



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your weekly update newsletter from LAE President Joyce Haynes

February 28, 2011

## 2011 READ ACROSS LOUISIANA CELEBRATIONS

LAE's statewide Read Across Louisiana initiative was a huge success! Hundreds of kids came out to malls in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport to read alongside dedicated adults. We will be posting photographs from each local event on our website this week; please be on the lookout and don't forget to celebrate Read Across America Day this **Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**!

Have you seen the photo book from Read Across America 2010? If not, you can view it at [www.lae.org/ImagesLive/Users/8/ReadAcrossAmericabook2010.pdf](http://www.lae.org/ImagesLive/Users/8/ReadAcrossAmericabook2010.pdf). If you're interested in purchasing a copy, email Communications Specialist Ashley Davis at [ashley.davis@lae.org](mailto:ashley.davis@lae.org). We encourage you to make a book of your very own for your 2011 Read Across Louisiana events!

## A GOOD READ: WISCONSIN UNION FIGHT IS REALLY A 15-STATE GOP POWER

Governor Scott Walker's fight with the unions isn't a simple Wisconsin issue, but a Republican campaign to strip workers of their rights. Former Service Employees International Union President Andy Stern expands upon this idea in his recent blog post *Wisconsin Union Fight Is Really a 15-State GOP Power Grab*. Read the full story at <http://tinyurl.com/67j72ah>.

## WEAR RED FOR PUBLIC ED

Show your support for public education every Tuesday this spring and wear red for public education. This will show that there are plenty of us out there who have an opinion about and support public education. Hopefully, this will be the first step in the long overdue process of letting those who are involved first-hand in America's public education system--teachers, parents and students--have a say in what happens to it. Visit [www.wearredforpubliced.com](http://www.wearredforpubliced.com) to find out more about the initiative.

## STAY INFORMED WITH NEA'S EDUCATION VOTES

NEA's Education Votes helps you organize and mobilize like never before. Go to [www.educationvotes.nea.org](http://www.educationvotes.nea.org) to volunteer in your area, sign national petitions, find and post information about community rallies and make critical phone calls to fellow NEA members on behalf of pro-public education candidates.

## GREAT IDEAS FOR GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEA is looking to highlight examples of the great programs our members are leading or partnering in. They are profiling examples of innovations in major initiatives that show our unions working to positively impact students and the teaching profession.

NEA recently highlighted LAE Board Member Milton Gholar's community initiative, MAGIC - Making Achievement Gains In Our Community. The initiative provides effective and accessible out-of-school activities for youth in Bogalusa, helping to keep kids off the streets. The program gives kids better learning opportunities by exposing them to new cultural experiences. As a result of Mr. Gholar's initiative, the school system is currently working with the local YMCA and YWCA to apply for a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning grant. If you have a story please send it to [joyce.haynes@lae.org](mailto:joyce.haynes@lae.org) and/or [ashley.davis@lae.org](mailto:ashley.davis@lae.org).

### **GO.NEAFUND.ORG**

The NEA Fund's online giving portal, GO, offers a fun and easy way to raise funds for this year's RA. The website helps you create your very own fundraising page, where you can add photos and share special messages. To get started, visit [go.NEAFund.org](http://go.NEAFund.org).

### **LAE FLEUR DE LIS, IMAGE AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

We've recently mailed out information regarding the LAE Image Awards and the Fleur De Lis. I encourage you to appoint a committee to work on these two very important initiatives. Also, don't forget to encourage members to apply for the LADOE's Teacher of the Year Program. All regional Teachers of the Year will be honored at the Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Symposium and Celebration on **July 22, 2011**. Visit [www.doe.state.la.us/topics/teacher\\_of\\_the\\_year.html](http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/teacher_of_the_year.html) to apply.

### **DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NEA'S OFFICE OF MINORITY COMMUNITY OUTREACH?**

Today, students of color comprise more than 40% of the population in our public schools. The NEA's Office of Minority Community Outreach (MCO) was instituted to establish, develop and sustain partnerships within communities of color. The office distributes a monthly newsletter called *MCO News*, which recaps highlights from the previous month and spotlights ongoing and future work. Send an email to [mco@nea.org](mailto:mco@nea.org) to put in a request for your own copy of *MCO News*.

### **NATIONAL BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE**

LAE has been working closely with NEA Black Caucus Chair Jacqui Watts Greadington as we play host to this year's National Black Issues Conference. 2011 events will be held in **Baton Rouge** at **The Drury Inn**, from **March 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**. We have a very informative and exciting conference planned and will be providing you with additional details as they become available. You can see a tentative agenda at [www.neablackcaucus.com](http://www.neablackcaucus.com). Reserve your spot TODAY!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR: OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March 11 – 13:** Annual ESP Conference - Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C.

**March 25 – 27:** National Black Issues Conference – Drury Inn, Baton Rouge

**April 1<sup>st</sup>:** LAE Board Meeting

**April 2 – 3:** LAE-RA

*'It is today we must create the world of the future.'*

-Eleanor Roosevelt