

STRONGER TOGETHER



ANOKA HENNEPIN

Valerie Holthus

President

October 6, 2023

Vol 6, No. 6

Friday Blast



Member Rights Committee Seeks Members

The purpose of the member rights committee is to review member grievances and recommend the next course of action; we plan to schedule monthly in-person meetings. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please complete [this form](#) by October 6.

RED for Ed

Early Intervention Program wears red to support our negotiators. Wear **Red for Ed** every Wednesday to show solidarity! Just imagine the impression it would make if EVERYONE wore red.



Meet the Staff of AHM

Becky Marshman, Office Professional Staff

I joined Education Minnesota as an Office Professional at the Anoka office in January of 2022. I proudly support our President and Field Staff with Anoka-Hennepin and St. Francis school districts. Union work was a bit foreign to me before this role but now after learning the benefits of unionism, I am a proud union supporter and member.

As my day-to-day activities change on a regular basis, I always look forward to and enjoy working with amazing educators. I work best when I know I am making a difference, whether big or small. With my previous background in Cosmetology, now "retired" after almost 20 years, I can still utilize many of the same skills here at AHM.



On my free time, I stay busy with family, Griffin (8) and Hazel (5) and our two dogs, Crosby, and Poppy. We all love the outdoors so that is usually our focus when it comes to activities.

Meet the AHEM Endorsed Candidates



Erin Heers-McArdle
District 1: Anoka, Ramsey, Andover, Coon Rapids

Vision: "I will continue to promote EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION by PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST and ensuring that our schools are SAFE, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE for all."

- Experience as a current board treasurer, meets with district staff and parents weekly to hear about and discuss successes and concerns
- Excellence in curriculum and conditions to continue to improve student outcomes.
- Focus on special



Dr. Michelle Langenfeld
District 5: Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Coon Rapids, Fridley

Vision: "I believe that every single child being served in our schools is most deserving of equitable access to high- quality learning experiences; provided by exceptional educators in safe, caring, and supportive leaning environments to prepare them well to succeed and thrive in the postsecondary pathway of their choice and beyond."

- 30 years in education, including classroom teaching, principal,



Sue Witt
District 2: Blaine, Coon Rapids

Vision: "Our schools need to be kid focused, building on the perspective of all stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community members. Sue wants kids in Anoka-Hennepin to feel welcomed, respected, and belong, no matter their background, to be challenged academically, and to think critically. The language and priorities in the community about schools needs to be about kids."

- 27 years of teaching experience in

- education and disability advocacy due to personal experience
- Meet students where they are by responding to each student's unique needs
 - Support mental health through adequately funded, safe, and welcoming schools
 - Fiscal responsibility
- associate superintendent, and superintendent, including 15 years in Anoka Hennepin
- Dedicated to excellence in outcomes for all children through improving access and opportunities to learn
 - Everyone deserves to feel safe and welcome in a school
 - Focus on engagement, collaboration, and respect between parents, community, students, and educators
 - Ethical, responsible, and shared decision making, including transparency with communication
- Spring Lake Park
- Many years of union membership, including 8 years as local vice president
 - Publicly opposes any policies that erodes collective bargaining rights
 - Opposes political agendas in school decision-making
 - Focus on inclusion of all students- seeing belonging as a prerequisite for learning
 - Wants school conversations to be based on the needs of students
 - Priority of addressing staffing shortages

Educator Appreciation Night



EDUCATOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

THU, OCT 19 | 7:00 PM

PACKAGE INCLUDES

Game Ticket

Special Edition
Wild/Educator
branded lanyard

Donation to the

EDUCATION MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION



SCAN THE CODE
TO PURCHASE
1-7 TICKETS



Teachers deserve an A+ too! Join us for Educator Appreciation Night on Thursday, October 19 when the Wild take on the LA Kings. Ticket pack offer includes a Minnesota Wild branded educator lanyard. Additionally, a portion of each ticket purchased donated back to the Education community.



Actual item may vary from picture

FOR GROUPS OF EIGHT (8) OR MORE, CONTACT:

Wild Group Sales | 651.222.9453 | group.tickets@wild.com

Government Relations Report

Aaron Balzer
Government Relations Chair

[Who Represents Me?](#)

Early Voting: Please exercise your power as a citizen and vote! Check here to compare our address with your polling place and representation: [Where do I](#)

School Board Campaign: Please vote, encourage others to vote, sign up to help, or grab a lawn sign! The only way to win these elections is to promote enthusiasm for our endorsed candidates and inform our neighbors how important it is to vote!

