



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Announces 2007-2008 Vacancies

Vaughn Hales, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Committee Chair, announces the following vacancies on behalf of the committee.

For a full two-year term: **President**

For one-year terms (eligible for two consecutive terms): **Vice-President, Secretary and Finance Officer**

For three-year terms (eligible for two consecutive terms):

District 3 Director: Representing Baxter, Chadwell, East, Glenn EO, Gra-Mar, Kirkpatrick, Litton, Lockeland, Maplewood, Meigs, Ross, Warner

District 6 Director: Representing Bass, Brookmeade, Charlotte, Cockrill, Cohn, Hearing, Hillwood, Homebound, ML King, McCann, Middle College, Park Avenue, Pearl-Cohn, Psychology, Randalls, Robertson, Social Work, Sylvan Park, Vaught, Vision, Waverly-Belmont, Westmeade

District 9 Director: Representing Margaret Allen, Dodson, Donelson, Hermitage, Hickman, Jackson, McGavock Elem. & High, Ruby Major, Pennington, Speech, Stanford, Tulip Grove, Two Rivers

Other vacancies without limits on succession:

Two-year terms: **Nominations and Elections Committee Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and Insurance Trust**

Three-year term: **Administrative Retirement Committee.**

February 9: deadline for all candidate petitions
February 15: floor nominations at the Representative Assembly; TEA/NEA Delegate nominations forms due 5:00 p.m.

PACE ELECTIONS

The Political Action Committee still has vacancies in the following school board (BOE) districts for a two year term:

- District 1 (George Thompson, BOE member)
- District 3 (Pam Garrett, BOE member)
- District 6 (Karen Johnson, BOE member)
- District 7 (Ed Kindall, BOE member)

Qualifications are that nominees reside in the particular BOE district and have made a financial contribution to PACE. The committee will be extremely active this spring making recommendations of candidates for the August local elections.

Nomination will be accepted at the February Representative Assembly

PACE MEMBERS ELECTED AT JANUARY 18 REP ASSEMBLY

District 1	Dorcel Benson Vacancy
District 2	Obi Badili Betty Crowe
District 3	Vacancy Vacancy
District 4	Vaughn Hales Sidney Hill
District 5	Pat Rowe Stephen Henry
District 6	Vacancy Vacancy
District 7	Vacancy Vacancy
District 8	Harry McMackin Jane Walling
District 9	Tish Bassel Nancy Holland

EARN IT. KEEP IT. SAVE IT.

Did you know that there is a tax credit, which lifts 1 out of every 6 children out of poverty and provides low-income families with a unique opportunity to obtain assets?

To help ensure that Nashville's working families are filing for the tax credits they have earned and to help them save hundreds of dollars in commercial tax fees and predatory "rapid refund" loans, the NWBA supports Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) awareness. **Families making a household income of less than \$40,000 can access VITA sites all over the city and have their taxes prepared for FREE!** The EITC is the most effective anti-poverty program in America and lifts more children out of poverty than any single program or category of programs in the United States. VITA sites ensure that eligible families receive their often-unclaimed Earned Income Tax Credit. These families and children are in our classrooms and schools.

Teachers we need your help to spread the word about this largely unknown tax credit and free tax preparation. Last year \$8 million in EITC funds were left unclaimed in Davidson County alone.

If you are interested in promoting EITC and VITA or serving as a VITA Tax Preparation volunteer (free training, no experience required), please contact Rachel Freeze at 615-780-2444 or Rachel.Freeze@unitedwaynashville.org. Additional information is available at this website

Snow Day Clarification

"If there are five days built in the calendar for snow, what happens if we have no snow days? Do we get out five days early? Do we work and get paid?"

Thanks for asking! Each year we struggle with this issue, so here's another reminder. Every Tennessee school system is required to submit a calendar to the State Department before the school year starts; this calendar must include a minimum of 180 instructional days. This calendar cannot be changed mid-year, so each year systems must "roll the dice" on the weather.

Systems are allowed the option to accumulate additional student instructional time by going beyond the required six and-a-half hour daily minimum. Systems may accumulate the equivalent of 13 instructional days, which may then be designated in advance to the state for inclement weather or professional development days. This option was made possible by the General Assembly several years ago when snow delayed school closing in several systems.

These "snow days" are accumulated based upon student instructional time; they do not affect the state's 200-day contract year for educators. Metro educators will work our 201-day contract year regardless of whether the system needs to tap into the five days it has designated for inclement weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February is Black History Month

- February 12 — Crisis Response Team Training
4:30—6:30 p.m. at MNEA
- February 13 — Financial Peace
4:30—6:30 p.m. at MNEA
School Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Nominations & Elections
4:30 p.m. at MNEA
- February 14 — MNEA/MNPS Bargaining Session
4:00 p.m. BOE Meeting Room
- February 15 — Representative Assembly
TEA & NEA delegate nomination due
No later than 5:00 p.m.
- March 2 — Read Across America Kick-Off Celebration
at Country Music Hall of Fame
www.nea.org/readacross/resources

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Erick Huth, Vice President
Ida Barnes, Finance Officer
Nancy Holland, Secretary

UniServ Coordinators: Forestine Cole, Ralph Smith, Gloria Townner
MNEA Staff: Anna Ruth Day, Teresa Hayes, Helen McMackin

TEA & NEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORMS

MNEA will elect delegates to both the TEA and NEA Representative Assemblies during the February 26 - March 8 election period. DELEGATE NOMINATIONS must be submitted to the MNEA office by 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2007. All members of MNEA are encouraged to submit a nomination form.

