



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

May 23, 2011

2011 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY: JULY 2ND – 5TH

This summer, nearly 70 **LAE** delegates will gather in Chicago for the annual NEA Representative Assembly. We are gearing up to make some big time decisions. Louisiana delegates will vote on the proposed amendments listed in this month's *NEA Today* and will elect NEA's President, Vice President and two members of the Executive Committee. You can follow day-to-day coverage of RA debates and action by going to www.nea.org. We'll be sure to provide you with a recap in the August issue of *The LAE Voice*, please be on the lookout.

RED FOR PUBLIC ED

We want you to show your support for public education. Red is the color we've chosen to show our solidarity. **LAE** has a limited number of red, long-sleeve button down shirts for sale – they are \$25. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please email Laurie Guillot (laurie.guillot@lae.org) with your request. Our supply is limited so please contact Laurie today!

NEA's EdVOICES

EdVoices is a one-stop destination for educators, bloggers, policymakers, reporters, and anyone looking for fresh viewpoints on the most pressing issues facing public education. Learn about the best and latest work from education bloggers around the web. NEA is giving away three FREE t-shirts every week to e-letter subscribers. I encourage you to join the exciting new *EdVoices* community today! Go to www.edvoices.com to find out more.

PAUL PASTOREK LEAVES POST AS STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

As you all know, State Superintendent of Education, Paul Pastorek, left his post this month. While we did bump heads about education reform from time to time, I want you all to know that I did like Mr. Pastorek as a person and wish him well on his future endeavors. Paul and I had many personal conversations about our roles as state figures. We discussed our passions for what we did, and at the end of the day agreed that each of us had to be happy with our own work. Please see the following links on stories written on Mr. Pastorek's departure:

Do you think that Mr. Pastorek got it right? 60 % say no. Cast your vote here:

www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2011/05/reader_comments_superintendent.html

I truly believe that we now have a chance to get it right. We are urging Governor Jindal to go beyond the minimum qualifications and seek an individual who has a proven track record of communicating with education professionals. We need someone in this position who shares our belief that public schools are a sacred trust, open to all and governed locally by elected representatives from the respective community.

2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE: SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TENURE BILL FAILS ON HOUSE FLOOR

Due to a major grassroots effort on behalf of **LAE** members, HB 101 was defeated by the House of Representatives this week. This legislation would have removed due process and the attainment of "regular and permanent operator" status from school bus drivers. We appreciate and thank all of you for asking your state representatives to vote NO on the bill. We are now asking you to go the **LAE Action Center** (<http://capwiz.com/nea/la/issues/alert/?alertid=46397501>) to send your state representative a message. You can view a tally sheet identifying how your representative voted at www.lae.org. If they voted YES (yea), please let the representative know of your disappointment. If your state representative voted NO (nay), please thank your representative.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: DATES TO REMEMBER

May – June: 2011 Legislative Session Continues

May 30th: Memorial Day

July 2nd - 5th: NEA-RA

July 25th – 28th: LAE Summer Leadership Conference

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

-Benjamin Franklin