

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

February 10, 2023

Vol 5, No.20

Friday Blast



Attention AHEM Members!



Attention AHEM members with graduating senior children! Make sure you take advantage of this benefit of membership!

AHEM is offering seven scholarships which will be awarded to 2022-23 high school seniors. Students must be a child dependent of a current AHEM member and a current high school senior in any public school district. The award winners will be announced after May 1st, 2023.

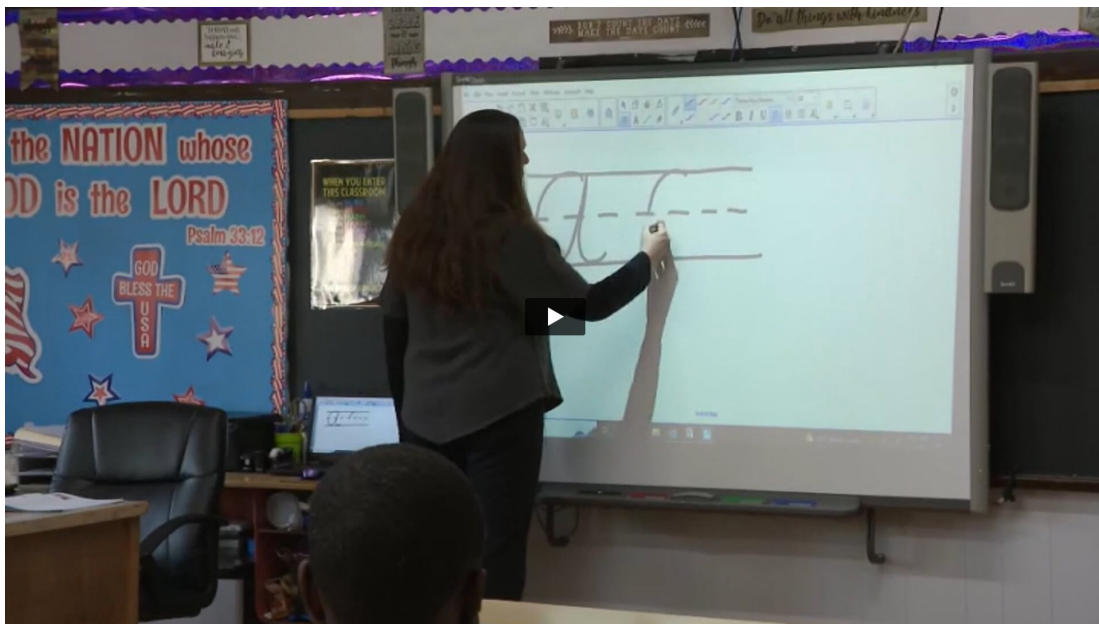
The scholarship application link for AHEM members' dependents is below.

Please note that the deadline to apply is Friday, April 7th at 11:59pm. High school transcripts must be obtained and uploaded in the application to be considered.

Better Language in the Written Driver's Test

AHEM member, Amna Kiran Advocates for Better Language in the Written Driver's Test

Amna Kiran recently presented her goal of simplifying the driver's written test to legislators at an AHEM coffee and politics meeting with legislators. The current permit test seems more like an advanced level English language test instead of a knowledge test about driving, making it inequitable and discriminatory for our students. Check out the WCCO short about her efforts! [Click below to watch the video!](#)



AHEM Store - LAST DAY

Your AHEM Union Gear Store closes TODAY!!

\$25 CREDIT TOWARD PURCHASE

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. 14

NEW Call to Action; TRA Board Candidate Information

While we fight to improve the pension benefits of educators in Minnesota, we need to make one thing clear in our discussions with legislators, community members and colleagues: the state of Minnesota has chronically underfunded educator plans and needs to invest in our educators and schools. We are in an educator recruitment and retention crisis because of a lack of investment and long-term solutions. As we move toward bills being introduced at the Legislature, remain clear in your messaging: it's time for Minnesota to invest! Here are some [talking points](#).

Investment Rate of Return

The [Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement](#) has begun discussions around the investment rate of return actuarial assumption. The pension plan administrators want to lower this number without completing a full experience study. Moving the TRA Assumption from 7.5% to 7% would:

- Lower the funded ration from 80.9% to 76.2%.
- Change the contribution sufficiency of 1.19% into a deficiency of - 1.82%, a deficiency meaning it would not be projected for 100% funding in the next 30 years.

[Pension Updates No. 8](#) has more general information on the investment Rate of Return.

TRA is expected to complete its experience study this summer and will then have all of the information it needs to make its decision. However, they don't have that information now so we believe shouldn't be any change.

Click to read on

Click here for most up to date articles

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

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

Which bill is NOT being considered?

- e. Punxsutawney Phil to be moved to a MN Animal Shelter.

