

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

February 17, 2023

Vol 5, No.21

Friday Blast

coffee & politics



AT CARIBOU COFFEE

Join Education Minnesota Members on Saturday morning for a free drink (even the fancy ones) and breakfast while chatting with your lawmakers from district 35 about what is going on in your classroom and what is important to you and your students.

When: Saturday, February 18th, 9 am.

Where: Caribou Coffee - 101 W Main St, Anoka 55303

Who: Rep. Stephensen (confirmed) & Rep. Newton
(confirmed)

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.

<https://forms.gle/5HwhqNrxKcTyAirT7>



**sign up
here**

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship

Nellie Stone Johnson's contributions to civil rights, human rights, and the rights of work force cultural diversity initiative focuses on the recruitment, retention and graduation of greater numbers of students of color. Evidence has shown that the success of minority students in completing college is in direct correlation to the financial assistance that is available. Scholarships also reduce students' dependence on loans and debt burden. The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Program's scholarship monies come from private sources, including alumni, labor unions, company foundations, friends and other supporters.



The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to racial minority union members and their families who wish to pursue an education at one of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State. The scholarship program was established by the former Minnesota State University System in 1989.

Apply here:

[http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program?
link_id=4&can_id=42de770aa1bfe261288dca87f3a74922&source=email-
labor-update-385&email_referrer=email_1815025&email_subject=labor-
update](http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program?link_id=4&can_id=42de770aa1bfe261288dca87f3a74922&source=email-labor-update-385&email_referrer=email_1815025&email_subject=labor-update)

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

Testifying for Change

On Wednesday, President Val Holthus testified in the House Education Finance Committee, advocating for HF439. This bill was brought forward by Representative Matt Norris, an AHEM endorsed candidate serving Blaine. HF 439 proposes a general education basic formula allowance increased by five percent per year for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and future formula increases linked to the rate of inflation. The most important factor to consider in this bill is that school funding be tied to inflation. Over the years funding has not been keeping up with inflation, and districts must cut back, or water down their services because their expenses don't align to inflation. This bill is definitely the game changer we need. The bill was successfully laid over to be added to the Education Omnibus bill. THANK YOU, Rep. Matt Norris and Chair Youakim, for your many hours of work for public education!



Testifiers for House File #439, L-R: Kristi Peterson, Shakopee School Board Chair; Jeff Holmberg, Centennial Superintendent; Val Holthus, AHEM; Rep. Matt Norris; Tina Burkholder, Dir. of Business Services, Monticello Schools; Bob Indihar, MN Rural Educ. Assoc.

Involuntary Transfer Process

In the Master Agreement/Collective Bargaining Agreement or CBA, Article XVI, POSTINGS & TRANSFERS covers situations where teachers must be moved from the building, they taught in, into a different building the Involuntary Transfer language, contained in Section 2, should be followed. Typically, at the last school board meeting in March, the District will identify and pass the list of probationary teachers to be non-renewed. Shortly thereafter, the Involuntary Transfer process will start, and those impacted teachers will be notified. From among the tenured teachers in a building, Involuntary Transfers should be done by taking the least tenured teachers first. This does not apply, however, when an entire building is being closed. Then all the tenured teachers will be part of the Involuntary Transfer process.

Subdivision 1 explains that this this process covers tenured teachers who are involuntarily transferred **PRIOR** to June 30. They shall be notified by July 1 of their assignment for next year unless a later date is agreed to by the teacher and District.

Involuntary Transfer language applies when tenured teachers need to be moved, or are displaced for the following reasons:

- discontinuance of positions
- lack of pupils
- financial limitations
- mergers of classrooms due to consolidations of School Districts
- school pairing
- District reorganization
- New building construction

When it becomes necessary to move tenured teachers out of their building due to any of the above conditions, reduction within a school building will be done by the teacher with the lease seniority as follows:

- Elementary School – license area K or K-5
- Middle School – license area or 6th grade.
- High School – license area

For other teachers not specifically in one of the three areas above, reduction shall be done according to the same criteria. The following SPED staff will be considered building staff for purposes of Involuntary Transfers:

- SPED SLP's with an assignment of .6 or greater in one building
- SPED high school psychologists with an assignment of .6 or greater assignment in one building.

ALL OTHER SPED STAFF will be considered itinerant and shall be assigned at the discretion of the district.

