

THE *LPAE* LINK

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JOB FAIRS, INSURANCE, AND TEACHER ASSISTANTS: ISSUES OF CONCERN

LPAE President highlights current issues of concern to LPSS educators.

The school year is well under way and so are the issues and concerns of members. LPAE has been busy visiting schools and having employees complete our surveys on school related issues and concerns.

The central office has reorganized, again! Mr. Lilly is now the Human Resource Director and Mrs. Bernard has returned to the insurance department as the district's Risk Manager.

Current Issues LPAE is working with:

- We are recommending a **Job Fair for the 2008–2009 transfers**. Currently the system has one Job Fair, which includes everyone wanting a transfer attending at the same time as new hires. LPAE ask that Lafayette Parish School System provide at least two Job Fairs. A Job Fair for current employees only would be a show of loyalty to district employees. LPAE recommends a second Job Fair for everyone else applying for jobs in Lafayette Parish.

The transfer issue has been discussed with Mr. Lilly who agrees that involuntary displaced teachers and current employees of Lafayette Parish should be granted transfers before any new employees are hired. LPAE will continue to work on this issue. Remember that you must indicate your interest in a transfer by March, 2008.

- **Early insurance enrollment is coming soon.** Mrs. Bernard will be visiting schools to explain the three insurance options. Employees will have the opportunity to ask questions so that they are able to make an informed decision about their insurance plan.
- LPAE is working with the district to implement the second phase of the **Teacher Assistant pay plan.**

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LPAE works for you and your issues! Thank you for your membership. Contact us for ways to get more involved.

*Not a member yet? Now's the time!
Contact your LPAE rep or contact us*

PAY DAY HOORAY!

**Make plans to celebrate our efforts
in working for our new raises!
Join LPAE in a celebration at
Beaver Park, Friday, September 28!
Be on the lookout for more details
coming soon.**



President's Message

Continued from Page 1

- LPAE is encouraging the district to help Teacher Assistants working in Title I schools who did not meet Highly Qualified status. The Association has suggested that the district hire these employees when possible in another capacity.
- **Position (Job) Reclassification** and/or Salary Adjustment are another important issue. Job Reclassification is a process where a position is reevaluated due to the duties and responsibilities. An employee (usually technical, clerical, support and crafts and trades employees) can request reclassifying his/her job (a different title/ more money for the work being done) because of extra responsibilities and duties. Some members are applying for Job Reclassification.
- **Completing C-10 forms** is a concern of employees. Teachers must contact all students they teach who are absent even after the initial letter is sent to parents. Teachers question the use of Web Attendance as well as a paper roll book. Some schools do not have phones for teachers to use to contact parents.

LPAE is eagerly planning a “**Pay Day Hooray Party**” for Friday, September 28. LPAE is inviting all Lafayette Parish Employees to join LPAE in Beaver Park to celebrate our pay raise. The 2006-2007 school year ended with LPAE/LAE/NEA and Lafayette Parish employees contacting the Governor and Legislators encouraging them to support pay raises



Lafayette Parish
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for all education employees, telling them all education employees deserved a pay raise. This party is to celebrate the pay raise, get employees together to have fun, and brainstorm ideas to help all employees be heard and become better informed.

To all LPAE members, thank you for choosing LPAE as your professional organization. All non-members are invited to attend our monthly meetings to find out how LPAE works for its members. LPAE has meetings on the first Thursday of each month at L. J. Alleman Middle School. Meetings begin at 4:15 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. If you want any information about LPAE, call (337) 231-0010 or e-mail info@lpae.org.

Joycelyn Olivier, President, LPAE

Don't Forget to Use Your LAE Access Card!



By using my Access card, it more than paid for my dues.

- Kim R.

Find savings in:

- Automotive
- Dining
- Hotels
- Recreation
- Ski and Snowboard
- Condo
- Golf
- Deals
- Services
- Cruises
- Health and Beauty
- Movies
- Shopping
- Travel

Success Stories

The pro-public education Congress YOU helped elect has been listening to your calls and e-mails! Congress passed a number of pro-public education bills supported by NEA. Victories for educators, schools, and students include:

Increased education funding for this year

Congress passed a year-long "continuing resolution" providing an increase of \$1 billion for education programs, including for Title I, special education, and Pell Grants.

Increased education funding for next year

Both the House and Senate passed budget resolutions that would provide \$6 billion more for education than requested by the President. The budget resolution provides a blueprint for how federal funds will be spent in the coming year.

Educator tax deduction

The Senate passed an amendment to its budget resolution that would make permanent the tax deduction for educators' out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses, increase it from \$250 to \$400, and extend it to cover professional development expenses.

Student loan rates

The House passed the College Student Relief Act, which would reduce the interest rate on subsidized student loans by half.

Children's health

Both the House and Senate included \$750 million in funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in emergency "supplemental" funding bills for the current fiscal year. This funding is necessary to ensure continued services to eligible children.

Courtesy of www.nea.org



LPAE Members Represent You on State Committees

LPAE would like to recognize and thank the following members who serve on LAE committees.

- ❖ Judith H. McRaney - Constitution and Bylaws
- ❖ Henrietta F. Gallien – Education Support Professionals Advisory
- ❖ Vickie M. Jacquet – Education Support Professionals Advisory
- ❖ Melinda W. Mangham, Chair - Legislative Committee
- ❖ Joycelyn B. Olivier - Program and Budget
- ❖ Lloyd J. Gonzales - Resolutions

The LINK needs your news, your ideas, your issues, your articles.

Email LPAE at info@lpae.org
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LPSS Insurance Options for January 2008

Option 1 – PPO Current

- \$750 Individual Deductible
- 80% In-Network
- Drug Deductible - \$100
- \$3,000 Individual Out of Pocket
- 60% Non-Network
- Drug Co-Pay \$10/\$25/\$50
- No Change in Premium

Option 3 – HAS (Health Savings Account)

- \$2500 Individual Deductible
- 80% In-Network
- \$4,000 Individual Out of Pocket
- \$5,050 Family Deductible
- 60% Non-Network
- Drug Co-Pay \$10/\$25/\$50
- \$7,500 Family Out of Pocket
- Premium Savings 18%-21%

Option 2 – PPO

- \$750 Individual Deductible
- 80% In-Network
- Drug Deductible - \$100
- \$3,000 Individual Out of Pocket
- 60% Non-Network
- \$30 Primary Co-Pay
- Drug Co-Pay \$10/\$25/\$50
- Premium Increase 7%-10%

name. Your input is important!

Teacher Learns and Shares Experiences in Weightlessness



Last week, Steve Edmiston, Prairie Elementary School teacher and LPAE member was launched into weightlessness along with a selected group of teachers from Louisiana and Mississippi as part of the Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Flights of Discovery Program. The goal of the program is to inspire and prepare the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

The teachers prepared for the zero-gravity flights this summer by attending workshops and designing experiments to execute while in zero-gravity in order to test Newton's Laws of Motion. The day following his flight, Mr. Edmiston wore his flight suit to school and shared this fascinating experience with his fifth graders and the school. He and the other teachers are bringing their in-flight experiences and videotaped experiments