

FEAdback

FAIRBANKS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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From the President's desk....

WOW!!! What a Summer It Was!!!!

On June 6 in Cotonou, Benin, West Africa, my wife and I attended the wedding of our daughter Debra to Ogoudele Thomas D'Aguin Kouda. A wonderful ceremony with about 18 other Peace Corps volunteers present along with D'Aquin's relatives. We also visited Ouidah, or the point of no return, where Africans destined for slavery in the United States were sold and boarded ships for the journey. Those interested in seeing several pictures are welcome to call me.

However, this summer of 40th anniversaries begs the question, "Where were you 40 years ago in the summer of 1969 when...?" Yes, I realize some reading this have yet to meet their 40th birthday, so enjoy what others may say!!!

As Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon's surface on July 20, 1969, I had graduated, at the age of 22, from Alfred University and was stationed at Ft. Benning, GA about to spend the next 58 days losing 30 pounds completing the US Army's Ranger School. When the 40th anniversary of the Sharon Tate/LaBianca murders (Charles Manson, Helter/Skelter) occurred on August 9, 10, I recalled being done with the first three weeks of Ranger School at Ft. Benning with my feet wrapped in bandages because they were raw and blistered. As we approach the 40 anniversary of Woodstock (that occurred about 40 miles from my home), I recall being in Dahlenega, GA for the mountain portion and still losing pounds.

So where were you???? Did anyone attend Woodstock or see the launch of Apollo 11???

The 2009-2010 school year has begun!!!

The Fairbanks Education Association's Political Action Committee for Education (PACE) will conduct interviews of the candidates for School Board, Borough Assembly, and Borough Mayor beginning at 5:15pm Monday, August 24 through Thursday, August 27. Members are invited to participate in this important activity. Kate Ortega and Sandy Cummings are the co-chairs of this committee.

Due to retirements and job transfers, several vacancies appear on our Board of Directors. Contact me about filling one of the positions from your region.

Included with this issue of the FEAdback are several items you will find posted on the FEA/ESSA bulletin board in your building. These include information related to the NEA Academy (www.nea.org/academy) where you will find relevant, online professional development courses, including one on Response to Intervention (RTI). A copy of the speeches at Representative Assembly (RA) by: Sec. of Education, Arne Duncan; NEA 2009 Friend of Education, Linda Darling-Hammond; and NEA 2009 Teacher of the Year Andrew Mullen are included.

Mark your calendars to participate in the **Labor Day Parade** on **Monday, September 7**. The parade will begin at the Noel Wien Library at 12 noon and end at Pioneer Park for a free picnic.

A wonderful **THANK YOU** to FEA members, active and retired, who represented FEA at the Tanana Valley Fair booth: **Tammy Smith**, Nordale; **Joyce Hilyard**, Weller; **Gayle Harbo**, retired; **Melanie Hinzman**, Joy; **Annie Armstrong**, retired; **Sandi Ryan**, West Valley; **Pat Aikman**, Weller; **Kate Ortega**, Denali; **Allison Heyman**, Nordale; **Julie Ritchie**, retired; **Tom Ritchie**, retired; **Barbara Sperl**, Ticasuk Brown; **Melanie Linton**, Ticasuk Brown; **Jeanine Griek**, Anne Wien; **Sherry Blizzard**, Randy Smith; **Jayne Naze**, Randy Smith; **Chris Villano**, Denali; **Curtis Watkins**, Lathrop; **Lyn Ballam**, North Pole Middle ; and **Steve Laroe**.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A TEACHER!!!

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