

election

NOVEMBER 2006

On November 7, 2006 Americans went to the polls. What does this election mean for the members of MSEA? Let's examine the local, state and national results and the possible impacts on MSEA's membership.

local - According to the Minnesota School Board Assn, 42% (29 of 69) of excess levy referenda were approved statewide. MSEA school districts fared slightly better with 53% (8 of 15) of proposed levies passing. Increased school district revenue has a direct and immediate effect on contract negotiations.

state - The DFL Party has taken control of the Minnesota House of Representatives (85-49) by picking up 19 seats, while the DFL increased their margin in the State Senate (44-23) by picking up 6 seats. With strong majorities in both the House and Senate, school district funding is sure to be a top priority in the next biennium.

federal - The Democratic Party has also taken control of the US House of Representatives (231-194) by picking up 29 seats, while also taking control of the US Senate (51-49) by picking up 6 seats. Numerous issues will face the new Congress including the re-authorization of No Child Left Behind, full funding of Special Education and Title I and the school lunch program.

pera election

PHONE CALLS



On the evening of January 18, 2007, MSEA Board and staff members will be calling you to remind you to vote in the PERA Board elections. The calls will be short but sweet!

MSEA is using the calling system that SEIU rents out to other unions and non-profit organizations. Personal Calling information will be protected by a legal agreement.

However, if you DO NOT wish to be called, contact Melissa Gara at the MSEA office via email or phone by January 5, 2007.

melissa@msea-mn.com
800.622.0289 or 651.227.3623

PERA

Pension Board Election

MSEA supports: * LOUISE OLSON
* LARRY BODNAR
* GARY LAVELLE
* TOM MARSHALL

(See page 4 for candidate bios.)

PERA will mail out ballot packets to you by January 10. Please vote and return the ballots by January 31, 2007.

We are MSEA

SPOTLIGHT

Don & Janet Haugan



Don Haugan began working for the Bemidji school district in 1972 as a bus driver; in 1986 he started driving special needs bus. In 1988 Janet Haugan began working as a special needs bus assistant. In 1995 they started to work together as a team on the special needs bus.

They both agree that working with special needs children is very rewarding. Some of the children began riding with them when they were very small and only stopped when their education was complete.

Don and Janet enjoy their summers off when they can go camping and spend time with their granddaughter.

Don & Janet Haugan
Husband & Wife Team, Bus #2, ISD #31

BUS DRIVER & ASSISTANT

"The Minnesota School Employees Association (MSEA), is a growing union which recognizes the dignity of the individual worker and the power of the organized body. It is a democratic union directed by its membership, and fiscally responsible to that membership. Through an empowered membership and a professional staff, MSEA provides the highest level of representation and service in the State of Minnesota."

MSEA

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Office Mgr	Jodi Lietzau
Fin Mgr	Lynn Jansen
Admin Asst	Melissa Gara

APRIL 20 & 21, 2007

Delegate Assembly

It's hard to believe, but the 2007 Delegate Assembly is fast approaching. MSEA has found a spacious new location for our annual conference - the Fergus Falls Bigwood Event Center. We are looking forward to trying out our "new digs" and hope everyone likes the new location. Registration forms and other pertinent information will be mailed out to all chief stewards in January.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

March 1

Delegate/Alternate registrations
Sue Ezell Leadership Award nominations
Nancy Crippen Scholarship applications
Unit Newsletters
100% Full Membership
Fair Share Conversions

March 6

Resolutions affecting the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or dues schedule

March 21

All properly submitted resolutions mailed to every chief steward, Delegate & Alternate

Schools Get Honor for Efforts

(excerpts from the Fargo *Forum*, 9/29/06)

Three area schools have been named 2006 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools by the US Dept of Education. Norman County West Elementary School in Hendrum (MN), **Heart of the Lakes Elementary School in Perham (MN)**, and Harwood Elementary (ND) were among schools in Minnesota and North Dakota that produced superior academic results or showed dramatic gains in student achievement.

NCW and Heart of the Lakes were among nine Minnesota schools recognized. MSEA has proudly represented the Perham/Dent cooks, custodians, paraprofessionals and secretaries since February 1981.

"We are honored to have won such a prestigious award," said Heart of the Lakes Elementary School Principal Kimberly Grengs. "We are fortunate to have such dedicated staff and supportive community."

FROM THE PRESIDENT



EVAN MAPES

2006 is rapidly coming to an end! I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Chief Steward Training is set for January 12th and 13th in Brainerd. I hope if you are a steward or you are thinking about becoming involved in the leadership of your unit, you have signed up to attend. Mary Kearney and the staff have set an agenda of instruction that will help present and future leaders become familiar and comfortable doing the important leadership jobs within their unit. After all, strong and knowledgeable local leadership is the most important aspect of the unit and the union.

