

On board

executive director



Mary Kearney

As I write this I have been on board for just a few days but my impressions of the MSEA are good. I am optimistic about the future and am looking forward to serving you as Executive Director. My career is full of experiences that will assist me, having worked in almost every labor relations' role there is. I have been a mediator with the Bureau of

Mediation Services, an arbitrator in the private sector and spent time learning the other side as a management representative in both the public and private sectors. But, perhaps the experience that best prepares me for this new role is not work-related. I grew up on the Iron Range where my dad was a teacher at Greenway of Coleraine for 25 years before we moved to White Bear Lake, where he retired from and I graduated. My mother was a teacher also, and a homemaker. So, in some ways I have been around the employee side of school districts all my life.

I first became familiar with the MSEA as a mediator. I was attracted to this job because I know first hand it has had a solid reputation over the years. The staff people I worked with impressed me as effective advocates. I further like that the MSEA has a central focus: to represent classified employees only and that this is its driving force. But what I like the most is that the MSEA is a democracy and that this distinguishes it from most other organizations. This fits with my beliefs.

There certainly are challenges ahead. I will bring to these efforts a commitment to performance, professionalism and integrity. I look forward to meeting you, hearing from you and serving you.

Mary Kearney

2006

delegate assembly

Friday, April 28th

The 26th Annual MSEA Delegate Assembly convened at 12:30 PM on April 28th at the Alexandria Holiday Inn. Delegates (59) and Alternates (11) from 29 school districts from around the state attended the conference, exercising their right to help shape MSEA's future.

1st Business Session: President Les Schermerhorn gave the State of the Union report and reviewed the proposed 2006-07 MSEA budget.

Speakers & Workshops: A Resolution Review was offered to clarify the meaning and impact of the six resolutions submitted for consideration. Two guest speakers from the California School Employees Assn addressed the Assembly - Past President Clyde Rivers and Field Director Rose Roach (former MSEA Executive Director). A Board Candidate Open Forum was also held Friday afternoon giving Delegates an opportunity to learn more about members running for a position on the MSEA Board. Candidates answered questions from the floor regarding their experience, goals and leadership philosophies.

Evening Banquet: After dinner, members were entertained by the popular comedy team of "Tina & Lena". The evening ended with the MSEA awards ceremony which recognized unit accomplishments and individual award recipients.

Continued on page 3



sue ezell leadership award

NANNETTE PETERS, was presented with the 2006 Sue Ezell Leadership Award at the 2006 Delegate Assembly. Nan has been a Student Support Para for over 21 years in the Rochester school district. She is caring, energetic, respectful and understanding with both students and co-workers and has been an excellent mentor for new paras. Nan's union knowledge has enabled her to comfortably answer members' questions over the years while serving the Secretarial/Sunshine Steward, a Negotiation team member, Delegate and Alternate. Nan is an honest person with high values and a caring attitude that she exhibits everyday in her job with friends, students and colleagues. She puts forth tremendous energy in performing her job and her union

responsibilities and models her high regard for family, education, union, church and her community in her activities. Congratulations Nan and thank you for your tireless commitment to MSEA and your fellow members!

"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

190 E 5th ST. #750
St. Paul MN 55101

651.227.3623
800.622.0289
www.msea-mn.com

PRESIDENT

Leslie Schermerhorn
1322 2nd Av S
Moorhead MN 56560
218.233.1035

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mary Schaufenbuel
1030 20th St
Windom Mn 56101
507.831.1848

TREASURER

Diana Vogt
602 19th St SE
Rochester MN 55904
507.289.2078

DIRECTORS

Cindy Antonson
1112 18 1/2 St N
Moorhead MN 56560
218.236.5229

Nona Bauer
53499 255th St
Austin MN 55912
507.433.9514

Kim Fultz
Rt 3 Box 342
Bagley MN 56621
218.657.2296

MJ Hanson
610 4th St NE, Box 12
Baudette MN 56623
218.634.1775

Evan Mapes
20033 Center St
Thief River Falls MN 56701
218.681.1254

Jon Selzler
4051 Mayflower Rd NW
Bemidji MN 56601
218.751.1546

MSEA STAFF

Exec Dir	Mary Kearney
Field Rep	Bob Schrank
Field Rep	Chris Schaefer
Field Rep	Lori K. Carlson
Field Rep	Greg Gardner
Field Rep	Cheryl Rosheim
Field Rep	Don Gilbertson
Office Mgr	Jodi Lietzau
Fin Mgr	Lynn Jansen
Admin Asst	Melissa Gara

ANNUAL NOTICE REQUIRED BY LAW

MSEA, 190 E 5th St #750, St. Paul, MN 55101

Summary Annual Report for the MSEA MEMBERS WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN

This is the summary annual report for the MSEA MEMBERS WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN, EIN 41-1994256, Plan number 501 for the period September 01, 2004 to August 31, 2005. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Insurance Information: The plan has a contract with insurance carriers to pay Life and Dismemberment claims incurred under the terms of the plan. Carriers are Hartford Life and Horace Mann. Total premiums paid during the plan year were \$15,076.

