

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

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Friday Blast



Attention AHEM Members!



Scholarship Opportunity!

Do you have a child that will be a 2023 graduate? Don't miss out, have them apply for an Anoka Hennepin EdMN Scholarship! **Deadline is**

MN K-12 Teachers Rally for Pension Reform



AHEM supplied a bus to bring members to the Rally from Blaine High School. BHS teachers had a strong delegation; thanks to everyone who attended and rallied for pension reform!

About 500-700 people visited the Capitol in St. Paul to advocate for changes to the statewide pension plan for public school teachers.

ST. PAUL — Educators from across Minnesota rallied Monday to draw attention to what they consider an unfair pension system for K-12 public school teachers.

At a “Better Pensions Now” rally in the Capitol rotunda, several hundred people called for changes to a retirement plan in which nearly every public school teacher in the state is enrolled.

[Click here to read on](#)

Couldn't Attend Monday's Rally?

If your schedule didn't allow you or your members to join us on Monday, please sign up for our April 20 Pension Issue Lobby Day, which will be held virtually and allow members from across the state to speak with legislators about the importance of investing in pensions. [Register for this online event here](#)

We will also be holding our traditional rally on the last Saturday before session ends, May 20. More details and information will be shared on this event. Nothing is done and over until session ends May 23, so we expect this rally to be an important push for our legislative priorities!

I know there is a lot of passion around this issue. That's why we are doing the work together. It is not just what a few of us do. It's not just something good people do. It's what we all do, together. It's the foundation of unionism and a prerequisite of our success for pensions and everything else. Our solidarity shows how we care for one another.

We can still get some wins on pensions but only, only, only if the lawmakers see us unified, strong and resolute.

Workers at Cub Foods locations vote to Authorize Strike

Workers at 33 Cub Foods locations vote to authorize strike, plan to picket starting Friday.

MINNEAPOLIS -- Thousands of grocery store workers in Minnesota have voted to authorize a strike.

Union employees of Cub Foods said the potential strike is over alleged unfair labor practices, wages and working without a contract for a month.

According to the union, the strike involves roughly 3,000 workers at 33

Below are the Cub Stores who will be on strike. Please stop by and support these striking workers.

stores owned by UNFI, mostly located in the Twin Cities area.

In a Wednesday morning news conference, the union said they plan on picketing in front of stores on Friday and Saturday.

Below are the Cub Stores who will be on strike. Please stop by and support these striking workers.

Union Grocery Stores with

Expired Contracts

UNFI Cub - Apple Valley, Blaine North, Blaine South, Blaine West, Bloomington Lyndale, Brooklyn Park North

UNFI Cub - Brooklyn Park South, Burnsville Heart of the City, Burnsville South, Champlin

UNFI Cub - Chanhassen, Coon Rapids South, Crystal, Eagan East, Eagan North, Eagan West, Fridley,

UNFI Cub - Lakeville North, Lakeville South, Lakeville West, Maple Grove, Minnehaha, Monticello,

New Brighton, Northside, Plymouth (Vicksburg Ln N), Plymouth Rockford Road, Rosemount, Savage, Shorewood, St. Anthony,

St. Louis Park, Uptown



Scholarship Opportunities

Click each to find out more information about each scholarship opportunity!

- [**Attention AHEM members with graduating seniors: make sure you take advantage of this benefit of membership!**](#) *(April 7th Deadline)*
- [**The Minnesota AFL-CIO is proud to have scholarships available for union members and their dependents.**](#) *(May 1st Deadline)*
- [**Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship**](#) *(June 1st Deadline)*



Degrees Not Debt Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Greetings!

We have some exciting news and updates for student loan borrowers -- particularly those with Parent PLUS Loans. The Biden-Harris administration continues to find ways to provide relief to the millions of Americans burdened with education debt: both their own and debt incurred by family members.

[Click to Read On!](#)

Trivia Time

The answer to last week's question was:

In 2010 Minnesota Twins Target Field inaugural game, who did the Twins play?

e. Boston Red Sox

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Rebecca Sheils, Anoka HS
Haley Peterson, Adams Elem
Eduardo Bautista, Coon Rapids MS

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!

Justice in our culture is often represented by the image of Lady Justice.

On the Statue of Lady Justice what is not represented?

- a. The Lady of Justice holds scales.*
- b. The Lady of Justice has her eyes covered with a blindfold.*
- c. The Lady of Justice wears a sash.*
- d. The Lady of Justice holds a sword.*

Government Relations

By Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

MN Legislature: The legislature is going on a short recess for Passover and Easter. Follow the [Legislature Tracker](#) for progress on many different bills.

Pensions: There was a 'Better Pensions Now' Rally at the Capitol on Monday. Thank you to those who attended. Several hundred people called for changes to a retirement plan in which nearly every public school teacher in the state is enrolled.

