

MNEA SPRING ELECTIONS

At the January 17 Representative Assembly, the MNEA Nominations and Elections Committee announced the timetable for elections and the vacancies for MNEA offices, for representatives to the TEA Representative Assembly, and for delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly. See Page three for the TEA/NEA Delegate Nomination Form.

MNEA vacancies are as follows:

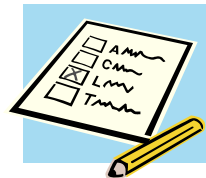
MNEA Officers

(One-Year Terms)

Vice President

Finance Officer

Secretary



Executive Board Members

(Three-Year Terms)

District 2 Director (*Hillwood Cluster*)

District 5 Director (*Overton Cluster*)

District 8 Director (*Antioch Cluster*)

Nominations and Elections Committee

(Two-Year Terms)

District 1 Committee Member (*Hunters Lane Cluster*)

District 3 Committee Member (*Maplewood Cluster*)

District 5 Committee Member (*Overton Cluster*)

District 7 Committee Member (*Hillsboro Cluster*)

District 9 Committee Member (*McGavock Cluster*)

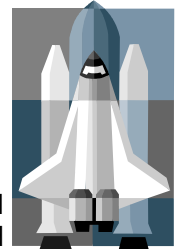
District 11 Committee Member (*Whites Creek Cluster*)

The MNEA Spring Election Timetable
is posted at:

www.mnea.com/electiontimetable.htm

TENNESSEE SPACE WEEK

Tennessee Space Week (TSW) is a statewide project designed to increase student interest and performance in science and mathematics through a focus on aerospace programs and accomplishments. Keeping this goal in mind, TEA strongly encourages interdisciplinary project development as well as traditional proposals within math and science departments across the state.



For more information, go to <http://teateachers.org/teachctr/tsw/TSW%20Main.htm>. Activities are co-sponsored by the Tennessee Education Association, the Tennessee Space Grant Consortium, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The TSW project, originated in 1986, includes special learning opportunities for students and teachers.

When is TSW? Following the Challenger tragedy, January 28, 1986, TEA acted to honor the life and teaching of fellow NEA member, Christa McAuliffe, who was aboard the Challenger as America's first teacher in space. In her honor, Tennessee Space Week is held each January, the last school week preceding, or the school week including, January 28. This year's celebration runs **January 27 – February 2, 2008**.

TEA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

During December 2007, MNEA members received their TEA membership card ("ACCESS Card") via U.S. Mail. The ACCESS card is actually a discount program that provides special offers on everything from hamburgers to cruises. Members report that they have saved in excess of their annual dues by using the ACCESS card in Nashville, across the state, and throughout the nation. In order to take advantage of the discounts, members must first activate their card. To activate your card, go to www.mnea.com and select the ACCESS Card link in the sidebar.



MNEA DUES AND TAX PREP

Since MNPS converted to the Metro Government payroll system (EBS), the Board has stopped providing a printout to MNEA members showing their dues deductions at the end of the tax year. In order to have an official record of dues deductions, members are advised to retain their December 28 check stub ("pay advice"). That pay advice shows the MNEA dues deductions for the preceding 12 months.

The total dues deducted during the tax year represent partial dues payments for two separate membership years (the last part of 2006-2007 and the start of 2007-2008). Thus, the amount will not be equal to annual dues for either year. In most cases, the total dues deducted for the 2007 tax year should be **\$502.63** (five payments of \$37.79 for January through April and eight payments of \$39.21 for September through December). Individual amounts may vary based upon when you joined and whether you had a pay period with no pay.

If you have lost that particular stub, the school secretary can print out a duplicate. However, he or she must remember to scroll to the second page of the pay advice screen before printing or the dues amount will not show on the printed page.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Teachers should have available to them a designated space for locking personal items in their own classroom or work area.

ARTICLE VI, Section H. TEACHER FACILITIES & INPUT INTO CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES

Teacher Facilities. The Board shall strive to make available in each school as funds and space permit: a work area for teachers containing equipment and supplies to aid in the preparation of instructional materials; adequate lunchroom space; restroom and lavatory facilities exclusively for teacher use; space and facilities for teachers to conduct their business and store necessary equipment and supplies, a secure space for personal belongings (in the individual's classroom or work area); and a faculty lounge. (2006)



UPCOMING EVENTS

January



- 21** **Martin Luther King Paid Holiday**
- 21** **No Name Calling Week Begins**
- 25** **Deadline for Nominations for The Ted Martin Award**
5:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 22** **Teacher Evaluation Workshop**
4:30 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters
- 25** **Deadline for Nominations for The Ted Martin Award**
5:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 24** **Dealing with Harassment Workshop**
4:30 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters
- 27** **Tennessee Space Week Begins**
4:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 28** **Financial Peace University Series Begins**
4:30 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 29** **Diversity is a REC (Race, Ethnicity, and Culture) Workshop**
4:30 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 29** **Read Across America Coordinators**
4:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 31** **Tax Preparation Workshop**
4:30 p.m. MNEA Headquarters

