

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a great summer which included relaxation, fun with friends and family, traveling or working summer school! AEA welcomed over 250 new APS educators this past week at New Teachers' Orientation and recruited many new members. If you are one of those, welcome to the Association! We are elated you've joined us and look forward in making this the best association we can be. Many thanks, to our returning members, who provide us support and strength. Members, let's continue to include, support, and outreach, to all the new colleagues in your buildings. While maintaining consistent recruitment to the colleagues who haven't joined yet. Remember, sometimes all we need to do is "Ask them." Our first Delegate Assembly is on Monday, September 12, 2016, at Kenmore Middle School's library. Please let your Building Delegates know if you have ideas on how professional development is best delivered at your work site.

EDUCATORS IN DC. FOR THE NEA CONVENTION

Our AEA members were hard at work from July 2 – July 7, 2016 at the NEA Convention, with over 125 New Business items. Many thanks to *Miles Carey, Aldonia Cooper, Jaim Foster, Ingrid Gant, Octavia Harris, Judith Knight, Milagros Martinez, Tammy Metz, Valerie Jackson-Smith, Sidney and Wendy Woodson*, for your great work.

Much discussion was made with the **NEA-ATA (American Teachers Association) merger**. This RA ensured that NEA would keep social justice advocacy at the forefront of its mission, to provide quality public education for all of America's students. Vice President Becki Pringle said, "Our focused work on Institutional Racism was another step in keeping that commitment."

John Starks, NEA Executive Director, said, "Strong public schools will depend on strong unions, so the NEA must ensure the next generation of educators are supported in their practice, provided a voice in their professions, and given an opportunity to lead on their passion for justice for their students."

YOU MATTER

The RA was greeted by Presidential Candidate Hilary Clinton who said, "Unions helped create the strongest middle class in the history of the world. You're not just fighting for your members. You're fighting for your students, and families across the country."

Our own Miles Carey captured below, created a new resolution and is very active on this national committee as well. Way to Go!



Members Did You Know?

If you have changed worksites, have a new home address, telephone number and/or personal email address please contact our office. Likewise, if you were a member in another **county or state**, please be advised your membership does not transfer. You need to join with AEA as well. Please contact Alysha by, page@aeava.org

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GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS

We recently hosted a breakfast and luncheon for our new hires and enrolled many new members. Kudos to the AEA Retired members, current members and volunteers who helped pack material for new hires and returning members: **Linda Allen, Karen Darner, Ashantel Epps, Louise Fisbein, JoVo'n Gant, Octavia Harris, Sara Jane Knight, Jay Missal, and special guest – Midge, (AEA Mascot).**



Also as special "Shout Out" to the following retirees and members who attended the new hires luncheon to promote our association: **Jeff Elkner, Karen Darner, Betty Dunn, Linda Rothman, Anya Gan, JoVo'n Gant, Eva Ingram, Shelley Jennings, Judith Knight, Sara Jane Knight, Jay Missal, Rosa Navas, and Kauser Shahid.**

Reminder, please reach out to all members and especially the potential ones. Membership enrollment forms are in all schools and newly hired teachers will receive a \$50 Target gift card. Newly hired Employee Support Professionals will receive a \$25 Target gift based on their dues, which are half of a full time teacher.

Yes, Yes, Yes! It is still in affect, that any member can recruit a new enrollee to our association and receive a **\$10 bonus**.

QUICK CHECK

If you are paying dues through payroll deduction, please check your pay stubs to make sure your deductions are correct:

Full Time Professional	\$36.12 <u>per pay</u>
Half Time Professional	\$19.07
Full Time ESP	\$19.07
Half Time ESP	\$10.31

Salary/Bonus Increases Kick In

The salary step increase included in the FY17 School Board Adopted Budget will first appear, for 10-month employees, in your September 15th pay.

MEET THE BOARD

President ~ Ingrid Gant, is a native of Arlington having been with APS for over 23 years in Special Education, and previously worked 17 years in Parks and Recreation. She's served on the Executive Board for over 8 years and been a building representative for most of her career. She is a servant by nature, always willing to put others first! She loves singing, her family, community and seafood, but above all, her biggest asset is her only son, JoVo'n.

Past President ~ Gerry Collins, spent over 30 years in APS as a middle and high school science teacher, and served as President of the AEA during the past two years. He currently sits on the Executive Board as Past President. Recently retired, Gerry continues to be actively involved in AEA committee work.