Interested in getting a catered lunch at school?

Thank you to those who have attended phone banking so far! We need several more volunteers for October 12th. Please sign up if you can! **Remaining phone bank dates are 10/12, 10/24, and 11/6.** [Please sign up here](#) to support our campaign. The school building with the most phone bank shifts worked will have lunch catered in at your school building - Sunrise is in the lead!

Details:

1. Plan on calling for at least 1 hour.
2. Dinner/training will be provided, 4:45 - 5:30pm
3. Calling between 5:30 - 7pm
4. **Please bring a laptop or smartphone.**

Lawn Signs: There are school board campaign signs available at the union office for all school board races, Districts 1, 2, and 5. Please stop by or reach out to Val Holthus or Jennifer Adriaens to get signs!

MEA Update



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

FREE childcare available during the MEA conference!

It's not too often families have access to free childcare! The MEA conference has free childcare for children ages 6 months to 10 years available on Thursday, Oct. 19.

ACCENT on Children's Arrangements is open from 8 am to 4:45 pm. The onsite center will be located in the ballroom at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

You must register for childcare when registering for the conference Day-of registration WILL NOT be accepted.

Registration Deadline Approaching!

October is here, which means the MEA conference is in a few weeks. It also means registration will be closing soon!

MEA conference registration closes Friday, Oct. 13. [REGISTER TODAY](#), especially for relicensure courses as they are filling up fast.

Not sure if you want to join us on Thursday, Oct. 19? Check out the [Workshop Listing page](#) to see what courses are being offered and find something that interests you.

Can't make it in person? Don't forget that relicensure and other courses are available year-round for free on Education Minnesota's [MEA Online](#) for members to complete at their own pace.

Questions? Email us at meaconference@edmn.org.

Cultural Competency Training

Description of Complete 1 - 4 Series

This series is designed to deepen educators' understanding of their own frames of reference, the potential bias in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and the school communities. Participants will engage in self-reflection and discussion around the following topics: racial, cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; systemic racism; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns.

Module #1: Expanding Your Equity Lens (2 1/2 hours)

Equity work is a journey, and in this session, we will lay the foundation for centering equity work in your community. Participants will ground themselves with norms and vocabulary and develop an understanding of the importance of intercultural competency.

AHEM is offering Series 1 on October 17th and October 24th. Please only choose one, due to class size limitations. To move on to the next module and to satisfy re-licensing requirements, you must complete the previous module.

Event Timing: October 17th and October 24th, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Event Address: 10/17 at AHEM Union Office, 3200 Main Street Suite 360, Coon Rapids (Wells Fargo Building)

10/24 at Coon Rapids MS Media Center, 11600 Raven St. NW

Contact us at: 763-421-9110 / anokahennepin@gmail.com

****AHEM will be providing supper during each class. Please refer to question below with any dietary restrictions.***

Sign Up for October
17th

Sign Up for October
24th



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

In 1987 when the MN Twins won the World Series, what was heard across the city of Minneapolis?

- a. Church Bells
- b. Car Horns Honking
- c. Fireworks
- d. Tornado Sirens

The answer to last week's question was:

Steve Case crafted Quantum Computer Services, intended to be an on-line bulletin board. From 1985 onward, Case nurtured Quantum from a few thousand members to more than 100,000 and in 1991, Quantum was renamed America Online. The answer is:

d. 1991

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

Congratulations to last week's winners:

Juleen Adrian, Roosevelt MS
Denise Borck, Jackson MS
Katherine Edson, Hoover Elem

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 47

Thank you for your continued engagement on pension issues. Based on feedback from members, we're working to make these updates shorter and to the point so you can better share them with your colleagues.

Please share our [pension rally event](#) with your friends and colleagues. We need as many people there as possible to raise our collective voice for pension improvements!

Friday Focus: The Switch to NRA 65

Members have asked us to share information around the lowering of the normal retirement age from the 2023 legislative session.

What the legislation did:

- Lowered the full retirement age for Tier 2 teachers to 65 as of July 1, 2025.
- A lowering of the retirement age shifts all reduction factors (penalties) for Tier 2 members by a year. Total penalties for most TRA Tier 2 members are lowered by 7% at each age under 66, while those who qualify for reduced penalties under 62/30 also see lower penalties by a year at ages 62-64.
- It was paid for with a .75% increase by employer contributions (ongoing funding of \$97.4 million over the 2026-27 biennium) and a .25% increase to employee contributions beginning July 1, 2025. With this bill, TRA and SPTRFA were the only pension plans last session to receive ongoing funding.

