

FEAdback

FAIRBANKS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2118 S. Cushman Street
Phone 456-4435
Fax 456-2159

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
e-mail fea@alaska.net
Home Page: www.alaska.net/~fea



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From the President's desk....

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 30th and vote on December 8th.

Your delegates to Delegate Assembly will be considering important issues to the association. Such issues include, the Living Wage Campaign for our Educational Support Professionals, moving the Legislature to replace the current Defined Contribution Retirement System with a form of the Defined Benefit Retirement System, changes that may be made to the charter school laws in Alaska or on the national level, and pay for performance when test scores are included in a teacher evaluation instrument.

Following certification of the **Tuesday, December 8** election, I will report to you who your delegates will be at Delegate Assembly. This will provide you an opportunity to discuss your thoughts and how the **FEA** delegation should vote when these issues are on the floor for consideration. **FEA** is your association and together we are able to make changes.

Participate in the Superintendent Search

With the announced resignation of Supt. Nancy Wagner on June 30, 2010, comes the need to search for a new leader for our school district. Be aware that the Mat-Su District is also beginning a search for a new leader. While a public hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 30, teachers may still send your opinions on the qualities you believe are needed for the new leader. You should go to the District's website and send a message to School Board members. The Board has tentatively set a Work Session for December 14 (open to the public) to discuss the direction the District should take. Participate, it is healthy.

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.

Items of Interest to Members

Several teachers have expressed a desire to visit another teacher's classroom to observe how particular subjects are taught in a different school. In your 2008-2011 Negotiated Agreement on page 38, Article 514 provides for such a visit. You may want to consider investigating this opportunity for the next semester.

Another section of the 2008-2011 Negotiated Agreement of interest to those who may be considering retirement at the end of this school year is found on page 4, Article 101 VI. This article states that if you provide an "irrevocable written notice of retirement" on or before January 15, you will receive a one-time payment of \$1,500.00 on your last paycheck.

You are fortunate to have a wonderful, participating Board of Directors. Our full Board is listed in the column at the left. They deserve your thanks for leading our union.

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