Other Pertinent Provisions

Contract Connections

Vol 2, No. 8

"It's we, not me"

You may notice the phrase, "Its we, not me," in communications from AHEM. One thing that has become clear as the negotiations team has been engaging with members this winter is that every member and every role in Anoka-Hennepin is facing increasing demands and challenges. As we strive to keep our own heads above water, it is natural to lose sight of connections to others in our building or across the district. In some cases, we perceive others as having an easier job or making our own job more difficult. The goal of any union, AHEM included, is to leverage the power of our labor and our numbers to make the work experience better for all its members. Thinking ahead to negotiations, it is vital that we use this opportunity to continue to pull together to further our profession as educators and not let the day-to-day stresses of the job push us apart. "It's we, not me" is not intended to minimize individual member needs or concerns. Rather it is intended to remind us all that the best way to make changes to our individual work experience is to join together to fight for each other collectively.

To quote Senator Paul Wellstone, "We all do better when we all do better."

The negotiations team can be reached anytime at
ahemnegotiations@gmail.com.

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

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 15

NEW Pension Advocacy Plan Presentation Resources

As we near the biggest time for action in the legislative session, March to May (session ends May 23), we must continue to organize members in this important fight. We now have more resources available, including an updated [talking points documents for both organizing and advocating](#).

Call to Action

Continue to contact LCPR members and let them know that the TRA investment return rate should remain unchanged.

LCPR Member Information

The LCPR should rely on the information from the State Board of Investment (SBI) asset liability study, which will give them needed information and will be completed in the fall. Additionally, TRA will have its large experience study completed as well so there will be data to both project for investment returns and to judge the risk tolerance of the plan. Tell them to stop trying to base our investment return rate on funds from other states when, as the SBI executive director shared in the LCPR meeting Monday, it's our assets allocations that matter. Lowering the rate now is unnecessary and will only make underfunded pensions look like they need even more additional funding.

[Click to read on](#)

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

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

2- Two presidents never delivered an Annual Message or State of the Union address. William Henry Harrison and James Garfield both died before they had the chance to deliver one, Harrison from disease in 1841 and Garfield from an assassin's bullet in 1881.

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Jamie Weisz, Champlin HS
Alex Erickson, Brookside Elem
Kristy Majcin, Sunrise Elem

Please reply to this email to submit your answer.

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!

Big sporting events like the Super Bowl are also union affairs, with nearly ___ unions involved in some aspect of the game or related events.

- a. 5
- b. 8
- c. 12
- d. 18
- e. 23

Pension Advocacy Tip Sheet

Fighting to improve our pensions is a heavy lift this year. The union office was full of members last Tuesday, ready to advocate for improvements.

Guest presenter Adam Janiak from EdMN presented on:

- ***How our pension works***
- ***What EdMN plans for advocacy***
- ***How you can get involved***

A version of this presentation is available to you online, in three parts, at MEA Online:

<https://educationminnesota.org/resources/professional-development/mea-online/>

Learn. Share. Fight for improvement!

Government Relations

By Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

MN Legislature: Bill tracking MN Legislature website is excellent:

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

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

HF1269- Lengthy bill proposing many changes to state standards. Homeschool groups opposed to 2 pieces- embedding ethical studies and requirement to report standardized test scores to local school districts.

Paid Family and Medical Leave- Everyone deserves paid time to care for themselves or a loved one. And with pro-labor majorities in the Legislature, Minnesota is close to making history and passing a statewide Paid Family & Medical Leave program. However, the balance of power is slim, and we need to make sure that educators are not excluded from paid leave for all. ***Your senator needs to hear from you! Please take a minute to tell them you support Paid Family & Medical Leave for every working Minnesotan!***

Omnibus bills- The DFL is considering whether to reduce the number of omnibus bills, using them sparingly or only for budgets. There is a tendency for the amount of items in them to become a jumbled mess. If our Coffee and Politics meeting with Cal Bahr was any indication from last year, they may have some allies on this from Republicans. Cal shared his disdain for these bills because they have to vote for more things they don't want just to get anything they want passed.

Lobby Days: Our first Virtual Zoom Lobby Day was last night for district 32. An update on specifics will be available in the next Friday Blast. Be looking for an invite for districts 34 and 35 Virtual Lobby day events soon.

