

Dear Members, I will continue to provide updates on trending issues important to Members. Topics in this update include:

- **AEA Fall Elections**
- **ASD Board Budget Process Update**
- **AEA Evaluation Committee Newsletter & Tenured educators in their non-focus year**
- **AEA Negotiations Committee**
- **AEA PD Page**
- **Is your Personal Leave Denied?: “Know Your Contract!”**
- **Mandatory Training: Sped Ed**
- **Grading Day**

AEA Fall Elections

Fall Elections for NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly will run September 26-30, with voting closing at 4:30 pm on Friday, Sept. 30. (Bios attached.)

Members will be receiving voting instructions via their non-work email.

DA Delegate information can be found [HERE](#) and there are still several open seats. Please submit your name as a write-in candidate if you would like to attend.

If you did not receive an email with your login information, it could be in your junk folder or perhaps you have unsubscribed from receiving emails from NEA-Alaska. Please call Kim for your voting number and link:

[**Kimila.Cherry@neaalaska.org**](mailto:Kimila.Cherry@neaalaska.org).

For questions about the elections, please contact Lem Wheelles, Elections Chair: wheelles_lem@asdk12.org.

ASD Board Budget Process Update

At the ASD Board Meeting and workshop this week, more information was shared about the 23.24 budget process as ASD is looking to reduce millions of dollars in costs. Everything and everyone will be given a price tag: staffing, programs, and facilities.

The slide deck (attached) gives examples of how costs will be shared with the ASD Board. To be clear, ASD has not recommended any cuts to date. Recommendations will be shared in October and I encourage every Member to pay attention as these proposals come forth.

Once proposals have been made in October, I hope you will speak up, speak out, and share what you know with the ASD Board. Not only are you the experts on what is happening with your students, but you are also the expert on what is happening in your classroom, school, and programs. The ASD Board needs to hear about your students, families, and experiences. The uncertainty is challenging and these conversations are not easy.

One thing that is within our control is our ability to cast a vote in the upcoming November 8th election. If the future of public education is essential to you, please ask hard questions of those asking for your vote. Make sure they have a plan to improve the circumstances for students and educators. It is essential to hold our elected officials to a higher standard and display the qualities of leadership our students deserve. Please pay attention to your home emails this week for recommendations from your colleagues.

AEA Evaluation Committee Newsletter & Tenured educators in their non-focus year

Want to know more about the evaluation process: Please see the AEA Evaluation Newsletter [HERE!](#) (Also attached.) Topics include: important dates, resources, observation information, collecting artifacts, and much more.

Also, AEA has received several inquiries regarding tenured educators being placed on the formal observation cycle, even though it may be their non-evaluation year.

Although principals may place tenured educators on the formal observation cycle for any reason, AEA believes there should be cause. This can be a timely and stressful process for both members and their principals. Suppose you have been deemed proficient (or exceptional) on your final evaluation last year and were tenured. In that case, AEA encourages you to converse with your principal and ask to keep you on a non-evaluation year.

AEA Negotiations Committee Meeting (Open to all Members)

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 12th, 2022

Time: 4:30 - 6:30p

Location: AEA Office

Food will be provided.

[PLEASE RSVP.](#)

Purpose: In the years between bargaining with ASD, the AEA Negotiations Committee meets with members wanting to discuss issues, contract language, and other items pertinent to the next round of bargaining.

Many Bargaining Team members have gotten their start participating on the Negotiations Committee.

AEA Professional Development Page

Additional information has been added to the anchorageea.org website [Professional Development Committee page](#).

General TISS information

TISS Submission for Credit Form

ASD Course Approval Guidance Slides

Is your Personal Leave Denied?: “Know Your Contract!”

Several Members have reached out to AEA regarding Personal Leave being declined. Please review the “Know Your Contract” piece from last October outlining your rights to access your leave. (Attached.)

If you need support, please get in touch with your [AEA Rights Advocate](#) assigned to your building.

Mandatory Training

There seems to be some confusion if training scheduled outside the workday is mandatory. **It can NOT be mandatory!**

AEA has informed Members who have asked for clarification that they may not be forced to participate in training outside the workday. Although training offered outside the work day can be provided as an option with addenda, in lieu of sub plans, and being out of the classroom, the choice is yours.

The only time ASD can mandate training outside the workday is referenced in Article 135 A: *Compensation for contract extensions shall be calculated at the per diem rate of the member. When member contracts are extended, notification shall be ten weeks in advance, unless otherwise mutually agreed. Contract extensions will be concurrent to the beginning or ending of the school calendar.*

Members who are told to participate in training outside the workday (evenings or weekends) must contact their principal. If you need support, please call AEA.

Grading Day, October 21 (Shared from the previous update.)

The last day of the first quarter is our GAP day. (Grading, Assessment, and Planning) The day should be yours to focus on your students, families, and learning spaces.

Although AEA encourages grades to be submitted Friday before the end of the GAP day, Members who need additional time have until the end of the day Monday, October 24. Article 417 B states: *“The last day at the end of the first, second and third quarters shall be a student-release day for the purpose of grading, assessment, and planning (GAP) by members. First, second, and third quarter grades/report cards/comments will be due by the end of the first workday of the following quarter. Fourth quarter grades/report cards/comments will be due before the member is released for summer. Submission of grades/report cards/comments may be required at the end of the GAP day only when the*

administrator has previously documented a concern about a member's untimely submission of grades/report cards/comments."

In Solidarity,

Corey Aist



**Connecting Educators
Inspiring Students**

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