It is through the Representative Assemblies that policies for both TEA and NEA are established. The TEA Representative Assembly will be held May 11-12, 2007, at the Nashville Convention Center. MNEA is eligible for approximately 130 delegates.

The NEA Representative Assembly will be held June 30 - July 5, 2007, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. MNEA will have **approximately** 22 delegates, 4 of which are already filled by the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Finance Officer. Those 4 people were elected as delegates in the MNEA general election. Eighteen (18) MNEA member delegates need to be elected - 17 classroom and 1 supervisor/administrator.

TEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

Nashville Convention Center
Representative Assembly - May 11-12, 2007

Name of Nominee _____ School _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

Position: Teacher _____ Admin/Supervisory _____ Race: Black _____ White _____ Other _____

If elected, I agree to attend the meetings of the TEA Representative Assembly.

Signature of Nominee: _____

RETURN TO MNEA-ROUTE 3 OR FAX TO 726-2501 BY 5:00 PM, FEBRUARY 15, 2007

NEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

Philadelphia, PA
Representative Assembly - June 30 - July 5, 2007

Name of Nominee _____ School _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

Position: Teacher _____ Admin/Supervisory _____ Race: Black _____ White _____ Other _____

If elected, I agree to attend the meetings of the NEA Representative Assembly.

Signature of Nominee: _____ Social Security # _____

RETURN TO MNEA-ROUTE 3 OR FAX TO 726-2501 BY 5:00 PM, FEBRUARY 15, 2007

NEA Reaches Out to the Faith Community

The National Education Association held its first ever Faith Summit in Memphis on February 1 and 2, 2007, as a pre-conference to the NEA Southeastern Regional Leadership Conference. NEA members (including MNEA President Jamye Merritt, Vice President Erick Huth and TEA President Earl Wiman), clergy, and representatives from the Baptist Center for Ethics and the Freedom Forum of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University discussed building bridges between public schools and people of faith.

"I'm charged up," said NEA President Reg Weaver at the conclusion of the meeting "I'm energized. I'm going to tell everybody about this meeting. I'm going to tell everybody there were some people of faith who joined with educators, because they believed it was important for us to work together". Weaver said people with a common goal should be able to work together on behalf of children, whether or not they agree on every point. He said the meeting illustrated the NEA "is a different organization" than it once was.

Jamye Merritt noted that "This meeting was an important first step in helping members and clergy understand that 'separation of church and state' does not mean our students and teachers cannot have faith!"

"Who would have ever thought that the faith community and the so-called union would come together on education being a basic right for children?" Weaver asked. "There was a time in NEA when if you had mentioned this people would have looked at you like you were crazy."

Weaver urged participants to do more than go home and talk about having a good meeting.

"I think this is the beginning of something big," Weaver said. "Can you imagine if the members of the faith community would join with the NEA, and we go hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm, to members of Congress? That is one of the things I have been trying to do, get people to come together as partners, so we can go forward with one message of what is important to kids."

Weaver said his definition of partnership is there is benefit for both parties. He said educators and the church may not agree on every issue but can help each other as long as they don't have to contradict their values. "It's OK to disagree," he said, "but no longer should we allow ourselves to be disengaged."

Weaver said one thing ministers can do for teachers is to speak up against voices in the religious community that seek to tear down public education.

"One of the greatest challenges we have in the education profession is when ministers talk about us from the pulpit," he said. "We don't know how to respond. We want to be courteous. We want to be respectful, but what do we do when a minister is spewing things he knows are not right?"

On the others side, Weaver said, educators can "speak up for what is right" when they hear others disparaging people of faith.

"Many of you in your pulpits, sometimes your greatest detractors may be your board of trustees or your deacons," Weaver addressed ministers. "What we are saying is if in fact we can help you, select some of us to be on your deacon board or trustee board. We will solicit you, perhaps, to run for school board. We will solicit you to help with members of Congress."

"They're going to say we are trying to take over the church," Weaver said, "but you know that is not the truth." Weaver said churches and educators should work together on behalf of "not just some children, but for all children."

"To me helping children, all children, is a basic right," he said. "And if in fact we can do this together, I'm telling you folks, it is absolutely fantastic what we can do."

Source: Baptist Center for Ethics (http://ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=8495).



More details and up-to-date information at www.mnea.com