

mea Record

Mesa Education Association
Mesa, Arizona
www.mesateachers.org

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Affiliated with the Arizona Education Association and the National Education Association

There will not be any
Faculty Assemblies in
December. We hope you
enjoy the Holidays and you
will join us again at our
January Meetings!



Congratulations to our
drawing winners at
the October Faculty
Assemblies:

Jean Shimon from
Eisenhower won a
Starbucks Gift Card

Joelyn Hilton from CIC
won a Borders Gift Card

Join us in January for your
chance to win!

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Giving Thanks?

By Kirk Hinsey, President



Classroom Site Funds Shrink for Many

Nurses, media specialists, and counselors lose incentive pay. Override fails and paychecks begin to shrink. No extra money put into education. The governor begins a push for vouchers and tax credits for private scholarship programs. NCLB reauthorized and test scores determine teacher pay!!

Wake up! This nightmare is getting too far out of hand -- or is it?

I am thankful for my association and the work we did to pass 301 and to fight for nurses, counselors, and media specialists to receive those extra moneys as they, too, impact student achievement. And I am thankful for those in that group who see the hard work and value, and have become members in a positive way.

I am thankful for my organization and the grassroots work we did to elect a pro-public education governor (and legislators) who has insisted on extra money in the budget for public schools.

I am thankful for MEA and the hard work we do every time the override is on the ballot. The extra hours phoning members, putting up yard signs, and promoting the override in community meetings or just talking with our colleagues and neighbors.

I am thankful for the support MEA continues to give when there is a concern at my school. Although I may not always have it go my way, I know my voice has been heard and we are moving in the right direction.

I am thankful for all of the volunteers who work in MEA to make it a strong voice in public education.

I am thankful for my organization that is willing to put its beliefs and values of a quality public education for all students out in the open and truly stand by these beliefs.

I am thankful the nightmare above is only that: a nightmare. With the continued work of MEA, AEA, and NEA none of the nightmare will come true.

Members do Make it Happen.

See's Candy Update

If you placed a See's Candy order this year, your candy will be available for pickup at the MEA Office **December 10 - 14.**

You will be sent a reminder to pick up your candy.

**If you have any other questions,
call Christine at the MEA Office
833-8400, ext. 100.**



**Congratulations to the winners of our
MEA Website Scavenger Hunt:**

**Linda Tomblin - Hale
Linda Ahlberg - Sirrinc**

**Kathleen Fullerton - Frost
Krista Depew - Keller**

Each won their choice of a Starbucks or Borders Gift Card.
Thanks again to everyone that participated!

Here are the answers to the Scavenger Hunt Questions:

1. What is the zip code of the MEA Office? **85203**
2. What MEA event is taking place on December 11, 2007? **MEA Executive Board Meeting**
3. What Arizona Legislator is former MEA President Faith Risolo shaking hands with at the 2007 AEA Day at the Arizona Legislature? **Rep Russell Pearce**
4. Who is the Region 10 Representative and what is their school phone number? **Dave Clark, Salk, 2-8468**
5. What retailer offers a Teacher Appreciation Program, giving current teachers 15% off their purchases? **JoAnne Fabrics and Crafts**
6. What website does the "Register to Vote Online" link take you to? **Service Arizona**

Bonus Question: Name 3 Legal Publications available to members, as listed on the MEA Website. **The answer to this question can be found in the Member Resources Section under Legal Publications.**

Tutors Needed!



Interested in making extra money and helping kids at the same time?
Sign up for the MEA Tutor Bank!

We provide your name and phone number to parents who are looking for tutors for their children. You set your rate, availability, and where you will tutor.

We have a desperate need for High School tutors, especially in Math and Science. These are probably our most requested grade levels and subjects. However, **all** grade levels and subjects are welcome.

If you are interested in signing up, please contact Heather at the MEA Office, 833-8400, ext. 101.

(You must be a current MEA Member to participate.)

MEA Calendar of Events

November - December 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 <i>West Side FR Meeting, 4:15 PM, Dobson Ranch Inn (Dobson/US 60)</i>	28 <i>East Side FR Meeting, 4:15 PM, Mi Amigo's (Power/Southern)</i>	29	30	1
3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>East Valley Rep Training, Mesa Marriott</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18 <i>MEA Exec Board, 4:15 PM, MEA Office</i>	19 <i>End of 2nd Quarter</i>	20 <i>Teacher Work Day</i>	21 <i>Winter Break Begins</i>	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
Winter Break					
31					

MEA New Rep Training Session

On Thursday, October 25, MEA hosted a fabulous training for new Faculty Reps which was highly successful. Andrew Morrill, the Vice-President of AEA, welcomed the participants and led them through the basics of what an FR is. As the afternoon wore on, the energy level picked up and the trainees were actively involved in the roles and responsibilities of their new position. They networked with each other and learned more about the great organization.

As they completed their afternoon, there was a buzz about the fun they had and how exciting their new position will be. If you see them at the FR meetings, welcome them aboard and befriend them. A big thank you goes out to the Membership Team and all the hard work they did to put the afternoon training together. Thank you to Tiffany Bunstein, Andrea Kowalzyk, and Faith Risolo for their leadership and guidance in this endeavor.