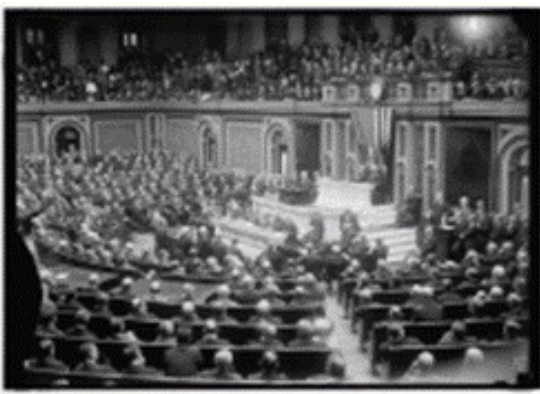
Congratulations to last week's winners:

Shannon Ruda, Jackson MS
Cathy Malone, Dayton Elem
Colin Jorgenson, Ramsey Elem

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!

The State of the Union address is required per the Constitution. The presentation has gone through many changes over time, with how it's presented and to whom. Some presidents have given long speeches regarding the economic status of our country, and some gave short, more



general speeches, yet some did not give a speech at all.

How many Presidents never gave a State of the Union address?

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

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>

HF1269- Among many education bills for consideration, this is a lengthy bill that proposes many changes to state standard. Homeschool groups are opposed to 2 provisions in particular, one that embeds ethical studies and another that requires them to report standardized test scores to local school districts and proof they are following required protocols set by the superintendent.

Coffee and Politics: Invitations have already gone out for our district 35 Coffee and Politics event. Representatives Stephenson and Newton have already committed. This is on Saturday, February 18th, 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. 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. This event will be February 16th at 3:30. You are also welcome to come on later than that. Register through the link below:

[Register for Lobby Days](#)

Pension: Our TRA pension has been underfunded by the state by at least 4 billion dollars since 2007. The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) chair determines which pension bills will get heard. Here is the LPCR meeting schedule (Monday 8:30-10):

[Click for Meeting Schedule](#)

Contacting your local legislators is important. Prioritize those who represent your area, focus on positive messaging, and be sure to be accurate in your facts. **Contact your legislators and let them know the state needs to invest in education.**

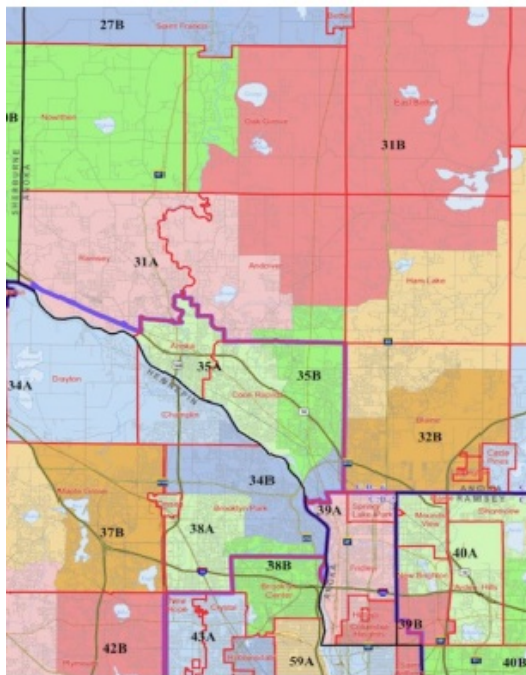
If you don't know which district you live in, use [Who Represents Me?](#) a handy quick resource to find out.

For great pension information from EdMN, see here:

<https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions/>

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today!](#)

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



It's been a jam-packed January at the Capitol, with legislation that was held up in previous years by political gridlock now moving swiftly through the legislative process. The governor has already signed five bills this session, exemplifying that this is one of the most [productive legislative sessions](#) in Minnesota history.

There have been many transformative education and workers' rights bills that have multiple hearings in January, including:

- Fully funding the special education and EL cross-subsidies.
- Paid training for paras.
- Funding for student support personnel.
- Funding for full-service community schools.
- Free school meals for all.
- Free menstrual products in schools.
- Pre-K expansion.
- Paid Family and Medical Leave.
- Earned Sick and Safe Time.
- Teachers of color support, both E-12 and Higher Ed.
- Unemployment for hourly school workers.

Note: Pension bills and other subject areas that work through commissions or agencies are handled in March/April, per legislative calendars.

If you have any questions about any of these proposals and other, feel free to email lobbyteam@edmn.org.

[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!

Happy Birthday!!!



February 12 - February 18

Jane Hammes-Johnson
Joanell Bohmert
Deniece Leisdon
Jennifer Kettering
Michelle Regenscheid
Michael Doyle
Matthew Leshovsky
Caitlin Hasselback
Nannette Sorenson
Elisabeth Howard
Kayla Aho
Qurina Slayhi
Dua Yang
Anne Norsted
Thomas Geisenhoff
Andrea Cater

Val Holthus
Christine Hilley
Rachel Haemig-Lehman
Kay Pederson
Susan Brown
Jeffery Richards
Jessica Petterson
Andrew Paulsen
Stephanie Smith
Mariah Hagerty
Melissa Radi
Christopher Reed
Jared Larson
Trista Gallagher
Bailey Zerban
Theron Busse

Rebecca Sheils
Angela Olson
William Thorson
Sarah Fulmer
Kristin Walker
Anthony Boos
Sharon Brouwer
Kasden Watson
Nadie Billmark
Kristi Sabby
Lucas Stickan
Darcy Nelson
Ashley Meyer
Kelly Johnson
Mark Bjork

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

Coming Up

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

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

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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