



# Anchorage Education Association

Good teaching matters

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

## e-Advocate



### Welcome Back!

#### Best Wishes for the 2009-10 school year

Hopefully your summer vacation was relaxing, rejuvenating, and you were able to enjoy some well deserved sunshine. 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
- Health insurance co-pay will be \$345.00 per month, but will only be taken out of five checks, starting in February 2010, which makes a total of \$1725.00 for this school year. Please plan accordingly!

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](mailto:AEA@asdk12.org). You can also contact your rights representative (in the rights brochure on the web [www.anchorageea.org](http://www.anchorageea.org)) or [debbie.omstead@neaalaska.org](mailto:debbie.omstead@neaalaska.org) and we will do our best to assist you.

I would encourage all of you to become involved in **your** association. This year we will be negotiating a new contract, and member involvement will be crucial to obtaining one. We are always searching for new ideas from members that serve on any of our committees. *There is no minimum time commitment.* If you can spare some time to give to **your** association, I would certainly appreciate it if you'd consider serving on one or more of the following committees:

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

For more information about an individual committee, please visit our website at [www.anchorageea.org](http://www.anchorageea.org) or give me a call.

If you are a new member of AEA, please note that there will be a new-member dinner to be announced soon. During this event, new members will have an opportunity to socialize with each other as well as meet AEA leaders. There will be an opportunity for new members to ask questions and receive crucial information. There will also be some fabulous door prizes! You will receive a personal invitation once the date and venue are finalized.

**Together WE will** be able to accomplish great things!  
Best of luck in the year ahead,

Jim Lepley  
President

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AEA President, Jim Lepley.

### Important Dates

- Aug. 25: ASD School Board Mtg.
- Sept. 1: AEA Rep. Council
- Sept. 8: AEA Exec. Board 4:30 , AEA office
- Sept. 22: AEA Rights Committee
- Sept. 25-27: Financial Planning Class
- Oct. 6: AEA Rep. Council, East  
Want to know more about these events?  
Contact your building rep, or call the AEA office 274-0536.

### 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](mailto:donohue_erin@asdk12.org)

#### Contract questions:

Anchorage Education Association—274-0536



## Answers to 403 B questions

**Question: Is there a "built in" fee of .22% on every fund in the new investment line-up that Great-West collects in addition to the mutual fund management fees? Are there any maintenance fees?**

No. Some of the mutual funds that are used in the ASD plan have an internal fee known as a 12(b)1 fee. This is used for marketing and distribution of fund information. This fee is part

risk relative to return, Morningstar ratings and reasonable expense ratios. This list offers employees the ability to manage risk by diversification among fund families as well as within fund families.

#### Where can I get help with my account?

The local Anchorage office is staffed with 2 full time representatives. Unfortunately, one representative was promoted and

have an internal fee known as a 12(b)1 fee. This is used for marketing and distribution of fund information. This fee is part of the overall fund management fee expressed in the prospectus. Since Great-West is performing the communication, distribution and record keeping for the mutual fund with respect to any shares in the ASD plan, the mutual fund company can use a portion of that fee to offset Great-West's administration fees. Therefore, the participant is paying no more than they would if purchasing the fund anywhere else and Great-West is recompensed for their administrative role without having to charge the participant.

#### Why are there so few choices to invest in?

Research shows that Plan participation decreases as the number of fund choices increases. The average employee may become overwhelmed and simply not participate. As a fiduciary, it is incumbent upon the Plan to provide an appropriate selection from an appropriate array of fund families, management styles and asset classes. Additionally, no one fund family consistently has the best performing funds in every category. ASD sought input from third party consultants to provide a list of "best of class" offerings selected for long term consistency,

The local Anchorage office is staffed with 2 full time representatives. Unfortunately, one representative was promoted and left at the time of the transition. A second person has been hired and is in training. Since the majority of participants access their account information either via the web or a phone call for information, we find that having knowledgeable representatives available by phone is an effective way to assist participants. For those individuals who wish to make an appointment to meet with someone in person the office is available with extended hours that are mutually convenient. The local number is 907-276-1500.

#### Why were we automatically put in a managed account?

The managed account service was chosen because it provides a well diversified, appropriate asset allocation for individuals based on certain known criteria. This was preferable to selecting a single option that may or may not have been appropriate for approximately 2000 participants. Due to the nature of the prior individual contracts (as opposed to the new group contract) there was no way for the district to know what funds people were utilizing in order to map to a similar allocation. Participants were given the opportunity to opt out of the service

403B continued: [anchorageea.org/e-adv/sept09/403B.pdf](http://anchorageea.org/e-adv/sept09/403B.pdf)

## New CPR program: piloted by Kathy Bell

As an Anchorage School District nurse, Kathy Bell addresses many health-related concerns, but one she is passionate about is educating as many people as she can in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

On August 18, The Loren Marshall Foundation, the Anchorage Fire Department, and the American Heart Association sponsored a breakfast and luncheon to present information to a large group of well-know community leaders about a program Bell piloted last year: "CPR Anytime" kit training. Bell's pilot program originally encompassed all 8<sup>th</sup> grade Goldenview students, but this year will include all 8<sup>th</sup> grade ASD students. The ultimate goal is for the training to be made available to every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in the state of Alaska.

For years Bell has taught CPR throughout the community. More recently, at one of her trainings,



Kathy Bell displays the CPR Anytime Kit.

Jim Foster, Anchorage Battalion Fire Chief told Bell about "CPR Anytime" kits and the fact that they could be purchased for approximately \$30.00. The kits include a practice manikin, a DVD, instructions, and other accessories.

Bell had the idea that if students were taught CPR and given the CPR kits, they would be able to become truly proficient, enough so to teach others. Bell met with Julie Maker (Bell's principal), Sharon Vaisiere, Nancy Edtl, and Carol Comeau about her idea. After receiving their full support and buy-in, Bell eventually made a presentation to the Anchorage School Board and received permission to pilot her idea at Goldenview Middle School. Bell, with the help of Foster, began to look for funding so that she could purchase enough kits to give one to each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Goldenview, where Bell is currently a nurse. At Goldenview, every 8<sup>th</sup> grader is required to take PE; therefore, if CPR was taught during their PE course, every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student could receive the instruction and a kit; no one

Incentives continued: [anchorageea.org/e-adv/sept09/Bell.pdf](http://anchorageea.org/e-adv/sept09/Bell.pdf)

## AEA Trivia: What are the NEA Posters?

According the NEA webpage, there is a site that offers 9 posters for printing and downloading. They are: The Human Genome, Earth Anatomy, Climate Change Records, Cosmic Evolution, The Science of Change, Vernal Pool Life, The Sphere of Life, Electromagnetic Spectrum, and this.

Send responses to [mary.nibbelink@neaalaska.org](mailto:mary.nibbelink@neaalaska.org)

Answers received by 5:00, Sept. 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](mailto: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](http://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.

