

It's hard to believe the school year is already one half over, but it's true!

I've been asked by our Communications Committee to write a few words as an introduction to their newsletter. So here it goes (with an emphasis on "few").

This is my last year as AEA president. I'm not going to use the words "challenging" or "rewarding" or any of those other words people sometimes use to describe an undertaking. Instead, I'll describe my 3+ years in office as I have often described my 30 years in the classroom: "It's been fun, and I get paid for it." Now that's a pretty good deal!

Currently there are three people in the running to be the next AEA president. I would highly encourage all of you to get involved in this election (voting will be in January). And if any of you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, nominations are still being taken (until December 6). I got involved with AEA when I started with ASD in 1979. In 1980 I became a building rep and continued with that until I became president, except for two years when I was a "rebel" and dropped out of AEA and joined a rival union (you could do that "back in the day"). I was also a member of numerous committees over the years when the time commitments of husband and dad permitted. Five years ago, after complaining about contracts that for years I thought were less than we deserved, I decided to get involved with the bargaining process and applied and was accepted to be a member of the bargaining team. As your time permits, please consider volunteering to help your Association. It can be as little as one meeting a year, or as much as... well you probably don't want to know just how many meetings you *could* attend!

As teachers (and librarians, nurses, speech therapists, etc.) we face challenges every day from a multitude of sources. Your Association, which includes your NEA/AK Uniserv Directors, your President, and all sorts of volunteers, are here to help you. Please give us a call when you have a question or concern, no matter how small or big it seems. We may not always be able to give you the answer you (we) want, but I promise we will try our best.

I hope all of us have a great (rest of the) school year.

Thank you for the privilege of serving in this office!