

Please join us for our  
October Faculty Rep Meetings

**Tuesday, October 27**  
4:15 PM, Top Shelf Cantina,  
1976 W. Southern Ave.  
(Dobson/Southern)

**Wednesday, October 28**  
4:15 PM, Mi Amigo's  
6465 E. Southern Ave.  
(Power/Southern)

Please RSVP to Heather at  
833-8400, ext. 101 or to  
heather.tanner@arizonaea.org

We welcome ALL members to join  
us at either meeting and hope to see  
you there!



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October 19, 2009

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**Connections**

*By Kirk Hinsey, President*



This past weekend I faced the challenge of losing my cell phone. I tried to retrace my steps, but to no avail - it was gone. After canceling the phone and ordering another one (thank goodness for insurance), I found myself totally disconnected to the rest of the world.

I went through **three days** of not being able to text, call, or keep informed with my friends and colleagues at my fingertips. It made me begin to wonder about how this is a metaphor for other parts of my life.

I, of course, thought of the value of **MEA** and how I am informed on the issues and know that **MEA** is a phone call away to answer my questions or allow me to vent. I know that if I get in trouble at my work site, **MEA** will be there for me (thank goodness for that insurance). I think of staying connected through the Superintendent's Forum and the recent Faculty Rep Override trainings, both provided exclusively by **MEA**.

I also thought of the **connections** I have made through **MEA, AEA, and NEA**. I have made friends across the country who are dealing with the same issues. It is somewhat reassuring that I am not alone as a local president dealing with unprecedented budget cuts to education. These are the connections that are most valuable. These are the connections we cannot afford to lose as we go through these challenging times.

Losing my cell phone has taught me the value of having something at my fingertips. I had the easy access to keep connected, and, in case of an emergency, get the help I needed. I think of **MEA** as my cell phone for my profession and it will assist in any emergency. **MEA** will be there at my fingertips and keep me connected. I **value** the work of my colleagues and the **passion and dedication** that each of you have for your profession at your work site as well as for your **professional organization**.

**MEA, where Members Make it Happen.**

## MEA's Third Annual New Rep Training

Are you a new Faculty Rep this year (or just feel like one)? Do you need a refresher on Rep duties, or just want to feel more comfortable in that role? Then join us on Thursday, November 5 at the MEA Office for a half-day training session. We'll provide you with lunch AND pay for your sub. It will be fun, informative and taught by veteran Faculty Reps.



If you are interested in attending, call Heather at the MEA Office at 833-8400, ext. 101 to sign up. A flyer will be coming to your mailboxes soon with more information.

### Second Annual Superintendent's Forum a Success!

The second annual Superintendent's Forum was a huge success last month. Over 50 people attended and listened to Dr. Mike Cowan share vital information about the state of the District. Members were able to ask questions and Westwood Counselor Anna Cicero stated her concerns to continue supporting counseling services to support students to be able to receive a quality education in MPS. Dr. Cowan also addressed the needs of the District and the possibility of having to trim the budget mid-year. He was very open and frank with the discussion and listening to members' concerns. He also recognized the hard work MEA and MESPA have done on behalf of the Override campaign. MEA hopes to have a follow up forum next semester.



Superintendent Dr. Mike Cowan addressing the attendees of this year's MEA Superintendent's Forum



Dr. Cowan answering a question posed by MEA Member Carole Chandler, Porter Elementary School (far left).

Want to see these pictures in full color? Need to reduce clutter in your school mail box? Interested in "Going Green" to help save the planet? Then sign up to receive the MEA *Record* in your **home** email each month! Simply return the form below, and it will be sent to your **personal** e-mail address each month. **Remember, we are NOT allowed to send MEA communications via the District e-mail system.** You can opt to receive the *Record* only via e-mail, or an e-mail copy in addition to a paper copy. (If you just want a paper copy, like now, then do nothing - you will continue to receive it as normal.)

And don't forget - you can always view the MEA *Record* online at [www.mesateachers.org/MEARRecord.htm](http://www.mesateachers.org/MEARRecord.htm)

\_\_\_\_ Please send me the MEA *Record* via e-mail! I DO NOT want a paper copy each month.

\_\_\_\_ Please send me the MEA *Record* via e-mail! I would also like a paper copy each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School/Site \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## Information to Stay Connected

At some of our recent MEA meetings, members have voiced concerns about the future of Mesa Public Schools as well as the challenges that may confront schools due to the H1N1 Virus (aka the "Swine Flu").

You can access the future of Mesa Schools on their website and click on the link for Defining the Future. Or go to: [www2.mpsaz.org/future](http://www2.mpsaz.org/future).