It just goes to show - **Members do Make it Happen.**



Alissa Gonzalez and other new Faculty Reps participate in a training exercise at the New Rep Training Session

The following Reps attended the October 25th Training:

Ray Lambert - Riverview (Psychologists)

Jennifer Trujillo - Hermosa Vista

Charlene Garst - Stapley Jr.

Kim Sunia - Mesa Jr.

Sue Bowman - Robson

Olga Grant - Lincoln

Sharon Racca - Brinton

James Sellers - Johnson

Cheryl Falvo - Crossroads

Jennifer Tellez-Carson - Lincoln

Alissa Gonzalez - Hawthorne

Stacy Dixon - Guerrero

Joyce Wood - Whittier

New Reps Unable to Attend:

Gina Zelek - Falcon Hill

Anita Smith-Harris - Kino Jr.

Welcome to all of our Newest Faculty Reps!



Last Chance for Entertainment Books!



Don't miss out on the 2008 Entertainment Book. They are going fast and they also make great Holiday gifts! Plus you can find lots of great savings on everything you need for the Holidays! Each book is \$25 and proceeds go to the MEA Scholarship Fund.

Here are some examples of the great discounts you get with each book:

- **FOUR Texas Roadhouse Coupons:** \$10 off a \$40 Purchase, \$5 off a \$20 Purchase, Free Cactus Blossom with 2 Entrée Purchase, Free Kids Meal with 2 Entrée Purchase
- **Cost Plus World Market:** \$10 off a \$50 Purchase or \$50 off a \$300 Purchase
- **Universal Studios:** \$8 off a General Admission ticket (Up to 6 Per Coupon)
- **FOUR KB Toys Coupons:** 15% off a \$75 Purchase (Two) and \$20 off a \$100 Purchase (Two)



Books area only available until December 18, so don't delay! Stop by the MEA Office to pick one up, or send a request with your payment to the MEA Office and we will school mail your book.

MEA Record

1032 E. University Dr.
Mesa, Arizona 85203
480-833-8400 (Office)
480-834-6890 (Fax)

Visit us on the web:
www.mesateachers.org



Do you like to write?

Would you like to share your story of how MEA has helped you?

Interested in reporting on an MEA or AEA event you attended?

Or have another idea for a Record article?

If so, please submit your story or ideas to Heather at the MEA Office. Articles must be received no later than 5 PM on the 10th of each month. Please include a contact number or email.

All articles must conform to established length and be appropriate for the purposes of this publication. Information in articles needs to be journalistically and factually sound. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, mechanics, and clarity.

We will notify you if we use your submission.

MEA Record Marketplace

If you have an item you would like to sell, please submit your ad to Heather at the MEA Office before 5 PM on the 10th of each month. Ads are limited to 25 words or less, not including name and home telephone number.



Items that are second income related, contrary to the common beliefs of the MEA/AEA/NEA, or pose a possible threat to the community will not be accepted.

AEA Board Report

Joe Thomas and Mike Conway, AEA Directors

- October 10 – The US District ruled that the Arizona Legislature had until March 4, 2008 to comply with the original judge’s order to fund ELL programs appropriately. A reasonable guess puts the price tag around \$200 million.
- October 1- Gilbert Unified School District filed a lawsuit against the funding of Career Ladder in some districts and not allowing other districts to participate. They had the opportunity to participate when the program was first instituted. If they are successful in the lawsuit, it could cost Mesa 5.5% in funding.
- Budget – The state is expected to have \$600 million shortfall this fiscal year that needs to be addressed through the budget process. The State Equalization Property Tax is scheduled to come back on line. This money could be used to expand Career Ladder to the other districts as well as help fund ELL education.

AEA will be monitoring all three of these issues to ensure public education is not harmed or that funding be decreased in any way.

Ask the Staff

By Will Moore, AEA Organizational Consultant



Question: Why does the District deal with contract renewal issues this time of year?

Answer: Actually, at this time of year the District is dealing with contract renewal issues for only a very small number of probationary teachers. Under District policy – which is based on state law – the administration must provide a fall evaluation for all probationary teachers. For a few teachers, the evaluation might result in a Preliminary Notice of Inadequate Classroom Performance – a very formal way of saying that the principal thinks there’s a teaching problem.

If the principal’s evaluation shows “inadequacy of classroom performance,” then the principal will indicate, on the evaluation, a recommendation for *Inadequate Classroom Performance Procedures*.

That recommendation will trigger a meeting between the teacher and the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Janice Ramirez, sometime prior to Winter Break. At the meeting the teacher will be given written notice that his or her contract will not be renewed at the end of the school year unless the classroom performance issues are taken care of. The teacher will then have until late March to follow the growth plan and make an effort to improve.

Before April the principal will conduct a second evaluation and then make a final recommendation for the Governing Board to renew the contract or not. In this district, roughly half of the teachers who receive the Preliminary Notice in the fall end up making the necessary improvements and receiving a new contract for next year.

Those probationary teachers who are MEA members can expect representation and assistance throughout this process. We make sure that the procedures are followed and we try to make sure that the teacher is getting appropriate assistance for the improvement process.