Vice President ~ Jeff Elkner, has been a union member and activist for working class and progressive causes since the 1980's. He is excited about being on the AEA Executive board this year, and hopes to use the opportunity to help build our union, serve our members, and connect us to the broader effort to rebuild the union movement. One of his dreams is "To see collective bargaining in Virginia before he dies." Come this January it would be 40 years since collective bargaining left Arlington.

Treasurer ~ Judith Knight, has taught English at Arlington Community High School (formerly, Arlington Mill HS) since 2004. She's been active in AEA as a building rep., and as a delegate to VEA and NEA annual conventions. She has also been active in the AEA PAC. Since 2013, she has been the AEA Treasurer, and will finish her second term in 2016-17. She is looking forward to a great school (and AEA) year. Judith likes to read (mysteries, historical fiction, and science fiction) and work out to music (Jazzercise).

Elementary Representative ~ Aldonia Cooper, has served APS for over 10 years as a Physical Education and Health teacher. She hails from the great New Orleans, and loves to sing. Aldonia has been a member of the Executive Board for 2 terms under two different presidents; now onto the third. She is very active on the local level and serves as a lobbyist for our public schools.

Elementary Representative ~ Gina Miller, is the Testing Coordinator and Lead ESL Teacher at Key School. This is her 2nd year at Key and Arlington, after serving 13 years in Alexandria Public Schools, where she served as the President of EEA. While she loves students, she loves being a mom to her dog, "Ginger Snap" and the best Tia ever to her niece and nephews.

Middle Representative ~ Octavia Harris, is a native of Arlington and a traveler. She loves seafood, crabs especially! She's worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation and schools for 25+ years. She is a black & white movie buff. In her next journey she hopes to become a flight attendant, "Welcome Aboard".

High School Representative ~ Laurel Sheridan, has been a public high school teacher for 20 years. Her focus in college was labor history, so she has always been fascinated by groups of workers that are able to fight and change their conditions against all the odds. Laurel wants to see our membership grow in numbers, especially among our Educational Support Professionals (ESPs), so that they know we are behind them in assuring that their rights are not violated.

Educational Support Professional ~ Valerie Jackson-Smith, has served APS for over 16+ years. She currently serves as the Secretary on the VEA Caucus. Valerie is definitely a recruiter, maintaining the average of 7 to 10 persons per year. She loves to laugh, and has attended the Reggie Smith Organizing training, VEA Conventions, NEA Conventions, and ESP NEA Conventions yearly. This is her second term on the board.

AEA-Retired Representative ~ Jay Missal, served over 33 years in the Army with achievements to include Airborne and Ranger qualifications and some exotic deployments to the Dominican Republic's revolution. Vietnam and some plum assignments like West Berlin, South Korea, and Heidelberg, Germany. Then retirement and a second career: education. After 14 years teaching in APS's alternative programs came another retirement. In both of these careers, came a great appreciation for staying connected to our younger population. Our population changes constantly, but you don't appreciate the incremental changes until you return home, to the U.S., after a long absence. In the AEA-Retired we try to stay connect to the young and assist with the needs.

UniServ Director ~ Kelly Paine, remembers once upon a time, a high school counselor had the audacity to tell a young impressionable girl, "Don't you even bother going to college and just do something in retail"...and that's where her story began. She holds a Bachelor's of Psychology and a Master's in Education. Later, she does the next best thing to any counseling position. Her journey as a UniServ Director began in Fairfax in 2003, and later she joined Arlington in 2008, and "What an exciting 8 years it has been"!

Administrative Assistant ~ Alysha Page, what you may not know is she absolutely love, loves dogs and cats. However, she is highly allergic to them and therefore, have never been able to have them as pets, which is a good thing; since you would probably read about her in the paper as the "Old lady with 500 dogs and 400 cats".

DUES AT WORK

AEA hasn't raised our local dues in 10 years, and this year we will absorbed the increase of dues made by VEA and NEA!

Leave Policy

Employees of APS are awarded 3 personal days at the beginning of the school year. You then incur 10 sick days, by earing ½ a day, per semi-monthly payday. If needed, you may request an advance of sick leave from the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

In Remembrance

Mattie Walker, former AEA President and AEA Retired President, passed away July 6, 2016; surrounded by family.

