



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

June 20, 2011

LAE LOBBY DAY 2011

LAE members flooded the Louisiana State Capitol last week for Lobby Day 2011. Nearly 70 members came to Baton Rouge to meet with their legislators on important issues surrounding public education. Members attended legislative committee meetings and sat in on floor debates. If you missed this year's event, you can see a recap here: <http://youtu.be/ER9dy3mGo48>.

Thank you to all of those who joined us! With one week left in the 2011 Legislative Session, we hope that you all will be inspired to continue to let your voices be heard. Keep an eye out for any upcoming Capwiz alerts - we still have time to take action on unresolved bills that will effect public education.

2011 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY: STANDING STRONG FOR OUR STUDENTS, OUR SCHOOLS & AMERICA

Next week, LAE delegates will gather in Chicago for the annual NEA Representative Assembly. This year's theme is *Standing Strong For Our Students, Our Schools & America*. Delegates are set to make some big time decisions as we address issues on the RA floor from 6:30 AM - 5 PM each day. We'll vote on the proposed amendments listed in this month's *NEA Today*, and will elect our next president, vice president and two members of the executive committee. You can follow day-to-day coverage of the RA by visiting www.nea.org/grants/1357.htm. We'll be sure to provide you with a recap in the "Back To School" issue of the *LAE Voice*. Please be on the lookout.

ATTENTION DELEGATES: SIGN UP FOR THE DENNIS2DELEGATES GROUP SITE

Dennis2Delegates (D2D), is a private group site that helps NEA President Dennis Van Roekel stay in touch with RA delegates year-round. You can use this site to download resources, share your thoughts on important association-related business, and connect with your fellow delegates. D2D is an important resource center for the 2011 delegates. You must sign up for group site (www.groupsite.com) in order to join the D2D online community. I encourage you to do this; go to <https://dennis2delegates.groupsite.com/main/summary> to register today.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

LAE leaders and staff are hard at work planning the [2011 LAE Summer Leadership Conference](#). Events will be held from July 24th - 28th at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, LA. All LAE members are invited to attend. The registration fee for each participant is **\$180.00**. This fee includes a hotel room (double occupancy) for three nights and three meals per day. (If you would like a single room, you must pay an additional **\$175**.) Visit www.lae.org for the conference agenda and workshop registration forms. You can also find a sampling of workshop topics in the May issue of the *LAE Voice*. We hope to see you there!

A GOOD READ: OVER-RELIANCE ON TESTS FULL OF PITFALLS

Researchers who've done extensive work in the area of testing, measurement, and the use of value-added methods, write to the New York State Board of Regents to express their concerns about requiring the use of state test scores as 40 percent of the evaluation decision for New York teachers. I thought this was a very interesting article. Please check it out at http://www.nysut.org/nysutunited_16613.htm.

A MUST READ: THE SHOCK DOCTRINE

The Shock Doctrine is the gripping story of how America's "free market" policies have come to dominate the world through the exploitation of disaster-shocked citizens. Go to www.naomiklein.org/shock-doctrine to find out more about this **MUST** read.

Did You Know?

Did you know that **LAE** has a dedicated fund for association members across the U.S. who have faced natural disasters? Through the **LAE** Disaster Fund, the association has donated relief dollars to Alabama and Tennessee in order to aid in their recovery efforts. We are in the process of donating to other states who need help. You can also lend a hand to our fellow association members who are victims of natural disasters. Here's how you can help:

Missouri: mnea.org/Missouri/HelpRebuildJoplin.aspx or the *Missouri-NEA Hope Fund* at 1810 East Elm, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Alabama: Alabama EA Foundation, P.O. Box 4177, Montgomery, AL 36103

North Carolina: NCAE Foundation for Public School Children, North Carolina Association of Educators, 700 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611

Georgia: GAE Foundation, Georgia Association of Educators, 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 500, Tucker, GA 30084

50 STATES. ONE VOICE. STANDING TOGETHER.

We must stand together for public employees' rights, as they are being trampled on in states across the nation. Let your voice be heard through NEA's "We Are One" campaign. Sign the national petition for educators and workers rights; follow the legislation that's plaguing Wisconsin, Indiana, Idaho, Tennessee, Ohio, Oklahoma, Florida and other states; contribute to the *51 Fund* to help fight the attacks on public education. We *must* keep up with what's going on across the country - remember, WE ARE ONE! Go to educationvotes.nea.org/nationalpetition, 51fund.neafoundation.org and facebook.com/speakupforkids to find out more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June: 2011 Legislative Session continues

July 2nd - 5th: NEA-RA in Chicago

July 25th – 28th: LAE Summer Leadership Conference in Marksville, LA

August: Back to School

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

-Martin Luther King Jr.