

Last Spring, applications went out to all members for consideration to be on the AEA Bargaining Team. **In April 2009, the Bargaining Team for Contract 2010 was announced. AEA Members include Brian Nelson--spokesperson, Corey Aist, Skip Foster, Bill Mans, Lisa Lorsodo-Santo, Rob Taylor, and Cindi Crawford.** The team will be receiving assistance from NEA-Alaska UniServ Directors Willie Anderson and Debbie Omstead.

Team members already created this year's **AEA Bargaining Survey**. At the October Building Rep Council meeting, representatives were given the face to face surveys for their buildings. Hopefully by now, as you are reading this, you have had an opportunity to meet **face to face** with your building representative to complete the bargaining survey.

Just to provide you with a bit of background, the Negotiations Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis throughout the school year since December 2007. They have been researching your issues: surveying members, taking building rep council input, and combing the contract section by section. This small group of AEA members laid a solid foundation for the newly appointed Bargaining Team.

Thank you in advance for taking your valuable time to give the bargaining team your opinion on critical issues facing this round of negotiations. **If you have not had an opportunity to complete the AEA Bargaining Survey, please seek out your building representative or contact Jim Lepley, AEA President (AEA@asdk12.org).** The Bargaining Team members will be using your input to draft a proposal to take to the bargaining table.

We have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us. There will be MANY opportunities for member involvement over the next couple of months. A Bargaining Support Team is being formed. This is an excellent opportunity for YOU to get involved in your next contract! Contact Jim Lepley (AEA@asdk12.org) if interested. Look for building visits to be occurring in your school by the Bargaining Team/Executive Board members. We look forward to meeting and working with you over this school year.