

NEWS & VIEWS

Insurance Forms Due

ALL employees **must** complete and return the Medical/Dental Enrollment Form and the Section 125 Flexible Spending Accounts Enrollment Form, regardless of participation in the plans and even if there are no changes to the plan. Forms must then be received in the District Insurance Office by June 30. BEA Building Reps will collect and send completed forms to the Insurance Office until May 23. Please call Eunice Vance at 247-3875 for answers to any specific questions.



As negotiated in the Master Agreement, the District contributes \$416 per month for eligible full-time employees. This amount is prorated for part-time employees based upon *FTE*.

There is **NO OPEN ENROLLMENT**. If you are not currently covered on the medical plan, you may not enroll unless you have an allowable change in status. If you are enrolled but a dependent is not enrolled, you will not be allowed to add the dependent, unless a change in status has occurred.

An allowable change in status includes changes in legal marital status, number of dependents, employment status, work schedule, dependent eligibility, and other events.

Special enrollment periods are allowed for those who originally declined coverage if they had other coverage and it has been lost or if their *COBRA* eligibility has expired.

FLEX PLAN NEWS

The Internal Revenue Service now allows a grace period of 2½ months following each flex plan year. For example, a member has elected to put \$1200 into their 2005/06 Flex Plan, but has only incurred \$1000 of eligible expenses at the end of the flex plan year (June 30). With the new IRS rule the member will not have to forfeit the remaining \$200 if an eligible expense occurs within 2½ months. If a \$500 expense occurs within the grace period, \$200 would be treated as expenses for the previous year's plan and \$300 would go towards the current year's plan.

Thank You! Thursday, May 25th, 4-8 p.m.
Josephine Bed & Breakfast

Thank-You Reception 514 N. 29th Street
(next door to the BEA)

Trustees **Conrad Stroebe** and **Karen Moses** have given over 31 years of service to School District 2 students and staff on the Billings School Board. Come to the reception to express your gratitude and wish them well on their future endeavors. Refreshments will be provided.



Elect Building Reps

At the end of each school year, members elect their *BEA* building representatives for the following school year. *BEA By-Laws Article III, Section 1, C.* states: Each school faculty shall have one voting Representative for each fifteen *BEA* members with each faculty guaranteed a minimum of one representative.

BEA Representatives, or "*Building Reps*" as they are fondly called, are an integral part of the Association. Along with the officers and board of directors, this group makes up the Representative Council. Each Building Rep has one vote and serves a one-year term which begins on June 15.

Building Reps are an important link between the members and the Association. They attend monthly meetings, receive and disseminate communications from the *BEA*, conduct elections in the schools, and are often a member's first resource for any union questions.

In recognition of the work and commitment of Building Reps, local membership dues are rebated at the end of the school year for attending 8 of the 9 Representative Council meetings and conducting Association business in the schools.

Elections should be held before the end of school. Below is a list of schools and the number of representatives to which each school is entitled.



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School # of Reps

School	# of Reps
Adult Ed	1
Alkali Creek	2
Arrowhead	2
Beartooth	1
Bench	2
Big Sky	2
Bitterroot	2
Boulder	2
Broadwater	2
Burlington	1
Career Center	2
Castle Rock	3
Central Heights	2
Crossroads	1
Eagle Cliffs	2
Eagle Cliffs/Music	1
Highland	1
Lewis & Clark	3
McKinley	2
Meadowlark	2
Miles Ave.	2
Newman	1
North Park	1
Orchard	1
Orchard/Speech	1
Poly Drive	1
Ponderosa	2
Pupil Services	1
Rimrock	1
Riverside	3
Rose Park	1
Sandstone	2
Senior	7
Senior Academy	1
Skyview	6
Washington	1
West	7
West Academy	1
Will James	3

School Board Election Results

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome to returning and new school board trustees:

Kathy Kelker, Mary Jo Fox, and Rachel Stagg.



A Message from the President

“Special Thanks to Karen Moses & Conrad Stroebe for their dedication to School District 2”



Allan Audet
BEA President

Thank You!

