

THE *LPAE* LINK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS

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LPAE REPRESENTS YOU AND YOUR ISSUES

President Joycelyn Olivier reports on LPAE's involvement on your issues.

LPAE is working with members on different issues. Job reclassification for Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals has been one of the main issues. No Child Left Behind required all paraprofessionals working at Title I schools to be Highly Qualified. Due to the change in the job requirements, their pay should reflect the increase in education required. Lafayette Parish is using the Job Reclassification process to determine the pay adjustment for these employees. **The recommendation is to increase pay by one pay grade for those who met Highly Qualified status.** LPAE is committed to working with these members to insure that they are properly compensated.

Reporting C-10's is another important issue to LPAE members. The high schools have already signed petitions dealing with the impact this has had on the time it takes from instruction. While taking attendance and combating truancy is an important responsibility of educators, members feel there needs to be a more efficient way of getting this information without taking time away from educating students.

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REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY 2007

The Louisiana Association of Educators will celebrate their 30th anniversary this year at the annual meeting and Representative Assembly (RA) to be held November 18 -20. At the RA, delegates representing members from throughout the state will debate the vital issues that impact public education and set Association policy and activities for the year ahead.

Representing the Lafayette Parish Association of Educators at this year's RA are:

- ❖ Patricia Babineaux
- ❖ Debbie Burrow
- ❖ Ronald Cormier
- ❖ Henrietta Gallien-Shelvin
- ❖ Lloyd Gonzales
- ❖ Lelia Hardy
- ❖ Vickie Jacquet
- ❖ Judy McRaney
- ❖ Melinda Mangham
- ❖ Karen Martin
- ❖ Butch Mouton
- ❖ Joycelyn Olivier
- ❖ DeLisa Washington
- ❖ Elnora Washington
- ❖ Enola Washington
- ❖ Mary Washington
- ❖ Nicole Washington.

LPAE encourages all members to contact one of these delegates if they have issues they want brought up at the RA.

President's Message

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LPAE members believe the C-10 documentation is very important, but question if this could not be handled by Web Attendance. **LPAE's suggestion is to update the Web Attendance program to fulfill the requirements that are needed to complete a C-10.**

Insurance meetings are being held at schools to help employees make an informed decision on their insurance plan for next year. The Board approved employees being able to participate in the Medicare tax. Employees hired prior to 1986 that were not granted this option will now have that chance. You will be getting information on this. LPAE will keep you informed when this information is available.

LPAE is the organization that is the voice for its members. LPAE invites you to join the most pro-active organization for all employees. LPAE meets the first Thursday of each month at 4:15 in the L.J. Alleman cafeteria. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please call 231-0010.

Joycelyn Olivier, President, LPAE

This month all LPAE Association Representatives will receive a copy of the Louisiana Discipline Law. See the AR at your work site for information concerning the

Remember: The LINK needs your input, your news, your ideas!

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SCHOOL LAW CORNER

Plant and Facilities

A. The physical plant must comply with state and local fire and health regulations and with applicable building codes. It shall be free of health and safety hazards.

B. The school shall be attractive, cheerful, orderly, clean, and in good repair to evoke in the children a positive response to beauty and to life and to satisfy their need for order.

C. Indoor Requirements

1. Low child-accessible shelving shall be in neutral or light colors for placement of materials, with adequate space for placement without crowding. Instructional materials of the same general classification should be placed together.

2. Walls shall be light or neutral colors to emphasize adequately the materials.

3. Lightweight, movable, child-sized furniture (tables, chairs) shall be available.

4. Flooring of a type that can be kept clean and safe shall be installed.

5. Rugs and mats shall be available and accessible to the children and there shall be an orderly place for their storage.

6. Adequate lighting (160 watts fluorescence for every 100 square feet of floor space is recommended) shall be in place.

7. Thirty square feet of working space per child or 35 square feet per child or total usable facilities shall be available to allow each child to move freely without interrupting the activities of others.

8. The environment shall be prepared, arranged, and equipped to structure the child's free movement and responsibility.

9. Child-accessible toilet and hand washing facilities adequate for the number of children shall be available.

Thanksgiving Lesson Ideas

See the NEA website, www.nea.org, for more information on these **Interdisciplinary Activities that Help Students Learn about & Celebrate Thanksgiving from Education World**[®]

1. **Thanksgiving Placemats: A Community Service Project**
Work with your local shelter, food kitchen, or nursing home to brighten everybody's Thanksgiving.
2. **Thanksgiving Feast**
Grades 3-5 and 6-8 read charts and learn where Thanksgiving foods are grown.
3. **Thanksgiving Science Experiment**
This plant-growing experiment for grades preK-5 shows how Squanto helped the early settlers.
4. **Popcorn History**
Did the Pilgrims eat popcorn during the first Thanksgiving?
Research/create a timeline of the

Social Security Offsets Hearing

The Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, chaired by Senator Kerry (D-MA), is holding a hearing this month on the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

NEA retired member Peggy Kane, a high school English teacher for 35 years who retired four years ago from the Medford (MA) public school system, will testify at the hearing.

Announcement of the hearing is a huge victory for NEA members and other activists who have been pushing hard for movement on legislation to repeal the GPO and WEP, which penalize some public employees by cutting or taking away completely Social Security benefits they or their spouse earned.

Legislation (H.R. 82/S. 206) to completely repeal both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision has been reintroduced in the House and Senate.

The Subcommittee will accept written submissions for the record. **Statements must be typewritten and single-spaced, not exceeding 10 pages in length. The first page must clearly state your full name and address as well as the title and date of the hearing.**

Statements must be MAILED (not faxed) to:

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-203

Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200b

Statements must be received no later than two weeks after the hearing. At the time of this printing, the hearing was scheduled for November 6, 2007.



Save the Date!

American Education Week is November 11-17, 2007

The National Education Association and its 3.2 million members invite you to participate in American Education Week (AEW), November 11-17, 2007. The week's tagline, *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*, emphasizes the shared responsibility we all have in making public schools great for every child. Get involved at the local level by organizing and participating in activities that NEA is promoting at the national level:

Tuesday, November 13

Take Your Parents to School Day

NEA is encouraging schools to invite parents to join their children at school for the day.

Thursday, November 15

Educator for a Day

Community leaders will be invited into schools to experience the rewards and challenges of educators and the needs of students.

Sunday, November 11

Student Leaders Kick Off Ceremony

Hundreds of future teachers will convene in Louisville, Ky., to kick off American Education Week.

Wednesday, November 14

Education Support Professionals for a Day National Event

NEA is inviting notable public figures to job shadow education support professionals for a day.

Friday, November 16

Substitute Educators Annual Poll

NEA will once again ask Web site visitors to vote for the influential figure they would most like to see substitute for a day.

For more details on American Education Week and to download a comprehensive event toolkit, visit www.nea.org/aew.