



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

July 18, 2011

THANK YOU RA DELEGATES!

We had a great time in Chicago this year! **LAE** delegates traveled to “The Windy City” to stand strong - and we did! We worked together with our colleagues from across the nation, and came to a consensus on many policies and statements. We helped to shape the very future of NEA! I cannot tell you enough how much I appreciate all of you – your ideas, your energy, but most of all your dedication to public education and the association. Thank you again for all that you do!

DELEGATES APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA

LAE delegates overwhelmingly voted to recommend President Obama for early endorsement. **LAE** joins the majority of NEA delegates across the nation in this decision. Go to www.lae.org/news.asp?nid=117 for additional details on the recommendation and a list of talking points to share with your locals.

EDUCATORS APPROVE TEACHER EVALUATION & ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

RA delegates adopted a policy statement on teacher evaluation and accountability. The statement places a focus on what’s best for students and the teaching profession, and sets a course for overhauling bad teacher accountability and evaluation systems. It puts NEA on the record - for the first time - as calling for a comprehensive overhaul of both teacher evaluation and accountability systems, in order to advance student learning. The passing of this item brings NEA-affiliate organizations new clout in the debate raging across the country about the best way to improve professional practice and boost student learning. For more information on this new policy statement, go to www.nea.org/home/46102.htm.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: SIGN UP FOR THE BULLY FREE IT STARTS WITH ME WORKSHOP

The [2011 LAE Summer Leadership Conference](#) is right around the corner. Events kick off this Sunday, **July 24th** at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, LA. If you are attending this year’s event, I encourage you to attend the *Bully Free It Starts With Me* workshop. NEA’s campaign against bullying aims to identify caring adults in our schools and communities who are willing to stand out and pledge to help bullied students. Learn about this campaign and how you can work to prevent bullying in your school at summer leadership.

A GOOD READ: TEACH FOR AMERICA SET TO DISPLACE QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Mike Deshotels’ latest blog post discusses the increasing support for Teach for America at a time of massive teacher layoffs. In this post, Mr. Deshotels alerts public educators to the great concern by the Coalition for Louisiana Public Education, about the plans of privatization groups to take over BESE in the fall elections. I encourage you to check out the full piece here louisianaeducator.blogspot.com.

This post begins dialogue on this important issue. There will be more on this in coming weeks; I encourage you to follow the discussion.

A GOOD LISTEN: NEW ORLEANS IMPERATIVE INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY ARNE DUNCAN

In a recent interview with Dr. Raynard Sanders, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calls “transparency around school performance” essential. Dr. Sanders pressed Secretary Duncan on issues regarding the lack of accountability and transparency that some New Orleanians believe has been inherent in the RSD, particularly because of the number of schools that operate under the district. Listen the full interview here: www.tribunetalk.com/?p=1028.

LAE AIMS TO GET ON ACEE COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR AUGUST 2ND MEETING

LAE requested placement on the agenda for the August 2nd Advisory Committee on Educator Evaluation (ACEE) meeting, in order to make a presentation to the committee regarding our alternative to the Value Added Model. We're still waiting for confirmation to present to the committee. We'll continue to keep you posted on any developments. You can follow the ACEE committee meetings at home by logging on to www.louisianaschools.net/media/acee.html. I encourage you to tune in to the very important August 2nd meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 24th – 28th: LAE Summer Leadership Conference

August 26 – 27th: LAE Board Meeting

September 5th: Labor Day – LAE Headquarters Closed

September 10th: Committee Day

October 14th - 15th: Executive Committee

"Good teachers are like candles - consuming themselves to light the way for others."

-Anonymous