Another thing coming up that is important to all MSEA members is the PERA Board elections. These elections have nothing to do with politics. PERA elections effect all of our retirement funds and we have to become more involved in the people that get elected to the PERA Board. In the coming weeks, MSEA will be sending out information on this important election. Please watch for it, and most importantly, when you receive your PERA ballot -- vote and send it in as soon as you receive it.

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Unity,

Evan Mapes
MSEA President

highlights

E-COMMUNICATIONS

Receive MSEA *Highlights* and the MSEA *Classified* newsletter (pdf attachments) via e-mail. Adobe Acrobat software is required to open pdf attachments. If you do not have Acrobat, you may download it FREE off of the front page of the MSEA website.

E-mail Melissa Gara (melissa@msea-mn.com) if you wish to be added to this list.



Members from Frazee-Vergas, Moorhead, Alexandria and Detroit Lakes attended the Region 3 Fall meeting.

minnetonka

GETTING IT RIGHT

SUE RUSK & CAROL NEMITZ, CHIEF STEWARDS

It was August, and the sounds of plastic party favors – kazoos, flutes, and whistles could be heard coming from the large meeting room. Paraprofessionals from every building in the district were making their presence known at Minnetonka's annual Back-to-School Para Workshop. The four-hour workshop included a welcome from the superintendent, a school board representative and our new MSEA Executive Director. Para leadership members also introduced the dozens of paras who serve as reps, mentors, officers and committee members.

This gathering provided the perfect opportunity to review updates in our para handbook. The remainder of the workshop was spent in staff development breakout sessions. Topics such as "Child Protection-Mandated Reporting", "Para Keys to Success", "Health Para Training", "Math Strategies" and "Media Training" were offered. Continuing education for paras means better service to Minnetonka students – a philosophy that both the district and our para unit embrace.

training

OPPORTUNITY

late registrations possible

Chief Steward Training: Jan 12 -13

Attendees – Chief Stewards and members interested in becoming a unit leader will be attend an intensive, hands-on MSEA Chief Steward Training on **January 12 & 13, 2007** at the Brainerd Ramada Inn. This back-to-basics training will address the following topics:



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Legal Rights | Confidentiality |
| Roles & Responsibilities | Communications |
| Internal Organizing | How to Run a Meeting |
| Representation | Discipline |
| Identifying Grievances | Best Practices |
| When Can I Say No? | |

Deadlines - Registration forms were due in the MSEA office on **December 8th**. The training is limited to 50 participants with first priority given to current chief stewards.

Late Registrations - MSEA cannot guarantee hotel room availability after December 11th, however late registrations will be accepted if at all possible. Contact Jodi Lietzau regarding late registrations.

Start & End Times – The training will begin at 1:00 PM on Friday, January 12th and end at 3:30 PM on Saturday, January 13th.

Expenses – MSEA will pick up the following costs:
hotel room for Friday, January 12th
meals (Fri dinner, Sat breakfast & Sat lunch)
lost wages from MSEA work
roundtrip mileage (members from the same district encouraged to carpool)

Cool Door Prize! – MSEA is giving away a 7" Panasonic Portable DVD Player with carry case at the end of the training. (must be present to win)

Please contact Jodi Lietzau at the MSEA office for more information.

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PERA CANDIDATES

It is in the interest of all MSEA members – present, retired and future – to preserve and safeguard the growth of our pensions. The Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Board of Trustees monitors our pensions. This year we have a unique opportunity to make sure our concerns will be represented on the PERA Board.

Three candidates running for trustee positions are current or former school workers. MSEA supports them and is asking you to vote for them when PERA sends you a ballot packet during the first week in January.

The three candidates are:

1. LOUISE OLSON. Louise is a retired cook and head cook from the St. Cloud school district. She has also been active in her union, SEIU Local 284, where she serves on the Senior Organization. Louise is running for the retiree/disabilitant trustee position.

2. GARY LAVELLE. Gary currently works as a school janitor-engineer and is well acquainted with school worker issues and concerns.

3. LARRY BODNAR. Larry serves as head custodian for the Elk River school district. Larry and Louise gave a presentation to the MSEA and clearly demonstrated their commitment to serving all of us if elected

Gary Lavelle and Larry Bodnar are running for the three Coordinated/Basic trustee positions and they are competing against four other candidates. They will need our help to succeed!

MSEA also supports **TOM MARSHALL**, an incumbent who is running unopposed for the Police and Fire Fund seat on the Board. Tom is a firefighter from Duluth and he has assured us that he looks out for the interests of all employees.

It is estimated that any one candidate needs 25,000 votes to win. MSEA also sees this as a chance to work with another union. SEIU Local 284, in getting school worker candidates elected. Please make sure you post-mark your ballot by **January 31st.**

Together, we can make a difference!