



SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

READ ACROSS AMERICA HUGE SUCCESS

TEA and MNEA joined in the NEA's National Read Across America Celebration on Dr. Seuss' 103rd birthday, Friday, March 2, 2007.

This year's event at the Country Music Hall of Fame featured Country Music artist Brenda Lee. Ms. Lee, TEA President Earl Wiman, MNEA President Jamye Merritt and other dignitaries read to students from Goodlettsville, Glenview, and Caldwell Elementary Schools. After a transportation delay, the choir from Cumberland finally arrived and performed for those present.

NEA's CAT-A-VANs, which were donated by Saturn, made a special trip to Cumberland where each student was treated to reading from Dr. Wiman, Dr. Merritt, NEA Executive Committee Member Carolyn Crowder and others. Students at both events celebrated with enthusiasm. They responded especially well to the Wiman-Merritt duet reading of *Green Eggs and Ham*.



TEA President, Earl Wiman and MNEA President Jamye Merritt hosting Read Across America celebration at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Candidates were nominated at the February RA. Even though some positions are not contested, the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Finance Officer have to be elected to be a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly for next year. Read the leadership profiles on pages 2 and 3 of this publication to learn more about the candidates.

MNEA Election Time is Here! Vote March 27—April 10

Candidates for Office:

PRESIDENT:

Erick Huth
Jane Walling

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Ida Etter-Gregory Barnes
Stephen Henry
Nancy Holland

SECRETARY:

Diane Jarrell

FINANCE OFFICER:

Jamye Merritt

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

(All elected by acclamation)

District 3 Director: Jeanine Lipscomb
District 6 Director: Chris Glenn
District 8 Director: Claudia Davidson
District 9 Director: Sydney Hill

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

(All elected by acclamation)

District 2: Emily Goff
District 4: Vernon Porter
District 6: Tish Bassel
District 8: Ann Tarkington

INSURANCE TRUST:

Dorcel Benson (Elected by acclamation)

ADMINISTRATIVE RETIREMENT:

Addie Massey (Elected by acclamation)

CANDIDATE PROFILES ON PAGES 2 & 3 ⇨⇨⇨

PRESIDENT: Erick Huth

Erick is Vice-President and chief bargaining spokesperson of the MNEA. He is Central Regional Director of the National Council of Urban Education Associations and is past president of MNEA and the Tennessee Urban Education Associations Council. He has served as parliamentarian, bylaws chair, public relations co-chair and as MNEA's representative to the TEA Board of Directors. Erick's efforts as building chair were instrumental in the financing, construction, and design of the MNEA building. Erick serves as trustee to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System and the Metropolitan Teacher Retirement System, the Metropolitan Professional Employee Insurance Trust and the Metropolitan Sick Leave Bank.

PRESIDENT: Jane Walling

Representing you, the member, for 25 years. MNEA: Currently, MNEA-PACE, AR and FAC. Previously, elected Secretary, professional council, executive and calendar committees. MNEA-PACE chair, MNPS/MNEA committee on Accountability. NEA trainings in Urban Education (CRUE), team building, and grassroots politics. Delegate to numerous TEA and NEA annual meetings. TEA: Currently, elected Vice-President of Urban Council (TUEAC) and State BOE Contact. Previously, appointed parliamentarian for TUEAC (2004-2006), Legislative Editing, Resolutions, Political Academy, Urban Conferences, and elected to TEA-PACE. NEA: Currently, re-elected to the Peace and Justice executive board as Southeast Membership Chair. NEA Southeastern Leadership Conference (2006, 2007).

VICE-PRESIDENT: Ida Etter-Gregory Barnes

Ida received a B.S. from TSU; M.A. from Alliance University in San Diego, California, and +30 from TSU, and is working toward a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. She taught in the San Diego Unified School system 13 years. She is a third grade teacher at Shwab Elementary. Ida served as secretary, finance officer, district director, member of the Professional Council, Minority Affairs and Internal Relations Committees A; TEA Minority Affairs Committee and the Women's Caucus of NEA, and an elected delegate to the TEA and NEA Conventions. Listed in *Who's Who Among American Teachers* 2005 and 2006.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Stephen Henry

MNEA: Board of Directors-District 2 & 3, Finance Officer, Parliamentarian, Executive Committee, Professional Council, Chief Negotiator, Committee Chair-Budget & Finance, Public Relations, Bylaws, Special Projects, Human Relations, Negotiations, Bowling for Buddies, Coordinator-Kids Can't Wait, Mayor's 1st Day Celebration, PACE Council, Ted Martin Human Relations Award, Representative Assembly, **TEA:** Board of Directors-District 9, T-PACE-District 7, Committees-Negotiations, Credentials, Human Relations, Communications, ION-Chair, Coalition for Tennessee's Future, District 15 & 17 UniServ Councils, TUEAC, E. Harper Johnson Human Relations Award, Representative Assembly, **NEA:** Leadership Conferences-Southeast Regional, Challenge for Change, Human & Civil Rights Division-National Trainer, NCUEA, GLBTC-Southeast Region Director, Representative Assembly

VICE-PRESIDENT: Nancy Holland

Dr. Nancy Holland is running for vice-president. Nancy has been involved with MNEA since she began teaching in Metro. She has served on numerous committees, including Membership, PACE, and Special Education. In addition to being secretary, Nancy serves as chairperson of the Membership and Instruction-Professional Development committees. In 2004, Dr. Holland received the Kathy Woodall Human Relations Award for service to MNEA. Nancy has also served on TEA committees, including membership and resolutions. Last year, she chaired the TEA Special Education Ad Hoc Committee. Dr. Holland believes a strong association is vital to public education.