Check out the NEA website for information on the swine flu at [www.neahin.org/h1n1](http://www.neahin.org/h1n1).

Both sites have some great information and are a wonderful way to stay **connected**.

### Entertainment Books Are Here

The 2010 Entertainment Books have arrived at the MEA Office. Each book is **\$30** and proceeds go to the MEA Scholarship Fund. The price has gone up \$5, but an additional \$25 in savings at Macayo's, TGI Friday's, Native New Yorker and the Melting Pot have been added!



Books are available until December, so get your book while they last! 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.

### Sign Up for the MEA Tutor Bank

Looking to make some extra money in these tight times? Want to help make a difference to students in need? Then sign up to participate in MEA's Tutor Bank.

Parents looking for tutors call our office and we give out your name and information to contact you. You set your own price, the subjects and when you want to tutor. Teachers in ALL grade levels and subjects are welcome to participate - but we always have a great need for High School Math and Science - so if you haven't participated before, now is the time!

You will receive a sign up form in your Membership packet; or you can contact Heather at the MEA Office, 480-833-8400, ext. 101, to send you a form. **You must fill out a new form each school year to participate and you must be a current MEA Member.**

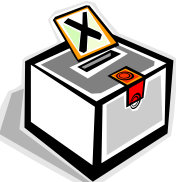


The MEA Website is undergoing a Makeover this fall! Keep checking back at [www.mesateachers.org](http://www.mesateachers.org) for an exciting new site to keep informed and stay connected! The makeover should be complete by the end of October.

## MEA and the Override Campaign

The election to renew Mesa's school district budget Override is November 3. Override elections aren't won without a campaign. MEA and MESPA are deeply involved in this community-based effort.

We want to take a moment to thank all of the MEA and MESPA members who have put up yard signs, worked phone banks, and kept colleagues, neighbors, and relatives informed of the facts. Your hard work and dedication has made a tremendous impact in bringing this issue to the public. But there is still work to be done! Contact your MEA Faculty Rep if you want to be involved.



Another important factor that can help this campaign is registering to receive your early ballot for the November Election. You can do so online by going to <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/web/elections.aspx> (or your County Recorder's website) and choose the link "Request an Early Ballot". This can be done up until **Friday, October 23**. You can also request to be put on the Permanent Early Voter List and automatically get an early ballot for every election at the same website.



## MEA Record

1032 E. University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85203  
(480) 833-8400 (Office) (480) 834-6890 (Fax)  
[www.mesateachers.org](http://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 and we will notify you if we use your submission.

### It's See's Candy Time Again!

Celebrate the holidays with See's Candies and enjoy substantial savings only available to MEA Members. Order as much or as little as you wish. There are a variety of chocolate assortments, other sweets and gift cards available!

Simply return your order form to the MEA Office with your payment before **5 PM, Friday, November 13**. Candy will be available for pickup at the MEA Office Monday-Friday, December 7 - 11. You will be sent a reminder to pick up your candy.



**If you need an order form, please call the MEA Office at 833-8400, ext. 100 .**



**REMEMBER:**  
Faculty Rep Meetings for November will be held the first week of December, due to Thanksgiving Break scheduling.

## MEA Calendar of Events October - November 2009



### Tuesday, October 27:

*West Side Faculty Rep Meeting*, 4:15 PM, Top Shelf Mexican Cantina, 1976 W. Southern Ave. (Dobson/Southern)  
*Open to all members*

### Wednesday, October 28:

*East Side Faculty Rep Meeting*, 4:15 PM, Mi Amigo's, 6465 E. Southern Rd. (Southern/Power)  
*Open to all members*

### Tuesday, November 3:

*Election Day, Mesa Public Schools Override Election*

### Thursday, November 5:

*New Rep 1/2 Day Training*, MEA Office

### Wednesday, November 11:

*Veterans' Day, No School*

### Tuesday, November 17:

*Executive Board Meeting*, 4:30 PM, MEA Office

### November 26 - November 27:

*Thanksgiving Break, No School*

### Tuesday, December 1:

*West Side Faculty Rep Meeting*, 4:15 PM, Top Shelf Mexican Cantina, 1976 W. Southern Ave. (Dobson/Southern)  
*Open to all members*

### Wednesday, December 2:

*East Side Faculty Rep Meeting*, 4:15 PM, Mi Amigo's, 6465 E. Southern Rd. (Southern/Power)  
*Open to all members*

*The MEA Calendar is also available online at*  
[www.mesateachers.org/Calendar.htm](http://www.mesateachers.org/Calendar.htm)