The LCPR shared a plan for the omnibus bill that would create an unreduced benefit at 62 and 30 years of service funded by raising the employee contribution by 1% and one-time money to buy down that contribution for about two years. This is St. Paul's current position, but this may yet change, just as TRA's position may as well.

Wisconsin Supreme Court:

The most expensive state supreme court race in US history concluded Tuesday night. The prevailing justice, Janet Protasiewicz, won by over 10 points. She ran on pushing back against gerrymandering and abortion rights.

Issue-Based Lobby Day-

There is an upcoming issue-based Lobby Day for Pensions on April 20th: ([Register](#)). The Pension Advocacy Plan presentation is also [available on MEA Online](#). If you've missed any of the pension updates, they are all available here: <https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions/>. If you have specific questions on pensions, please email [Adam Janiak](#).

Lobby Days:

A very snowed in Anoka Caribou hosted Coffee and Politics last Saturday. 15 members spoke with Representative Zack Stephenson from District 35. We discussed school discipline, pensions, and overall ed funding. He supports the proposed significant funding increase. Included in the house version is an annual inflationary increase requirement. There was good discussion on the difficulty of fully funding pension reform, as well as members' concerns regarding working until 67.

If you missed the virtual pension town hall with Reps. Kaohly Vang Her and Dan Wolgamott last week, you can watch a recording of the event [here](#).

Republicans also rallied on Tuesday to protest already passed progressive bills and to advocate for returning surplus tax money to the taxpayers.

[Lobby Days/ Coffee & Politics](#)

LOBBY DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH

5:30 - 7PM

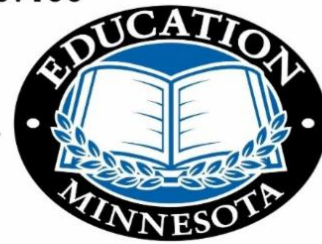
SEN. HOFFMAN (CONFIRMED), SPEAKER HORTMAN (TENTATIVE)

VIRTUAL

SIGN UP HERE: [HTTPS://CVENT.ME/DXAQ3D](https://cvent.me/dxaq3d)

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE MEET WITH OUR LAWMAKERS FROM DISTRICT 34 TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT TOPICS BELOW:

- Students and educators benefit from more high-quality time together.
- Healthy spaces for educators and students are a requirement for academic and professional success.
- Provide every student with access to great educators, including educators who reflect the diversity of race, place, gender and age of Minnesota.



**District 34 encompasses Dayton, Champlin, and Brooklyn Park.*

coffee & politics

AT CARIBOU COFFEE

When: Saturday, April 22nd, 10 a.m.

Where: Caribou Coffee, 10400
Baltimore St. NE

Who: District 32 - Sen. Kreun, Rep.
West, Rep. Norris (confirmed)



STRONGER TOGETHER



Join Education Minnesota members on Saturday morning for a free drink (even the fancy ones) and breakfast while chatting with your lawmakers from District 32 about what is going on in your classroom and what is important to you and your students.

Register with the link:

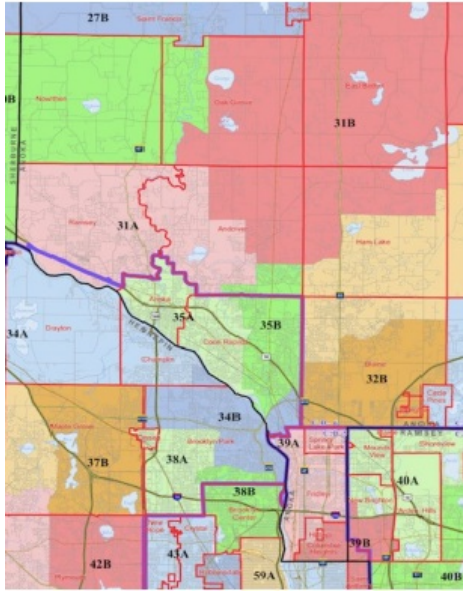
<https://forms.gle/wDdTTWJt5PzMQG219>

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:

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



Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

[Click for Pension Update
No.25](#)

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

Capitol Connection



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**WELCOME TO
SESSION**



[Click to Read the
Latest](#)

PD News

*Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members*



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

MDE restorative practices trainings
The Minnesota Department of Education is hosting a

series of online and in-person restorative practices trainings in June.

In-person training locations are: Bemidji, Brainerd, Cloquet, Crystal and Houston.

Topics areas include Circle Trainings, Repair of Relationships Trainings, Restorative Skills Sessions and Restorative Implementation.

CEUs are available. [Visit here](#) to learn more and register!



SAVE THE DATE: **Racial and social justice convergence**

Education Minnesota's **MEA FIRE** staff and Racial Equity Advocate members are hosting "Uplifting our Voices, Values, and Vitality – a Racial and Social Justice Convergence" on Friday, Aug. 4.

