



NEA/WVEA AFFILIATE

Watch along the Kanawha

August 2008

WELCOME BACK— FROM YOUR KCEA FAMILY!!

Hopefully you've had a restful summer and are excited about starting the new school year. Your KCEA family appreciates your dedication to the students and families in Kanawha County. Families keep in touch, so let us hear from you often.

email: dhadkins@gmail.com

Dinah
KCEA President

On The Road

WVEA State President, Dale Lee, and Executive Director, David Haney, will take part in a KCEA family gathering this fall when they begin their "WVEA Listening Tour". These leaders will visit WV counties, anxious to hear concerns and answer pertinent questions for educators.

BE WATCHING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY— YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

WVEA Listening Tour

KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOL PERSONNEL DESERVE DAILY RATE OF PAY FOR ALL REQUIRED STAFF DEVELOPMENT OR TRAINING SESSIONS

For several years KCEA/WVEA has promoted that all educators receive his/her daily rate of pay for any required staff development or training beyond the eighteen hours determined by the State Board of Education. It's time to be respected and paid as professionals. Your KCEA president has proposed implementation of such a policy at several board meetings.

In August, your KCEA/WVEA building representative should have a petition available for you to sign in support of this issue. These signatures will be presented to the KCS Board of Education in September. If a petition is not available to you, please contact your KCEA president, Dinah Adkins, at dhadkins@gmail.com or call 776-5144, so that KCEA can provide you an opportunity to participate in this effort.

See page 2--KCEA ISSUES

KCEA/WVEA "NEVER" represents an administrator against a teacher. Teachers take precedence!

KCEA Issues for the 2008-09 School Year

- Daily rate of pay for all Professional Development
- Improved Optical/Dental Benefits
- Improved county supplement pay for all employees
- Increased salary supplement for extracurricular duties such as yearbook sponsor, drama coaches, etc.
- Overage pay for classroom aides



OVERAGE PAY APPLIES TO ALL TEACHERS

All teachers should receive overage pay when the number of students in a class exceeds what is allowed by law. THIS APPLIES TO MUSIC, ART, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ETC. If you are not receiving the extra pay, and need assistance, please call the HELP LINE at 1.866.568.WVEA or e-mail the Help Center at www.wvea.org.

WEB SITES YOU CAN USE!

KCEA: <http://pages.suddenlink.net/kcea/>

<http://boe.kana.k12.wv.us/>

www.wvea.org

www.nea.org

Watch Along the Kanawha

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Dinah Adkins
President & Editor

Member Comments and Suggestions For Future Articles are
Invited by Writing to the Editor at the above address or
you can e-mail the editor at dhadkins@gmail.com

KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS ALERT!!

GOVERNOR'S IDEAS?

What's up with the State Department of Education?? Is the Governor saying he wants to take over the department? Is the Governor saying he wants to do away with some current hiring practices in Section 18A of WV law? THE WVEA HAS FOUGHT LONG AND HARD FOR EMPLOYEES' HIRING RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES. It would be a travesty to see these uprooted or eliminated.

KCEA/WVEA will monitor this situation closely!

NEW MEMBERS

Your FREE \$15,000 life insurance policy is in effect with membership in KCEA/WVEA. After one year, you may choose to continue this coverage at a reasonable rate. Dues Tab insurance, also FREE, is yours as a new member. This valuable insurance continues as long as you remain a member. OUR ASSOCIATION DOES NOT DROP YOUR INSURANCE AFTER ONE YEAR--that's a KCEA/WVEA plus!!

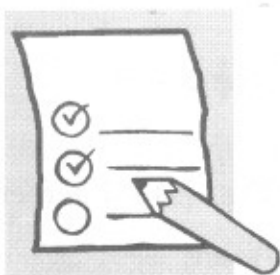
Go to www.WVEA.org and select Member Benefits for more details.

2008-09 SALARY SCHEDULE

For an updated salary schedule go online to:
<http://pages.suddenlink.net/kcea/> This information is available as soon as we receive it from Kanawha County Schools.

WV VITAL SURVEY RESULTS

Last spring the WV Dept. of Education provided a 20 minute online survey for all employees. Nearly 10,000 employees responded—that was 43% statewide. If your county reached the 40% required threshold for participation, the results are available. Sad to say, Kanawha County employees did not reach the 40% participation threshold. This was partly due to the difficulty employees had getting online to participate, and partly due to apathy among employees. Hopefully, if the opportunity arises again, Kanawha Co. employees will provide feedback.



KCEA--ON THE JOB 24/7

KCEA was the only association in attendance at a Central Office meeting this summer to discuss significant calendar changes for 2009-10. Your KCEA President requested all employees complete a survey on proposed changes in the calendar and/or Staff Development. Such changes “may” be beneficial, but it is “crucial that all employees have meaningful input when changes are proposed”.

Once again, if a survey is developed and presented to employees, please complete and return the survey so “your voice can be heard”!



1.866.568.WVEA

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



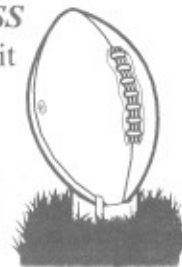
Your (blue) ACCESS Membership Card has been sent to your home address. This is NOT a credit card. It will provide proof of your KCEA/WVEA membership and will afford you VALUABLE DISCOUNTS. Activate your card immediately and take advantage of the many online discount coupons...food, clothing, automotive, electronics, hotels, motels, car rentals, amusement park tickets, movie tickets, etc. THIS BLUE CARD CAN REALLY SAVE YOU MONEY!!!!

Planning to purchase a big-screen television before football season???

Use your WVEA ACCESS Card to save 7% at Circuit City on purchases over \$199!

...I just saved \$218 on a TV purchase--KCEA member

...on my next TV, I can save \$100--KCEA member



Go online to WVEA.org, Member Benefits, Access Card and have your coupon e-mailed to you!

RETIREMENT UPDATE

Check the (www.WVEA.org) website for information. Also check the KCEA website (<http://pages.suddenlink.net/kcea/>).

Employees who selected the TRS plan:

- May have the option to pay back money in order to receive full retirement benefits (1 ½ percent for the years in the TDC plus 4 percent interest)
- May borrow money from the Retirement Board
- If he/she chooses the option to buy back years, the money must be paid by June 30, 2009
- Will not be able to include any years not paid back for benefit calculations, but WILL receive credit for eligibility of retirement
- Will receive three (3) forms to send to the Retirement Board (See KCEA website <http://pages.suddenlink.net/kcea/>)
- May name the same beneficiary, but will need to complete the new form
- May still have some costs deducted from current summer pay checks in order to pay for the last quarter in TDC ending June 30.
- May print TRS forms from the WV Retirement Board website.
- Will need patience to complete this process

ATTENTION RETIREES

If you plan to retire, you may chose to continue your membership in WVEA-Retired by paying the membership fee in a lump sum, or receive a payment book. Ten payments of \$30 will secure your membership in the association for your lifetime. This group of our organization continues to work with the legislature to insure COLA and other benefits for retirees. They are an important part of the WVEA/KCEA family. Remember--you must continue your membership in order to retain your NEA benefits.