

GEA Actionline

December 2005

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several issues have come to light that I feel need to be discussed. First is whether or not a member should have union representation when meeting with an administrator concerning discipline issues. GEA stands behind a member's right to not have union representation, but in order for GEA to ascertain whether or not a past practice or other contract violation has occurred, it is important to inform the building rep as to the outcome, whether positive or negative. It is also GEA's position that members should not be dissuaded by the administration from choosing to have representation.

When in doubt, invoke the Weingarten Rights:

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my association representative be present at the meeting. Without representation I choose not to answer any questions.

The second issue concerns voting. Some members feel that it's pointless to vote when the number of votes equals the number of candidates. Unfortunately, we have to include a write-in line for each position that requires a membership vote. Please keep in mind that by including the write-in line, members are able to add to the pool of candidates the name of someone they feel would be a better candidate. Please be advised though, that all write in candidates have to be called to validate their candidacy. This can sometimes be very time-consuming if not warranted. Please keep this in mind when the nomination process begins: **YOU Can Nominate Yourself.**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

AR Search ends for LT Stone

THANK YOU Gloria Abron for volunteering to be the building rep at Stone. Gloria Abron is an attendant with the pre-k program.

Bargaining

Thanks to all who have responded to the exploratory surveys sent out. The bargaining team is in the process of tallying and creating, from the returned surveys, an initial bargaining survey. This survey should be out right after break.

New Teacher Get-together/Pizza Party

The new teacher get-together on October 17th was not as well attended as hoped, but those there were able to meet and talk with two of our local leaders, State Senator Don Moffitt and Knox County Regional Superintendent Bonnie Harris. The pizza party held on November 17th had 107 adults and 22 children in attendance. The next pizza party will be held in the spring.

Election Results

The results of the elections held on November 30th, as tabulated and witnessed on December 7th, where as follows:

Region Vice-chair – Jeff Tyrrell (Abingdon Education Association)

IEA-RA Delegates – Isaac Triplett, Vera Fornander, Lisa Justus, Tim Mackey, and Scott Rasso

Alternate Delegates – Pat Willems, Debbie Greenlief, Charles McKenna, Tammy Myers, and Margaret Tolley

Ethnic Minority Delegate-at-large – Bettina Bunch