February

- 8** **Petitions for MNEA Offices Due**
5:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 9** **Educators' Housing Seminar**
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters
- 16** **MNEA Executive Board**
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters
- 16** **African History Forum: *What's Going On?***
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at TEA Headquarters
- 18** **Planning Day (no students)**
(7.5 hours, one-hour lunch may be taken off-campus)
- 21** **MNEA Representative Assembly**
(Nominations for MNEA Offices Accepted)
4:30 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters
- 21** **TEA/NEA Delegate Nomination Forms Due**
5:00 p.m. MNEA Headquarters
- 21** **Campaigning for MNEA Offices Begins**
at the conclusion of the Representative Assembly
- 23** **TEA New Teacher Conference**
All day at TEA Headquarters
- 28** **Ready to Retire Workshop**
4:30 p.m. at MNEA Headquarters

The Slate is published during the school year by the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association, an affiliate of the Tennessee Education Association and the National Education Association.

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TEA/NEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

MNEA will elect delegates to both the TEA and NEA Representative Assemblies during the February 25 - March 6 election period. DELEGATE NOMINATIONS must be submitted to the MNEA office by 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2008. 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 9-10, 2008, at the Nashville Convention Center. MNEA is eligible for approximately 130 delegates.

The NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 1 - July 6, 2008, in Washington, DC. MNEA will have approximately 22 delegates, three who have already been elected (the President, Vice-President, and Secretary). Those three individuals were elected as delegates in the MNEA general election. Nineteen (19) MNEA member delegates need to be elected - 18 classroom teachers and one supervisor/administrator.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Nominee _____
 Social Security Number or TEA Membership Card Number (required for verification) _____
 Primary Work Location _____ Phone _____ Ext. _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home Email Address (not MNPS) _____

I wish to submit my name for election to:

Mark all that apply.

- The TEA Representative Assembly, May 9-10, 2008, at the Nashville Convention Center
- The NEA Representative Assembly, July 1 - July 6, 2008, in Washington, DC

I am a:

- Teacher
- Supervisor/Administrator

My race is:

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- African American
- Hispanic
- Caucasian (not of Hispanic origin)
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-Ethnic
- Other

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

Signature of Nominee: _____

RETURN TO MNEA-ROUTE 3 BY 5:00 PM, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Communication has historically been a problem for MNPS. The current administration does an excellent job of spinning the news for both internal and external consumption, but communicating policies and procedures still remains a challenge.



Clearly, the most confusing endeavor of the past semester was the implementation of Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). Metro's "Chief Administrative Officer" Benjamin Wright first contacted MNEA about PLPs at the end of the summer and presented us with a twelve-page IEP form that teachers at forty some odd schools were supposed to complete in two weeks—with no warning and very little logistical support. MNEA cautioned that the document was too cumbersome.

The Chief Administrative Officer came to the August MNEA Representative Assembly to answer questions mostly regarding the issue of time with a responding "It's just got to get done" and a few other answers that were later retreaded, discarded, or otherwise altered or denied. PLPs became for many the tail that wagged the dog. Even Connie Smith, the state's Executive Director of the Office of Accountability, has been quoted as saying, "Teachers couldn't teach for doing the plans."

Sometimes zealots in the pursuit of standards and accountability fail to recognize the importance of making one's standards achievable. Perhaps, PLPs were a great idea—perhaps, not. The lack of any written communication relating to PLPs has left schools all across the district in various stages of implementation. As recently as last month, I received reports that some principals were still using the original 12-page PLP document that was replaced the first month of school with a two-page streamlined version.

In an ideal world, the administration would have engaged all stakeholders (not just a large group of volunteer principals and a handful of central office types) in the design and implementation of PLPs so as to avoid some of the obvious problems. A well-advised leader may also have wanted to commit details to writing, rather than rely on the oral transmission of instructions.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." This recognition came as a result of concerns brought forth from Dr. Carter G. Woodson. You will be reading and hearing about all of the upcoming events being planned throughout the city of Nashville during the month of February. We encourage each of you to celebrate and arrange to attend events where possible or create your own.



Carver

As a part of this celebration your MNEA Minority Affairs Committee, chaired by Pat Rowe (Tom Joy Elementary School) will be sponsoring a **BLACK HISTORY FORUM : *What's Going On?***



Wells-Barnett

The forum will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Tennessee Education Association building located at 801 Second Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee. Program events include our special guest speaker, Ms. ReGina Etter, our guest choir from East Literature Magnet School "Rising Legacy" under the direction of Maxine Jones and vendors.

The panel discussions moderator will be Connie Donell of 92Q. She is joined by the following distinguished community leaders: Dr. Bobby Lovett (Author), Orlanders Majors (Banking), Attorney Kenneta Sawyers (Metro Nashville Police Department), Matthew Lewis (Metro Public Schools Student), Trehone Coleman (Tennessee State University Student) and Dr. Myra Oglesby-Pitts (Educator). This event is free to the public.

More black history information is available at:

www.biography.com/blackhistory
www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html
www.historychannel.com/exhibits/blackhist/main.html
www.kidsdomain.com/kids/links/Black_History.html

This event is free to the public. Come join us as we find out **What's Going On!** Contact: Forestine C. Cole, TEA Staff (726-1499).



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