft proposal will be presented to the Representative Assembly on Monday. It focuses on overall budget, pension reform, healthy schools, and making strides on equitable schools for all.

Pension updates: regular updates from Education Minnesota:  
<https://educationminnesota.org/news/uncategorized/pension-form/>

Lobbying: Lobbying will be virtual again this year. Please join me for events with Legislative districts 31, 32, 34 and 35. Look to see which events you'd like to attend by finding out [who represents me?](#) I need people to attend and share your concerns with our legislators. I will help you get your thoughts together - it's very easy. Email me with your willingness to participate at: [aaronbalzer@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronbalzer@yahoo.com) .

[Who Represents me?](#) Click for an interactive map of the Minnesota

Legislature.

## **Save the Date!**

We will be hosting a Pension Advocacy presentation on February 7 at 4:45 pm at the Anoka Hennepin office. This will be advertised in *The Friday Blast* in the coming month.

# Special Education Workload Survey

**Special Education Teachers and Service Providers: Please take Education Minnesota's Special Education workload survey!**

In our efforts to support Special Educators through legislation and in collective bargaining, we are gathering data on Special Educator caseloads, paperwork, and what supports might help alleviate some of the pressures of this work. We will be sharing this survey with members who are identified as Special Education teachers or in any related services that support students with IEPs, such as school social worker, school counselor, school psychologist, physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, music therapist, and DAPE teacher.

**Please complete the survey no later than Friday, January 27:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdMNSpecialEdSurvey2023>

We will be sharing results with legislators and other education stakeholders, and our negotiations team.

## Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

### Update No. 10

If you have missed any past updates, [they're available here.](#)

### The 2023 legislative session has begun!

On Jan. 3, the Minnesota Legislature was sworn in and began the work of the 2023 legislative session. There is a strong feeling of opportunity and excitement around this year's Legislature, considering the \$17.6 billion dollar surplus as well as the many new and pro-education lawmakers.

Our pension advocacy plan is now in [Phase III](#), where we will continue to [organize our members](#) and work to move the process forward. Most important is

that now we will be taking more and more actions to engage and move legislators to take actions to improve educator pensions!

[Click to read on](#)

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



**This newsletter is your trusted source on education news from the State Capitol**

It's been a busy first week of session at the Capitol.

**Good things that happened last week:**

Bill introductions! The first step for a bill to become a law is for a lawmaker to introduce it. There are already so many great bills to support public education in Minnesota. Here are some highlights:

[HF5:](#) Free school lunch and breakfast for all students

[HF8/SF56:](#) Funding for student support services personnel, including counselors, psychologists, nurses, and social workers

[SF8:](#) Healing current funding shortfalls for special education, transportation, English learners, and nutrition

[HF18/SF28:](#) Fully funding special education services

[HF21/SF20](#): Funding for full-service community schools

[HF22/SF21](#): Funding for English learner programming

[HF38](#): MNSCU undergraduate tuition reduction

[HF44/SF50](#): Funding for schools to provide free menstrual products for students

[SF60](#): Allowing educational data sharing with Tribal nations about Tribally enrolled or descendent students

\*HF= House File and SF= Senate File.

Bills must be approved by both chambers in one fashion or another to make it to the governor's desk for signature. If you support a bill here but don't see your local lawmakers signed on as an author, you can email them and ask them to sign on to the bill or ask them to support it when it comes to a committee they are on or the House or Senate floor.

[Click to read on](#)

## Happy Birthday!!!



**January 15 - January 21**

Teresa Dwyer  
Hannah Sorenson  
Emily Matheson  
Kristin Folke  
Maren Hustad  
Sarah Roberts  
Elias Johnson  
Karlyn Bolander  
Karen Thompson  
Eduardo Bautista

Robert Boero  
Alicia Treslor  
Kaia Hirt  
Trevor Klein  
Stephanie Olson  
Christopher O'Connell  
Tom Powers  
Sarah Reisdorf  
Mathew Amann  
Ronald Van Iperen

Kathleen Vaughn  
Melissa Beal  
Brian Christopherson  
Mary Maddox  
Jennifer Bowman  
Anne Floss  
Erika Bowen  
Hailey Nelson  
Autumn Moder  
Sarah Tate



Shanna Klein  
Julie Henderson  
Jennifer Grant  
Karen McCoy  
Cynthia Cain  
Cynthia Secord  
Amanda Okland  
Gillan Domsten  
Andrea Deitz

Anne Mattis  
Robert Gamache  
Julia Stock  
Melissa Howe  
Beth Engman  
Theresa Myos  
Cassandra Chandler  
Benjamin Dwyer  
William Powell

Charles Johnson  
Danielle Dokter  
Michelle Gindele  
Stephanie Hicks  
Scott Wertsch  
Jennifer Rollings  
Sarah Rantasha

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

## Coming Up

January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - AHEM office closed  
January 18 - AHEM Negotiation Team Listening Session, 3 - 7 p.m., Virtual  
January 20/21 - Education MN Collective Bargaining Conference  
January 23 - Executive Board Mtg, 4:45 p.m., Virtual  
January 23 - School Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m., SEC  
January 30 - AHEM filings close  
January 31 - NAC Meeting, 5 p.m., AHEM  
February 1 - Black History Month begins  
February 2 - SEED Meeting 4:40-7:30 p.m., AHEM / Groundhog Day  
February 6 - Rep. Assembly Mtg, 4:45 p.m., AHEM  
February 6 - School Board WS, 5:30 p.m., ESC  
February 8 - LCAT Mtg, 4:30 p.m., AHEM

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