Your rights to additional information: You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report.

-Insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof write or call the office of MSEA, who is the plan administrator, 190 E 5TH ST STE 750, ST. PAUL, MN 55101, 651-227-3623. These portions of the report are furnished without charge.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

**MSEA
Plan Sponsor
190 E 5TH ST STE 750
ST. PAUL, MN 55101
41-1994256**

and at the US Dept of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the US Dept of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to:

**Public Disclosure Room
Room N-1513
Employee Benefits Security Admin
US Department of Labor
200 Constitution Av NW
Washington, DC 20210**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to thank the Delegates and Alternates for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the 26th MSEA Delegate Assembly. It was another busy weekend!

It's always a pleasure to have Past CSEA President Clyde Rivers speak at our Assembly. One of the highlights was having our former Executive Director Rose Roach attend as a guest speaker. I know the members will remember it for a long time as she has touched the lives of many members throughout her years at MSEA.

Our new Executive Director Mary Kearney also had a chance to address the Assembly and share a little about herself. The Board is very excited to work with her and we know she will be a great asset to MSEA.

The Board meets again in July to begin gearing up for the 2006-07 school year. We still have a lot of things on our plate that didn't get done from last year, so it looks like another busy year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Jon Selzler for all his hard work this past year as a Director.

On a personal note as President, I would like to thank the Board for all their hard work, long hours and dedication these past two years; you went above and beyond your job and everyone's expectations. You gave 100% to MSEA and I would like to say thank you! I couldn't have worked with a better group of people. When we took our positions two years ago, we were struggling in many areas with financial difficulties as our biggest concern. I am happy to say we should end this year with a 10.39% fund balance due to a lot of hard decisions.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Relax and spend time with family and friends and enjoy life.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work for you as your President these past two years. I look forward to being a Director and continue working hard for MSEA members.

Les Schermerhorn
MSEA President

Saturday, April 29th

Resolutions: Delegates debated and voted on six resolutions affecting MSEA policies; an updated copy of the MSEA Bylaws can be downloaded from the MSEA website (www.msea-mn.com) or the St. Paul office. Delegates also passed a resolution directing the Board to end MSEA's association with the National Association of Classified School Employees Association.

Board Elections (effective July 1st):

President - Evan Mapes, Thief River Falls
Vice President - Mary Schaufenbuel, Windom (re-elected)
Director (3-year term) - Kim Fultz, Bagley (re-elected)
Director (3-year term) Patrick Wheeler, Little Falls
Director (1-year term) Les Schermerhorn, Moorhead

See page four for election details.



Jolene Enerson, Bemidji



Kathy Berg, Sleepy Eye



For 20 years, Tina & Lena have been entertaining audiences around the United States with a rich blend of music, humor and high energy fun. Tina & Lena celebrate each day, living the inspiring words of Katharine Graham, "To love what you do and feel that it matters, what could be more fun." pictured above: Tina & Lena enlist the help of Patti Gunderson (St. Cloud) and Clint Talley (Moorhead) for a lively rendition of the song Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B!

ASSEMBLY awards

Sue Ezell Leadership Award

Nannette Peters, Rochester para
(see article on page 1)

100% Full Member Units

Austin Food Service
Browns Valley
Clearbrook-Gonvick Para/Cooks
Clearbrook-Gonvick Sec/Cust
Grygla Wall-to-Wall
Little Falls Accounting
Little Falls Specialists
Rushford-Peterson Custodians
Windom Custodians

Newsletter of the Year

Minnetonka "Tonka Paraphrases"

Nancy Crippen Scholarships

MEMBERS

Kristine Edwards, Rochester
Sherri Meier, Centennial
Tabitha Taylor, Moorhead

DEPENDENTS

Nancy Ackerman, Anoka
Allison Dewar, Perham
Cameron Erickson, Rochester
Linda Haas, Austin
Meghan Hopps, Bemidji
Carrie Pond, Bemidji
Mateja Savoie, Bemidji

president



EVAN MAPES has worked as a Thief River Falls bus driver for the past 12 years. His goals are to unite the organization, work for the common good of all members and move MSEA into a future of growth and prosperity. Evan would also like MSEA become a key player on school issues, both at the local and the state level. He hopes to see MSEA continue to expand its excellent representation of all MSEA members.

vice president



MARY SCHAUFENBUEL is a para from Windom. She has held various unit leadership roles including Chief Steward, Negotiation Team Member, grievance steward, building rep, Treasurer and Delegate. Her goals are to see MSEA continue to grow and be fiscally responsible. Mary has been a part of MSEA from its inception which has provided her with the knowledge and understanding of how a member-run union operates.

director (3-year)



KIM FULTZ has worked as a para in Bagley since 1982. Kim has served as her unit's Vice Steward, Negotiation Team, District Technology Committee and the Judicial Panel. Kim feels she now has a background serving on the Board to continue working in a way that is good for the Association. She's been exposed to many situations that have required thoughtful and meaningful actions, which is valuable knowledge for a Director.