Pension: Our TRA pension has been chronically underfunded. Follow the LCPR meeting schedule (Monday 8:30-10): https://www.lcpr.mn.gov/mtgnotice.htm?j=7949737&sfmc_sub=677130257&l=61855_HTML&u=174385540&mid=1077892&jb=4

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.

<https://www.leg.mn.gov/leg/legdir>
Use **Who Represents Me?**, to quickly find out your local representatives:

For great pension information from EdMN, see here:

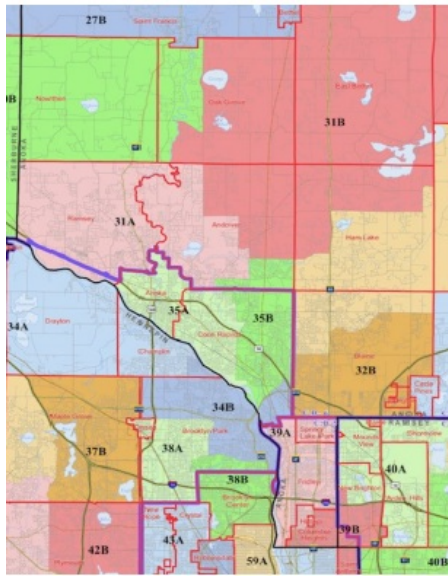
<https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions/>

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

**Capitol
Connection**



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

WELCOME TO SESSION



Many of our important bills are moving through the legislative process. We've had around 30 incredible committee hearings, with more than 100 educators who've stepped up to be heard at the Capitol. We're people-powered, and we're working hard to ensure the changes we need for a fully funded, equitable education system are delivered.

In previous Capitol Connection newsletters, we've detailed much of our [legislative agenda](#) that will make life better for educators and students in our K-12 schools. Today, we want to touch on the work being done in early education and higher education at the Legislature.

[Click to read on](#)

Ilhan Omar Meets with Union



Congresswoman, Ilhan Omar, House Education Committee Member, Meets with Minneapolis Regional Labor Unions

On Monday, February 13, AHEM President Val Holthus along with Local Presidents Greta Callahan, Minneapolis Public Schools and Kelly Wilson, Osseo Public Schools met with Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Congressional

District 5, at the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation office in Minneapolis. Several other labor groups were there representing the building trades and county workers, including public libraries. The concerns brought forward were student and staff safety, class size, and the need for mental health services. She addressed fully funding the federal programs thereby reducing the cross subsidies the state must bear. She spoke about how her committee is working to meet the needs of youth in a variety of ways through the federal programs that feed assistance to the states. She also explained there are six statutes the President could use to eliminate student debt if the Supreme Court rules that he does not have the power.

Happy Birthday!!!



February 19 - February 25

John Mirecki
Meghan Scheidel
Rachel Nardelli
Catherine Landis
Nicole Wall
Mallory Scherber
Nicole Mancuso
Judie Anderson
Simone Simon
Leah Amirouche
Casey Folie
Jessaca Jens
Jennifer Claussen
Laura Klinefelter
Sarah Knox
Susan Vande Kamp
Melissa Johnson

Diane Hughes
Blake Bodenbug
Magdelene Pearson
William Erickson
Marc Biermann
Susan Kaufmann
Rebecca Michaelson
Jessica Hootz
Zachary Rice
Jordan Putz
Jill Lawrence
Matthew Holt
Allison Axness
Heather Berge
Jami Brevik
Katia Palen

Isaac Dotzler
Daniel Cox
Jeanette Masloski
Erin Micklin
Laura Palke
Cheri McQuay
Paul Broberg
Catherine Barkow
Teresa Cegla
Haley Grengs
William Brustman
Christina Bross
Amanda Britz
Jennifer Gonzalez
Jennifer Sylvester
Michelle Fredrick

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

Coming Up

February 18 - Coffee & Politics, 9 am, 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 pm, SEC
March 1 - LCAT Mtg., 4:30 pm, AHEM
March 2 - SEED Mtg., 4:30-7:30 pm, AHEM
March 6 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, Virtual/ School Board WS, 5:30pm, ESC
March 8 - Meet and Confer, 5:30pm, ESC

March 10-20 - No Students/ Spring Break

March 12 - Daylight Saving Time begins

March 17- St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 23 - Ramadan begins

March 27 - Executive Board Mtg., 4:45 pm, Virtual/ School Brd Mtg, 6:30 pm, SEC

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