SECRETARY: Diane Jarrell



Diane has always been a member of MNEA since joining Metro in 1987. She has been a building Representative for many years before joining the Negotiations Team. Diane has just joined PACE as a member from her home district. She is currently the Library Information Specialist at Litton Middle School.

FINANCE OFFICER: Jamye Merritt



Current MNEA President; product of Metro Schools and TSU; 2004 Kathy Woodall Award winner. English teacher, guidance counselor, Community Education Coordinator. Merritt has received numerous awards in diversity and pluralism. She has served as MNEA Finance Officer, District II and IV Directors, and AR; chair of Budget, Building Trust, PR&R committees. Committees: Scholarship, Minority Affairs, MNEA-PACE; numerous TEA-RAs, Emerging Leaders Training, Political Academy, Urban Conferences, TUEAC, NCUEA; many NEA-RAs, successful NEA Urban grant writer, NEA Southeastern Regional Leadership Conferences; MNPS/MNEA joint committees; Curriculum Advisory Council, Professional Council, Calendar Committee, Sick Leave Bank, Leadership Nashville, NCUEA Secretary-Treasurer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 13** TEA and NEA delegate ballots due in MNEA office by 5:00 p.m.
- Classroom Resources for Addressing Bias in the Classroom Training Session 4:40—7:00 p.m. at MNEA Center
- March 15** Representative Assembly, 4:30 p.m. Candidate speeches
- March 19—23** Spring Break
- March 27** Teacher Night Out Rockettown 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- March 27—April 10** MNEA candidate election period
- April 6** Good Friday (Unpaid Holiday)
- April 10** Ballots due at MNEA by 5:00 p.m.
- April 16** Teacher of the Year Celebration
- April 19** Representative Assembly, 4:30 p.m.

\$ DEADLINE APPROACHING \$

If you are going to retire before the next school year begins, you can qualify for a **\$500** incentive if you notify Human Relations of your intent by **March 15**.

Professional Development Opportunity for Elementary Teachers and Reading Specialists

Reading Recovery training offers nine hours of graduate credit through TSU. Classes meet weekly on Monday afternoons from 3:30-6:30p.m. for a full academic school year beginning August 2007. Please come to Cora Howe and observe a thirty minute lesson behind the one-way mirror on one of the following dates:

April 11 or May 9. All classes begin at noon.

Call Jill Speering at 262-6978 for more information and to reserve your space.



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.

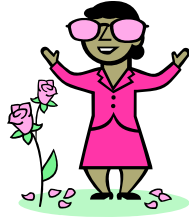
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Ida Barnes, Finance Officer
Nancy Holland, Secretary

UniServ Coordinators: Forestine Cole, Ralph Smith, Gloria Towner
MNEA Staff: Anna Ruth Day, Teresa Hayes, Helen McMackin

Rose-colored glasses

Have you ever felt like the school board, the local print media and the Chamber of Commerce see a different MNPS than you witness every day? Do you feel like they're all wearing rose-colored glasses? Do you think they give a blind eye to the hostility that exists in Metro?



MNEA leaders receive reports from members every week that some administrator has verbally abused them or in some other manner created a hostile work environment. On the Presidents Day in-service, one principal referred to members of his faculty as "on Board Terrorists." Unfortunately, this particular phrase was originally attributed to Dr. Garcia in *the Tennessean* when he referred to past MNEA President Harry McMackin and certain administrators who disagreed with Garcia's style.

MNEA does not believe that the word "terrorists" should be used lightly. It should never be used by a superior to refer to anyone working in a school building no matter how much that "leader" disagrees with his/her subordinate's opinions. Name calling, fist pounding and bullying may be socially acceptable in some circles, but they have no place in our schools. MNEA would like to issue a challenge to Dr. Garcia, the Board of Education and all administrators to use reason and good leadership skills to create a school district where students want to learn and teachers want to work and teach. Amazingly, when MNEA leaders asked Dr. Garcia to discontinue using the phrase "on board terrorists" at a recent meeting of the Professional Council, he steadfastly refused stating that he has used the term for a long time and sees nothing wrong with it! Bullying is a despicable behavior and cannot be made tolerable with the biggest, brightest set of *rose-colored glasses*.

Note: Administrator concerns about this article should be directed to the MNEA office (726-1499) and not the school's faculty.



Standard Dress Feedback

The BOE will vote on implementing Standard Dress in MNPS in early April. The current description of Standard Attire includes khaki, navy blue or black slacks, skirts or shorts. Shirts in pre-determined styles and solid colors, shirts tucked in and all clothing sized appropriately.



Association Representatives will be asking you to give your opinions on implementing Standard Dress in our schools. You may want to use the following questions to guide your discussion.

1. Should students of MNPS be required to wear standard dress at school or school events? Why or why not?
2. Should standard dress be required at all grade levels? If not at all grade levels, which grade levels would be appropriate for requiring standard dress?
3. In your opinion, will standard dress improve student behavior and contribute to a safer school environment? Why or why not?
4. If standard dress is adopted by the Board of Education, what problems in enforcement do you foresee?

Send your faculty's responses to MNEA, Route 3 or email them to mymnea@comcast.net.