

GEA Actionline

January 2006

A Note from the President

Happy New Year!!! This will be a very busy year for our association, with many new changes.

This year we will be electing a new association president. As you are aware, I am only acting as an interim president, completing the term vacated by Shirley Pauer for early retirement. I will, though, be submitting my nomination for the president's position. This will make my wife very happy.

The GEA Office has a new home. We were asked in early December to move so that another business on our floor could expand. We are now located at 64 South Prairie, Suite 401. The phone number and Web and email address will remain the same. Anyone wishing to tour our new facility is welcome to join me for an open house on Friday, February 3, from 3:00-4:30. This new office came without cabinet space. If you or someone you know needs to get rid of some cabinets, let me know. Special thanks go out to **Jared Lacy** for finding the office space and negotiating the price, to **Tim Mackey** for finding the extra help needed to move the heavy stuff, and to **Russ Ullrich** for setting up the phone and computer lines.

Elections

There will be several elections this spring and I encourage everyone able to vote to do so astutely. Locally we will be electing a president, two members at large, five regional representatives, and three NEA delegates to the Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida. These positions, with the exception of president, are open to any GEA member. A member running for the office of president must first have been on the executive council or been an AR (building rep) for two years.

Regionally we will be electing a Region Chair and a Region Vice-chair. Local nominations can be submitted to me verbally or via email at **president@gea-online.org**. Region nomination forms can be acquired from your building rep and will need to be mailed to the Region Chair. All

Bargaining

We begin contract negotiations on February 6th, 7th, and 8th. Wish the team of **Pat Willems, Tim Mackey, Virgie Scott-Shiman, Russ Ullrich, Margaret Tolley, John Hughes, Isaac Triplett, and Uniserv Director Jeff Conrad** good luck. The bargaining team has been working very hard to put together a proposal that is both economically and responsibly fair for all. The survey you received is a reflection of this hard work.

Comprehensive Boundary Study

The results of the boundary study will be released on Monday, January 30th, at 6:00pm in the high school auditorium. The results of this study will undoubtedly affect everyone. Due to other association business I will not be in attendance, but I encourage all interested members to attend and share their thoughts with one of the bargaining team members.

Read Across America

As in the past, GEA will give \$50.00 to each school for supplies toward their reading project, provided requests are submitted in writing to Tim Mackey at GHS.

Retirement

Good news if you were planning to retire using 20/20 but did not submit your letter of intent before the deadline last year. As of December 23, 2005, the administrative rules governing the teachers' retirement system were changed to exempt contracts that were bargained prior to the new rules and that do not expire before 2011. This means anyone planning to retire in the next two years can now do so and receive the 20/20 option, provided they meet the qualifications stipulated in the contract and a letter of intent is submitted prior to the expiration of the present contract (August 1, 2006). **Prior to taking any action, members should contact TRS to verify that they have enough credits, including sick leave. The number is 1-800-877-7896.**