

FEAdback

FAIRBANKS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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From the President's desk....

American Education Week

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From November 15 to 21 this year affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA) celebrated American Education Week. Below is some information posted on the NEA website. American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.

Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Locally, members of Fairbanks Alpha Delta Kappa---Gamma and **FEA** prepared treats for our friends in the Education Support Staff Association (ESSA) for distribution on Wednesday, November 18 or Education Support Professional (ESP) Day. A thank you goes to **Sandy Cummings, Kate Ortega, Kathy Port, Candi Hess, Lesa Meath, and Tammy Smith** volunteering time for those who support us in schools.

FEA Election on December 8, 2009

Are you ready to vote on Tuesday, December 8? **FEA** will conduct its elections for delegates/alternates to attend Delegate Assembly in Anchorage from January 28-30, 2010. Look for biographical information the week of November 30 and vote on December 8.

Items of Interest to Members

November is **Open Enrollment** month for your **health plan for 2010**. If you have changes to make for 2010, now is the time. Have you completed your form? This is the time to sign-up for the Flex Spending Accounts for 2010 and the Health Savings Account if you are Plan B. You should have received your pin number from WPAS to access your account online. **Monday, November 30** is the last day Human Resources will accept changes.

Have you heard of SSEP?

This is the Solar System Educators Program operated by NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The deadline for applications from Alaska educators has been extended until December 11. Approximately 24 new Solar System Educators will be selected from this Announcement of Opportunity. These newly selected educators will attend an SSEP Institute, either in Texas in February 2010 or in California in July 2010.

If you have questions regarding this application, email fea@alaska.net and I will send you the packet electronically. You may also contact Kay Ferrari at ssep@jpl.nasa.gov or 818-354-7581.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A TEACHER!!!