

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

February 24, 2023

Vol 5, No.22

Friday Blast



Voting Period Extended

Because of the two snow days, The voting window for AHM Constitution and Bylaws and QComp has been extended to **6pm on Monday, February 27.**



Coins for the Community

Now collecting for Kami Daley! Reach out to your building's Head Rep. to find out how to give or drop off at the AHM office through March 10th.

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota is conducting a Coins for the Community drive for Kami Daley!



Kami is a teacher at Wilson Elementary, who will need to be on medical leave for the rest of this school year. Life can change in a minute! The week before Thanksgiving her life was changed with the diagnosis of breast cancer. Kami will be on medical leave and has no days left in her sick leave bank.

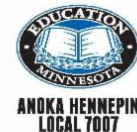
The funds donated will help with treatment not covered by insurance and give her family a sense of some relief.

**Donations collected at
the buildings should
be returned to AHEM
by March 10th.**



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ahem.mn.aft.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO 2500



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>



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

On Wednesday's We Wear Red

Madison Elem. Holds Contest for **Wearing Red for Ed** on Wednesdays

To show solidarity and support for our negotiators, Madison Elem. is holding competitions for wearing **Red for Ed on Wednesdays**.

Our negotiators are already working hard on framing up this year's contract negotiations for better pay, benefits and working conditions. Please support them by wearing **Red** every Wednesday!



Congratulations to the first winners of **Red for Ed!**
Jen Keenan, Tina Bross & Vanessa For

Contract Connections

Vol 2, No. 9



Negotiations Survey

[Here is the link to the Negotiations Survey for the upcoming round of bargaining.](#)

The survey will be open for responses from **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th** until

FRIDAY, MARCH 10th.

This year's survey is shorter than in the past and is designed to give the negotiations team more context to the information we have already gathered from meetings with members. The survey is another aspect of the process that the negotiations team is following to incorporate member voices into bargaining the 2023-25 contract. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. The team will use the information to develop goals and priorities for the upcoming round of bargaining. These goals and priorities will be shared with members later this spring.

Another reminder to everyone that what happens at the legislature has a major impact on bargaining. Deadlines for bills to be heard in committees are approaching.

- Please stay formed by reading through information from our AHEM Governmental Relations chair.
- Write your legislators and advocate for the needs of your students and for the future of education as a profession.
- Consider also advocating for other members of our bargaining group that face unique challenges in their work with students or in supporting other educators.

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. 16

**If you've missed any past updates, they're available on our website.
Our first pension bill is here!**

And we're off! Our first pension bill has been introduced in the state Senate. The chief Senate author is Sen. Nick Frentz, vice chair of the LCPR. His leadership in support of educator pensions is exciting and appreciated. Sens. Mary Kunesh, Steve Cwodzinski and Heather Gustafson have also signed on as authors.

The bill is **Senate File 1938**. We expect the House version to be introduced soon.

This legislation calls for lowering the normal retirement age to 62, creating an unreduced benefit with 35 years of service, doubling the service credit during the years 2020-22, restoring augmentation and changes the COLA to a variable rate between 1-3%. As the bill moves through the Legislature, we will create talking points and an action alert for members to use in contacting their legislators to support it.

NEW call to action

If your local or intermediate organization doesn't have a lobby day or local meeting with your legislators scheduled, contact your local leader as soon as possible to find out what can be done to get one on the books!

View the [***lobby days schedule***](#) on our website.

[Click to read on](#)

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

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!

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

23 Unions were involved in the Super

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

Bowl.

be entered to win!

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Blake Bodenbug, Coon Rapids HS
Kate Edson, Hoover Elem
Jessica Wang, Jackson MS

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



Match the names of notable African Americans with their contributions. Your answer will look like: A1, B3, C4.....etc.

