

Have you ever wondered what the Anchorage Education Association really is and why the Association is important to you? Do you know who this Jim Lepley guy is and why you get emails from him? I used to. I paid my dues but never really knew what AEA was all about; let alone what benefits I was entitled to as a member in the Association. This year I learned I wasn't alone in my wondering and I've finally found some answers. 😊

Every year, AEA hosts its annual New Member Dinner. This is an event during which new-to-district employees are invited to dine, meet board members, the AEA president, and learn about AEA and all the benefits they are entitled to.

This year's dinner was held at The Bridge – and I must say, the food and turn out was phenomenal. New members were greeted at the door where they signed in and were given a welcome packet. After a delicious dinner, AEA President Jim Lepley and Superintendent Carol Comeau welcomed the participants. Then, Debbie Omstead, one of our UniServ Directors, asked guests to pull out their BIG RED FOLDER (their welcome packet). This is where she reviewed all the information listed within the folder, information that answered those pesky questions I've always had about AEA.

Next was Table Talk. AEA members divided themselves among the new members to talk. During this activity AEA leaders asked and answered questions, listened to concerns, and just got to know each other.

Lastly, new members were introduced to the various committee chairs and AEA Presidential Candidates. Who knew there were so many committees within AEA? Actually, we have 12 (Budget Review, Membership, Bylaws, Negotiations, Communications, Political Action, Educational Excellence, Rights, Elections, Special Education, Evaluation, & Health Benefits)! Since we are a volunteer organization, there are lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved to make AEA great.

So, if you missed out – it's not too late. Find out who your AEA Building Representative is and contact him/her TODAY!! Your representative can get you the information you missed out on. And, if you want to learn more about the committees (and possibly join) – let your building rep. know or email AEA@asdk12.org.