This chart reflects the percentage of your high-five salary you would receive in pension payout checks, compared to the amount before the implementation of NRA 65. These are examples of TRA Tier 2 members who were hires for a TRA-eligible position in 1990, 2000, or 2006.

Age	Service Credit	1990 Start w/ Tier 2 change NRA 65		2000 Start w/ Tier 2 change NRA 65		After 2006 Start w/ Tier 2 change NRA 65	
		1990	2000	2000	2006	2006	2006
55	33 yrs	20.8%	25.0%	21.5%	25.8%	21.9%	26.3%
56	34 yrs	23.9%	28.2%	24.7%	29.2%	25.2%	29.7%
57	35 yrs	27.2%	31.7%	28.1%	32.7%	28.6%	33.3%
58	36 yrs	30.6%	35.2%	31.6%	36.3%	32.1%	36.9%
59	37 yrs	34.2%	38.9%	35.2%	40.1%	35.9%	40.8%
60	38 yrs	40.0%	44.9%	41.2%	46.2%	41.9%	46.9%
61	39 yrs	46.1%	51.0%	47.4%	52.5%	48.2%	53.4%
62	40 yrs	62.3%	65.2%	64.0%	67.0%	63.8%	67.1%
63	41 yrs	66.9%	69.7%	68.7%	71.6%	68.8%	72.0%
64	42 yrs	71.5%	74.2%	73.4%	76.1%	73.8%	76.9%
65	43 yrs	76.0%	78.5%	77.9%	80.5%	78.7%	81.7%
66	44 yrs	80.4%	80.4%	82.4%	82.4%	83.6%	83.6%

While this improvement is a first step, it does not make up for decades of underfunding. Legislators understand that this isn't the end of the work.

[Read On](#)

**Get caught up with past updates
here!**

Join the fight for fair educator pensions

Education Minnesota is committed to ensuring a stable and fair retirement for every educator in our state. Pension reform cannot be achieved without legislative action. Help us fight for improvements by:

Showing up

Education Minnesota will host events during legislative session focused on improving educator pensions. Show up and bring your colleagues!

Speaking out

Contact your legislators. Ask for a meeting, or give a quick call or email. Your legislators are there to represent you, and they'll appreciate hearing your thoughts on educator pensions.

Leaning in

Activate your colleagues and engage with your local and state union. We're stronger together, and we can't achieve reform without everyone's voice.

Resources

Learn more on Education Minnesota's pension web page!



Join the Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Network on Facebook!



Sign up for pension email updates!



**Questions?
Email: pensions@edmn.org**

www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO, 3875



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
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PD News

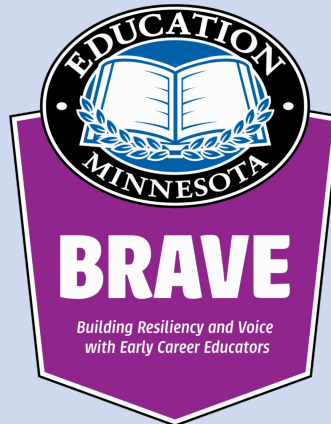
Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
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Building Resiliency and Voice with Early Career Educators

Are you an early career educator? Are you interested in strengthening your resiliency and professional voice alongside your peers?



[Register now](#) for our BRAVE (Building Resiliency and Voice and Early Career Educators) program.

Participants will receive support, mentorship and professional development in establishing work/life balance, building culturally responsive classrooms and instructional strategies, and using your voice to advocate for your students and schools.

Connect with other early career educators in this five-session, cohort-based program.

[Register by Friday, Nov. 10.](#)

Questions? Contact [Melissa DelRosario](#).

New Mental Health Trainings

Sign up now for a new suicide prevention and mental health trainings.



The Minnesota Dept. of Health and Minnesota Dept. of Education of Education have partnered with Kognito to offer trainings free to all MN school staff and students in grade 6-12.

Kognito provides practice-based digital learning for educators and students to improve mental health and well-being in schools. For more information or to sign up, [click here](#).

Low-cost science PD

Calling all sixth grade and high school science teachers!

The Earth Science Teachers Education Project offers low-cost PD opportunities to help you get up to speed on the new state science standards.

Registration for spring and summer online courses opens on Oct. 16th.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

No Place for Hate

Hate has no place in our schools.

During the 2022-23 school year, close to 2,000 schools were designated as a No Place for Hate - reaching more than 1.5 million students.