- A. Henrietta Lacks
 - B. Mari Copeny
 - C. Rosa Parks
 - D. Katherine Johnson
 - E. Mae Jemison
-
1. First Black Female Astronaut
 2. Montgomery Bus Boycott
 3. Immortal Cancer Cells for Research
 4. Flint Lives Matter
 5. Computed paths for spacecraft to orbit Earth and land on the Moon

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>

Tax Poor Communities: House Education Finance Committee approved three bills pertaining to the issue of revising the Equalization of funding in poorer communities, [HF879](#) (as amended), [HF1271](#), and [HF1396](#).

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. [Paid Family and Medical Leave for educators](#)

Union Freedoms: Working is a lot more than just compensation. [HF 1690/SF 1633](#) is our bill to support union freedoms and have a stronger voice at the bargaining

table.

Mental Health Support Personnel: John Hoffman is supporting a bill to improve mental health services in schools. Advocate for [More student support personnel](#).

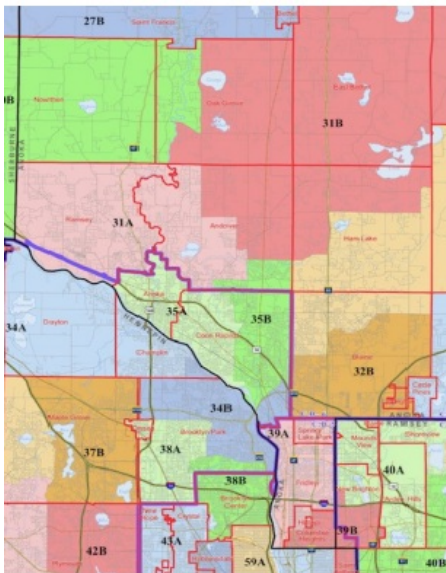
Unemployment for hourly workers: Help support paras, cooks, custodians, and other hourly workers, so that they can afford to stay from year to year! [Unemployment for hourly school workers](#)

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:

Education Minnesota is encouraging us to advocate with legislators not just for one-time education money but for long-term sustainability. Budgeting bills will be coming in the next couple weeks, so say your piece now! [Click here](#) for a starting template.

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



Be safe out there, members!

With a historic blizzard coming that rivals the infamous Halloween blizzard of '91, the House and Senate have both moved their calendars back a week to accommodate the safety of legislators, advocates and staff.

We're hearing from many of you that you will have e-learning days for the rest of the week. However you may feel about e-learning days, a glaring downside is that ESPs have trouble making ends meet when this happens. This is why our [ESP Bill of Rights](#), which will have a hearing next week, includes paying all school staff on e-learning days.

Now is a great time to [contact your legislator](#) about the things you care about, since they'll have a bit more time to check their emails.

[Click to read on](#)

Happy Birthday!!!



February 26 - March 4

Joan Lindquist
Mary O'Hanlon
Katie Van Norman
Greg Kapitzke
Katie Monson
Jamie Berbu
Chase Evertz
Dylan Brovick
Jennifer Friese
Kelsey Walz
Ryan Best
Janeen Burow
Dranchak Jolanda
Carrie Jerome
Kelly Wilson
Katherine Shelley
Jeanne Bolstad

Chritine Cheng
Ashley Cushman
Megan Loso
Holly Langenbacher
Elizabeth Fenwick
Melissa Scalia
Emily Niemi
Barbara Diemer
Bonnie Schneider
Jennifer Popp
Melissa Stein
Amy Taylor
Candace Jones
Lisa Finn
Sarah Moshier
Constance Huberty
Ellie Schmitt
Nathan Schultz

Kelly Voss
Jodi Buysse
Sheryl Dudley
Angela Bidler
Connie Reski
Mary Razim-Fitzsimons
John Keran
Jonathan Young
Sarah Nelson
Carrie Anerson
Carolyn Knudtson
Amy Arneson
Kate Tverberg
Lana Johnson

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

Coming Up

February 25 - MN Twins First Spring Training Game
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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