



4100 Spenard Rd.
 Anchorage, AK 99517
 907-274-0536



Welcome Back!

Best Wishes for the 2008-09 school year

Welcome to a new school year! I know summer vacations are usually not long enough and not sunny enough (especially this year), but hopefully yours was relaxing and rejuvenating. As we begin a new year with all the challenges and unknowns it will bring us, please remember that your Association is here to be of service to you.

New this year for AEA members:

- 4% salary increase
- Overall decrease in health co-pay deduction. Last year's total annual co-pay was \$2520, this year's is projected to be \$1475.
- 30 minute increase in elementary planning time

If you have a question or concern about your job or workplace, please give AEA a call (274-0536) or e-mail me at aea@asdk12.org. I will do my best to try and help.

I would encourage all of you to become involved in your Association. We've seen what unity can do for us. We are always searching for members to serve on our committees. You'll find detailed descriptions of all of AEA's committees at AEA's new website www.anchorageea.org Some of the committees you'll find include:

- Budget Review
- Bylaws
- Communications
- Educational Excellence
- Evaluation
- Health Benefits
- Membership
- Member Engagement
- Negotiations
- Political Action
- Rights
- Special Education

Some committees require more of a time commitment than others, so feel free to talk with committee chairs.

If you are a new member of AEA, please note that there will be a new-member picnic sometime in Sept. During this event, new members will have an opportunity to socialize with others new to the district as well as meet AEA leaders. There will be an opportunity for new members to ask questions and receive information crucial to new teachers. There will also be some fabulous door prizes. We will be sending out invitations soon, requesting RSVPs.

Together we should be able to accomplish great things! Best of luck in the year ahead.

Jim Lepley, AEA President

Vol.2, Issue 1, 8/14/08



New AEA President, Jim Lepley.

Important Dates

- Aug. 20: First Student Day
- Aug. 25: ASD School Board Mtg.
- Aug. 29: AEA Board Retreat
- Sept. 2: AEA Rep. Council, 4:30 East
- Sept. 9: AEA Executive Board Mtg. 4:30 AEA office

Want to know more about these events? Contact your building rep, or call the AEA office.

Who do I contact for...

Health Insurance

Assistance: NEA-Alaska Health Plan—274-7526

A Mentor for New Teachers:

Log into "My Learning Plan." On the left side of the screen, Go to 'MY Mentor Request'.

An Instructional Coach for Professional Support and Plans of Improvement:

donohue_erin@asdk12.org

Contract questions:

Anchorage Education Association—274-0536

AEA PACE: Political Season is upon us

The political season is upon us. One of those folks that rings your doorbell or calls on the phone may be a fellow teacher or NEA-Retired teacher working with the AFL/CIO - NEA Labor Coalition 2008 Campaign. With the other unions in the state, NEA is polling our membership and making members aware of candidates endorsed by NEA National, NEA-AK, and AEA.

These endorsements are based on narrow criteria. The respective PACE Committees look at candidate positions on issues that relate to education or public employee policy.

We are focused on areas like NCLB, Social Security Offset, TRS pension, and bargaining



rights. As your union, we don't wish to tell you how to vote, but we do want you to be aware of "paycheck issues" - things that affect you financially or affect your job.

When that volunteer knocks, he/she is there to listen also. It is one way that information comes back to the local and lets us know if we're on the same track as our membership.

If you have questions about what NEA -AK or AEA is doing, or if you wish to volunteer time, call the coalition at 344-0853 or email CherylL@anchorageea.net (Coalition Coordinator) or

AndyH@anchorageea.net (AEA PACE Co-chair) for more information.

Free Pass to the Alaska State Fair!

This August, you have a chance to volunteer at the National Education Association-Alaska (NEA-AK) booth at the Alaska Fair on the 23rd and 24th of August. Booth volunteers will offer free goodies to fair goers for a four-hour time slot. If you volunteer, you will receive a free pass and parking to the fair. You can spend the rest of the day enjoying a day at the fair!

If you would like more information about this opportunity, please email Phillifant_Marilyn@asdk12.org.

Frequently you'll find upcoming volunteer activities for our members in our monthly newsletter. In fact, if you'd like help organizing a group event or activity for members, let us know and we can post it in our newsletter!

To contact us, go to www.anchorageea.org click the AEA Committees link and select "communication." This will take you to the communications committee page, or simply email Barber_Ilona@asdk12.org.



AEA Has a New Website: Take a Look!

Be sure to check out our new union website at www.anchorageea.org. Last year, your Executive Board decided our site was ready for an overhaul. With the help of volunteer members like you, and a retired teacher (now website consultant), we are creating a site to address your member needs more effectively. Although we are still tweaking pages, and adding links and content, we are eager to hear comments about our progress! For suggestions, email Holleman_Andy@asdk12.org.



AEA's new Social Committee wants you

New this year is a committee devoted to gathering our membership in a fun, non-work related manner. We are looking for others out there who would like to help in all aspects of this committee from planning events to cleaning up. If you are interesting in joining our new social committee, contact hacking_shevaun@asdk12.org.

Not yet ready to be part of a committee? One simple way you can help is by simply mentioning that you are an AEA member when you shop at PartyCraft. They will generously donate a percentage of their profits to AEA, which in turn will help us to decorate our wonderful events. Watch for invitations throughout the year.

Coming Soon: a dinner, later this fall, for new to AEA members.



AEA Trivia: Who are AEA's new officers?

In addition to beginning a new school year, we also are welcoming many new members of the AEA Executive board! Can you name the new At-Large Directors, Vice President of Communications, as well as our new president?

Answers received by 5:00, Aug. 18th will be eligible for a \$10.00 gift certificate.

Have you changed schools? Moved? Changed phone numbers? Please call us at **274-0536** and assist us in keeping your information up to date.

Questions? E-mail us at AEA@asdk12.org or call 274-0536.

Your newsletter is compiled by member volunteers just like you. If you would like to participate in our newsletter, or have helpful suggestions for us, we'd like to hear from you.

To contact us, go to www.anchorageea.org click the AEA Committees link and select "communication." This webpage contains information about your volunteer committee and the appropriate contact person for questions and information.