

## Read Across America Plans In The Works

Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the famous Dr. Seuss, which is a commemoration point for the NEA's **Read Across America**. MNEA members will be joining in the national event with all of the traditional activities plus a few new ones this year. MNEA members show great creativity with this project every year. Once again, the website provides a direct link to all NEA resources. Click on to [www.mnea.com](http://www.mnea.com), then link to NEA. Find the box at the left "NEA Read Across America". Members can find all sorts of free materials. MNEA will again provide free bookmarks to all members who want them, and provide free postage for all hats, shirts, and other resources ordered through the Association by February 10. (Send payment with your order.) This provides a considerable savings for the individual member. Hats ordered directly cost \$6 for one, with a \$6 shipping fee. We order them by the 100s @5.50 with a bulk shipping cost and take a slight loss in making them available to members. Each Association Representative in your school should have order forms, or you can get one from our website.



I just love it when the Mayor reads—  
He gives every word and each line what it needs.  
I think he must know that now famous turtle,  
You know, the one that Dr. Seuss named "Yertle".  
I'll never know if it's 'cause he's good,  
Or practices reading the way that he should.  
I just know that it's fun when he opens the book  
And puts on his glasses to give it a look.  
He wears a big smile, and makes it seem fun,  
So I'm off to the library to read me one  
Or two, or three or maybe four.  
When I get started reading, I may even read more.  
Here's something that I just can't figure out:  
Why is that some people make reading a bout?  
Without reading, I'd miss some famous people I meet  
And places I go, and other great treats.  
I'd never know some of my favorite friends,  
Or the strange events and how a story ends.  
That fun that comes from mixing up words  
Of people and puppies and fishes and birds.  
Things I've never seen, but now I know well  
'Cause I read in my books and the stories they tell;  
They're for mayors and firemen, policemen and others,  
Even small kids and big kids and fathers and mothers.  
We're so glad to be sharing another Dr. Seuss Day—  
That's unofficial for NEA's RAA.  
(Stands for "Read Across America") from sea to sea  
In cities, towns, villages—wherever they be.  
Share reading today, read  
tomorrow too  
Get better and better whatever  
you do.  
For the future is bright if you  
can read, who can tell?  
You might be a successor to  
Mayor Purcell!



## MNEA Winner in Titans/Saturn Contest

Congratulations to **Pam Hamilton** (Hickman Elementary) who was one of the weekly winners in the Tennessee Titans/Saturn Teacher of the Week Contest. Ms. Hamilton was awarded \$100, two tickets to the January 2 Titans-Lions game and consideration for the grand prize—a new Saturn Ion. Needless to say, a good time was had by all honorees from across the state.

## Minority Leadership Training

MNEA member **Bernard Lafayette**, Forestine C. Cole, (TEA Staff) and Sunday Perkins of Franklin



Photo by Bill Guy, TEA

County Education Association ponder over an assignment at the recent NEA Minority Leadership Training sponsored by TEA. Presenters were Richard Melvin and Delores Penton who serve as part of the NEA Training Cadre on minority leadership. The two-day event was well worth the time. The participants had an opportunity to understand the history of this association and see examples of the impact Tennessee teachers had on the organization as a whole.

*The Slate* is published during the school year by the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association, an affiliate of the Tennessee Education Association and the National Education Association.

531 Fairground Court  
Nashville, TN 37211  
Phone: (615) 726-1499  
FAX: (615) 726-2501

Ralph Smith, President  
Jamy Merritt, Vice President  
Julie Hopkins, Finance Officer  
Erick Huth, Secretary

UniServ Coordinators: Forestine Cole, Gloria Towner, Jim Williams

## Not All Homeowners Insurance Is The Same

NEA, TEA, & MNEA seek to help members in all aspects of their professional lives, which includes their financial standing. That's why we work to gain extra member benefits from companies at no extra charge. If your current policy doesn't cover these, you might improve your standing by giving them consideration. Horace Mann's Homeowner policy offers:

- Up to \$500 per month reimbursement for up to six months toward your mortgage payment if damages covered by your policy makes your home uninhabitable;
- Up to \$500 for a covered loss of school fund-raising cash or goods in your possession;
- Waiver of up to \$250 of your policy's deductible to replace personal records, which are damaged or destroyed by a covered peril;
- Up to \$3,000 for the insured's electronic data processing equipment while used by a full-time student in his or her living quarters;
- Up to \$3,000 for audio and video equipment used in educational activities away from your premises;
- A reward of up to \$250 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for theft of personal property used in educational activities;
- Up to \$750 for other business property on the insured premises.