FIRE stands for Fighting Inequities and Racism in Education.

Registration for the event is scheduled to open in May. Stay tuned for more details!

[Click to read more PD News](#)

Holocaust and human rights seminar

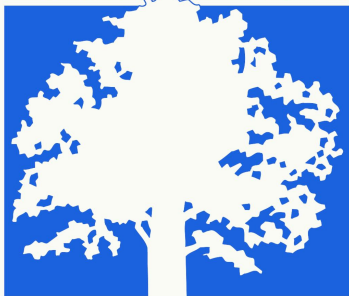
Register now for a week-long seminar that explores what can happen when people are dehumanized by a dominating group and the power of resilience and resistance.

Honoring Resilience: Learning From the Holocaust and Dakota Exile

July 24-29
St. Cloud

Hosted by The Olga Lengyel Institute. CEUs available.

EDUCATION MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION



for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

FREE PD grants from your union! Attention members!

If you forgot to apply for an Education Minnesota Foundation Professional Development Grant in the fall, there's still time to apply for the spring round of funding.

ESPs and teachers may request up to \$2,000, and higher education faculty may request up to \$3,000.

Applications are due Friday, April 7. [Visit here](#) to learn more and apply!

Rumor Debunked

The rumor that the special education eval team will cease to exist next year is just a rumor. We WILL have a special

education eval team, but they will no longer be at Sandburg Educational Center.

Save the Dates!

**NOW
IS THE
TIME**

**RALLY FOR
PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

Saturday, May 20
1 p.m.
State Capitol

Lunch & sign-making at
noon at EdMN office



Rally for Public Education at the Capitol

Members and supporters of public education will rally at the Minnesota State Capitol May 20th to give a final push to legislators to fully fund public education. The rally begins at 1 p.m., with lunch and sign-making at Education Minnesota headquarters beginning at noon.

More details to come!

New Jewish Educators Affinity Group

Are you an Education Minnesota member who identifies with the Jewish religion? Are you looking for a safe space with your Jewish peers to share unique experiences, celebrate the culture and brainstorm ideas to counter the rise of antisemitism within our schools? If these ideas resonate with you, please consider joining our NEW Jewish Educators Affinity Group and attend a [post-Passover pizza party April 13](#).

Details:

Post-Passover Pizza Party

Thursday, April 13

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Station Pizzeria, 13008 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

Together, we plan to grow and design this new Jewish affinity space within our larger Education Minnesota community. Contact [Melissa DelRosario](#) to join this group and sign up for the event.

Happy Birthday!!!



April 9 - April 15

John Chasteen
Amy Storrick
Clinton Seul
Rebecca King
Lauren Morthberg
Keri Jenson
Megan Nadeau
Tyler Bakken
Mandy Johnson
Amy Quinn
Alissa Knutson
Melissa Bevis
Jessica Johnson
Trent Hanson
Stefani Otness
Melissa Upton
Kelly Thorsten
Johannah Hirt
Joanna Kilpatrick
Renee Johnson

Christine Devine
Joan Lu
Kristina Johnson
Alison Koshiol
Erin Boeve
Kevin Clipperly
Johanna Mueller
Mathew Aune
Jessica Ness-Manary
Andrea Puder
Emma Ledin
Jill Farrell
Amy Hafemeyer
Denise Chalupnik
Mary Allison
James Vanloon
Janice Eason
Laura Tempel
Jodi Blair
Shannon Blansette

Todd Hunter
Angel Aguilar-Guerrero
Andrea Coe
Kara Sou
Christine Bergstrom
Scott Zachmann
Adam From
Jennifer Debuhr
Audrey Marshall
Luke Reiter
Lauren Deppey
Robin Michalski
Mary Paquin
Mark Duffy
Stacie Day
Jennifer Aeshliman
Brandon Huberty
Lydia Anderson
Vanessa Forsman

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

Coming Up

April 7 - Good Friday
April 9 - Easter
April 10 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, AHEM
April 10 - School Board WS, 5:30 pm, ESC
April 12 - LCAT Meeting, 4:30 pm, AHEM
April 13 - Passover ends / SEED Meeting, 4:30 pm, AHEM
April 17 - Public School Volunteer Week
April 18 - Lobby Day w/ District 34, 5:30 pm, Virtual: [Sign Up Here](#)
April 22 - Coffee & Politics w/ District 32, 10 am: [Sign Up Here](#)
April 22 - Earth Day / Eid al-Fitr

April 24 - Executive Brd. Mtg., 4:45 pm, AHEM /School Brd. Mtg., 6:30, SEC
April 26 - Administrative Professionals Day
April 27 - Scholarship Committee Dinner, 4:30 pm, AHEM
April 28/29 - Education MN Representative Convention

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