director (3-year)



PATRICK WHEELER works as Student & Building Security Little Falls and has served as chief steward for his unit since 1987. Patrick's goals are to continue to work for the members of MSEA. He would like to find ways to blend the expertise of the MSEA field staff with that of the elected Board and also improve the methods of communication with members throughout the year leading up to the annual Delegate Assembly.

director (1-year)



LES SCHERMERHORN has worked as a Moorhead bus driver since 1998. Les has served as a building rep, grievance steward, negotiation team leader and on her local board. She feels she can put what she's learned over the last couple of years to work to benefit all MSEA members. She hopes to move MSEA forward always keeping the members first and foremost and maintain MSEA's integrity and open communication on all levels.



Former MSEA Executive Director Rose Roach attended the Delegate Assembly as the keynote speaker on Friday afternoon. Rose is currently a Field Director with the California School Employees Association and spoke to Delegates and Alternates about Strategic Choices for Union Decision-Making.

Cheryl Buffington from Alexandria (right) and Sara VandenBosch from Worthington both won doorprizes at the Friday evening banquet.



Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

The MN Para Consortium hosted the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals 2006 Conference at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel on May 11-13th. The conference, *Building the Future: One Student at a Time*, drew approximately 1000 participants from across the United States and Canada. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from local, national and international experts on topics related to preparation, supervision and recognition of paraprofessionals.

CEUs were offered by the MN Dept of Ed and course credits were offered by Ridgewater College. One highlight was the opportunity to present the annual Minnesota para award before a national audience on Saturday morning. MSEA member Loie Paul, Minnetonka, was recognized as the 2006 MN Para of the Year (see article on right). Check out the MN Para Consortium website (<http://ici2.umn.edu/para/>) for more highlights.



MSEA members from Edina enjoying the Para Conference!

Mankato Paraprofessionals

On February 21, 2006, Mankato Chief Steward Mark Spangler presented Carrie Orcutt of the ECHO Food Shelf a check for \$500.00. The funds, donated by the MSEA Mankato Para Unit, will be used to help purchase food for Mankato-area families that rely upon ECHO to supplement their home food shelves. MSEA is proud our members are doing their part to combat hunger in southern Minnesota!

MSEA Member Loie Paul Named 2006 MN Para of the Year

Once again an MSEA member was named Para of the Year by the MN Para Consortium!

Minnetonka para **LOIE PAUL** was recognized at the 2006 Para Conference for her years of dedication and commitment to her students. Loie was nominated by the Minnetonka Celebration of Excellence Committee from over 20 nominations in her district. After reviewing multiple letters of recommendation for Loie, it became clear that Loie truly exemplifies the child-centered excellence that the Para Consortium seeks. Loie embraces her role as a partner in the educational success of each student with whom she comes in contact. Her helpful attitude and responsiveness to student needs is inspiring not only for students, but colleagues as well.

Loie has earned the trust and respect of Groveland school parents, teachers and students. Her positive attitude and collaborative skills allow her to work spontaneously in varied settings with children from mainstream classroom support to one-on-one tutorial. There are countless examples of Loie's rare ability to use creativity, care, humor and sensitivity as she guides growth and development.

Loie is also known to go the extra mile - literally. A parent who nominated Loie wrote, "Loie won my heart and seal of approval two years ago when my child was having a problem with low energy. Many team members came to the table to search for solutions. In the end, it was Loie taking him outside for a morning 'wake-up' sensory jog around the track. She did not just go and supervise - **she ran with him!**"

Obviously Loie is very deserving of this distinguished award. Congratulations Loie - MSEA is proud to represent you!

MN Food Service Conference

*sponsored by the
Minnesota School Nutrition Association*

July 30 - Aug 2, 2006

Duluth Entertainment Convention Ctr
350 Harbor Drive, Duluth MN 55802

To register or for more information -
email: www.mnsfsa.org
or call: 888.326.1412 (toll free)

Early-Bird Deadline: June 10th
Registration Due: July 10th

MSEA
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MSEA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

august 7 & 8, 2006

leadership

Are you a new unit leader and unsure of where to begin?

Or are you a unit leader looking to network with other members?

If so, MSEA is looking for active, interested members who would be willing to spend a couple days this summer (August 7-8, 2006) at St. Benedict's College in St. Joseph attending the 2006 MSEA Leadership Academy.

you will learn about:

- *Running effective unit meetings.
- *Roles and responsibilities for union leaders.
- *Knowing your contract, along with other insightful discussions.

Attendance at the Leadership Academy is limited to 50 members. Watch for more details in upcoming Update mailings, Board Highlights emails and the MSEA website.

expenses and reimbursements:

- *Room expenses, meals and training materials for all attendees.
- *Lost wages from MSEA contracted work and roundtrip mileage. Members from the same school district are encouraged to carpool.