Your membership makes a difference. These benefits are provided at no extra cost to NEA members only. Benefits will be removed at the next policy renewal for any policyholder who does not renew NEA membership.

## Negotiations Begins

Negotiations for the 2005-06 Educational Agreement have already begun. The next sessions are tentatively scheduled for January 24, 4 p.m. in the Board Room and February 16, 4 p.m. at MNEA.

# TEA & NEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORMS

In March, MNEA will elect delegates to both the TEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. DELEGATE NOMINATIONS must be submitted to the MNEA office by 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2005. All members of MNEA are encouraged to submit a nomination form.

It is through the Representative Assemblies that policies for both TEA and NEA are established. The TEA Representative Assembly will be held May 6-7, 2005, at the Nashville Convention Center. MNEA is eligible for approximately 134 delegates.

The NEA Representative Assembly will be held July 1-6, 2005, in Los Angeles, CA. MNEA will have approximately 22 delegates, 4 of which are already filled by the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Finance Officer. Those 4 people were elected as delegates in the MNEA general election. Eighteen (18) MNEA member delegates need to be elected - 17 classroom and 1 supervisor/administrator.

-----  
TEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

Representative Assembly - May 6-7, 2005  
 Nashville Convention Center

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Admin/Supervisory \_\_\_\_\_ Race: Black \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If elected, I agree to attend the meetings of the TEA Representative Assembly.**

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO MNEA-ROUTE 3 BY 5:00 PM, FEBRUARY 18, 2005  
 -----

-  
NEA DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

Representative Assembly - July 1-6, 2005  
 Los Angeles, CA

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Admin/Supervisory \_\_\_\_\_ Race: Black \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If elected, I agree to attend the meetings of the NEA Representative Assembly.**

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO MNEA-ROUTE 3 BY 5:00 PM, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

## MNEA Vacancies Announced

The following positions will be filled in our Spring election. If you are interested in running, for any position, please call the MNEA office (726-1499) and ask for Jan Hardy. A packet of election information will be sent at your request.

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Finance Officer</b>
<b>District 2 Director</b>	<b>District 5 Director</b>
<b>District 8 Director</b>	<b>Insurance Trust</b>
<b>Administrative Retirement</b>	

Nominations & Election Committee:

<b>District 2</b>	<b>District 4</b>
<b>District 6</b>	<b>District 8</b>

## Pre-Retirement Planning Workshop January 24

Even people who do not plan to retire shortly should become aware of their needs and options before the magic day arrives. MNEA and MNPS present at least one workshop each year to provide information on how to calculate anticipated benefits and other valuable planning information. Our first workshop for this year will be on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 at MNEA. Our last session was to a packed house, so reservations are absolutely necessary. Please **call 726-1499** to let us know that you're coming. Your *Educational Agreement* provides a \$500 early notification incentive for those who notify HR no later than March 15 of their plans to retire.

## Professional Council At Work

Even though it was negotiated years ago, many members apparently do not know that MNEA has a very strong voice in administrative decisions in what is known as Professional Council. By Article X A. 1



of the *Educational Agreement*: **“A Professional Council shall be formed to study, discuss and make recommendations concerning matters related to the education of students, teacher welfare, and mutually agreeable subject areas related to education.”** The council is composed of twelve officials: The Director and his five appointed members, and the MNEA President and our five officers.

The Professional Council provides an opportunity to work out issues that arise in the day to day operation of the school system, particularly problems that arise in determining schedules, programs, and implementation of district programs which may well be

outside the general directives of the *Educational Agreement*. They meet on the Monday afternoon before the School Board meetings, often giving the Association a “heads up” on the board’s agenda.



**“The determination of most matters of mutual concern will not necessitate formal action by either the Board or the Association... The Professional Council in no way shall diminish the prerogatives of the Board, the Association, the President of the Association, or the Director of Schools.”**



Issues are often referred to Professional Council by the MNEA Rep Assembly. In an effort to give account to MNEA members, notes from the

Professional Council may be found on our website at [www.mnea.com](http://www.mnea.com).



More details and up-to-date information at [www.mnea.com](http://www.mnea.com)