Created by the Anti-Defamation League, No Place for Hate is a free school-climate improvement initiative that fits each school's unique culture and needs.

[Click here](#) to find out how to get your school

ESP Webinar: Using Your Voice

The NEA is hosting a free webinar for education support professionals on using stories from your personal experience for advocacy.



or district involved or contact Education Director [Lara Trubowitz](#).

Click here for Professional Learning Links & More

[Using Your Authentic Voice to Galvanize and Inspire](#)

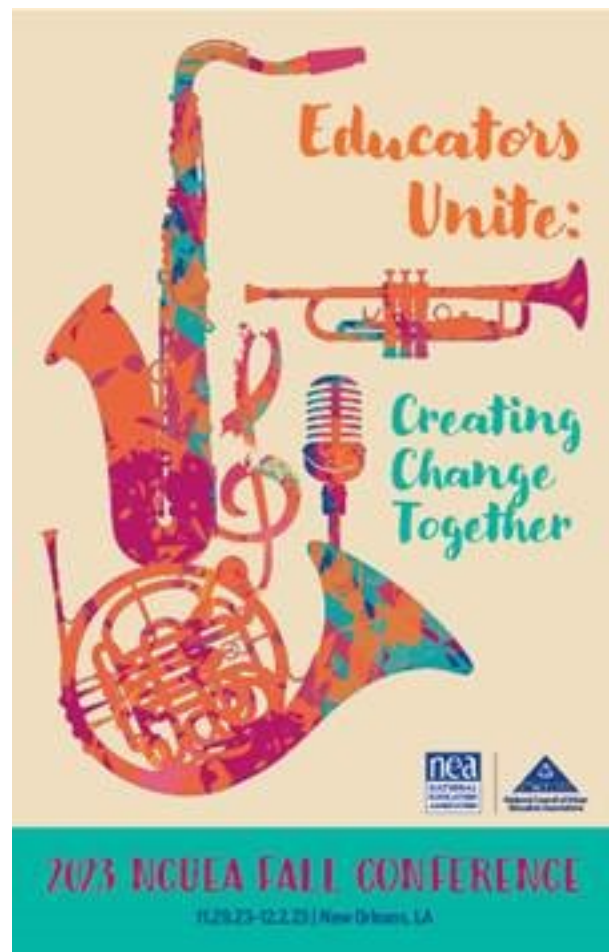
6-7pm, Thursday, October 19th

2023 NCUEA Fall Conference

The National Council for Urban Educators Offers Grants to Attend Fall Conference in New Orleans

NCUEA created a program called Discovery Grants to promote ethnic and racial diversity at our [Fall Conferences](#). The program hopes to encourage and strengthen the involvement of ethnic minority members in the activities and leadership of NCUEA. We have allocated funds to send new ethnic minority participants to the Fall Conference.

The Fall conference provides new leaders with the opportunity to connect to one another, learn best practices related to organizing and advocacy, as well as receive high-quality professional practice development.



NCUEA awards grants only to first-time ethnic and racial minority conference participants to attend its 2023 Fall Conference. Individuals can submit their applications [here](#). The application deadline is **October 27, 2023**. NCUEA will notify all accepted applications no later than **Friday, November 3, 2023**. *NCUEA will only consider one grant for AHEM.*

The grant will cover the registration fee, travel expenses (airfare or mileage), and hotel costs for three nights. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the local association or grant awardee. *(Please consultant with President Val Holthus directly to discuss reimbursements for expenses not outlined above.)*

Coming Up

Now - Oct.13th - MEA, [Register Here!](#)
Oct. 9 - Executive Board Mtg, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office
Oct. 9 - School Board WS, 5:30 pm, ESC
Oct. 9 - Indigenous Peoples Day
Oct 11 - CAT Mtg, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office
Oct 12 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7 pm, AHEM Office
Oct 17 - Cultural Comp Training, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office [Register Here!](#)
Oct 19 - Educator Appreciation Night, 7 pm,
Oct 19 - 20th - Education MN MEA Conference
Oct 19 -20: No Students, MEA Break
Oct 23 - Negotiations Bargaining, ESC
Oct 23 - Rep Assembly, 4:45 pm, AHEM Office
Oct 23 - School Board Mtg, 6:30 pm, SEC
Oct 24 - Cultural Comp Training, 4:45-7pm, Coon Rapids MS [Register Here!](#)
Oct 24 - Phone Banking for School Board, 4:45-7pm, AHEM Office
Oct 31 - Halloween

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