It is the time of year when we are all working diligently to finalize our planned goals and activities. I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to send a huge Thank you to all the individuals who so graciously

agreed to serve on the many BEA and District committees. All of the committees require a substantial time commitment and, in some cases, late evenings and weekends. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Serving on the committees is a critical component to the success of the BEA. The educators' voice influences many of the decisions that are made throughout the school year. Administration and the School Board alike depend on the expertise and first-hand knowledge educators bring to the committees. The BEA BOD and I rely heavily on the information provided by committee members to determine

the action the Association must take to protect members' rights. Building Representatives serve a critical role by communicating with their colleagues to help make decisions that guide the Association's direction. Building Representatives vote on the establishment of new policies, memorandum of agreements and budgets which directly affect all members of the Association. Building Reps also play a key role as a first line of defense for members. Building Reps provide members with contractual information and in some cases represent them at meetings where there is an Administrative or Association concern.

The "sign up" form below will provide you with an opportunity to serve and have a voice in our Association. Watch for detailed information from your Building Rep about the scope and nature of the BEA committees which need your involvement. We all know time is a valuable commodity, but I encourage you to become a critical and appreciated component of the Association by volunteering to serve on a committee.



BEA Committee Application



Please consider my request to serve on the BEA Committee(s) listed below for the 2006/07 school year!

Name _____

06/07 School Location _____

How would you like to help?

- Awards
- BEA Fund for Needy Kids
- By-Laws & Policy
- Calendar
- Election
- Extra Pay
- Insurance
- Membership
- Minority Affairs
- Negotiations
- Political Action Committee
- Scholarship

I would like to serve on the following committees.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

**Return to the BEA Office
by May 27, 2006**

School District 2 Standing Committees

The BEA appoints members to the following District Committees:

- Business Committee
- School/Community Committee
- Education Committee
- Professional Development Academy Advisory Committee
- Labor Management Committee





MEAMFT News

MEA-MFT 2006

Summer Conference Slated

Looking for Information? Motivation?
Inspiration? Skills? Fun?

MEA-MFT Summer Conference is a great opportunity to meet other members of your MEA-MFT family and learn skills you can use

on the job and off. The conference is being held at Carroll College in Helena on July 24-26, 2006. For more information go to <http://mea-mft.org/06registrati4.pdf> to download agenda and registration form.



- * ALL MEA-MFT members welcome
- * ALL expenses paid by MEA-MFT
- * Power-packed workshops available
- * Informative general sessions slated
- * Renewal Units available
- * Air-conditioned dorm rooms are available
- * Afternoon FUN activities scheduled

Courses on communications, women's leadership, bargaining, time and stress management, school budget analysis, retirement, and much more are available. After class, have fun horseback riding, rafting, golfing, or enjoy a boat tour on the Missouri or visit Tizer Gardens.

SPARKS stresses leadership

BEA members in their first six years of teaching can learn more leadership skills and develop life-long friendships by participating in the SPARKS program sponsored by the MEA-MFT Summer Conference in Helena at Carroll College on July 24-26. SPARKS empowers local teachers to bring new energy into the BEA organization. SPARKS also enables early career teachers to become acquainted with the union and build a positive connection to union leaders and the role of MEA-MFT in Montana. The program is limited to 20-25 attendees who have been recommended by local presidents across

Montana. Attendees will enjoy presentations focusing on issues concerning new teachers such as classroom management, personal finance, the union's role and history, and personal goal-setting.

If members are interested in attending SPARKS call BEA President Allan Audet at 248-9812.



Carroll College

BEA Thanks Members for Donations

The BEA Fund for Needy Kids Committee would like to thank all who sent donations to the fund. To date \$645 has been added to the fund which extends financial help to students in the District.

If members have questions or want to help a student in need, email Carol Lustig, BEA Fund for Needy Kids Chair, at lustigc@billings.k12.mt.us. Send contributions to the BEA at 510 N. 29th St., Billings, MT 59102. Make checks payable to "BEA FUND FOR NEEDY KIDS".



Can you HELP a needy child?

NEEDED:

Registration Volunteers, MEA-MFT Convention



Planning for the 2006 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Billings on Thursday, October 19, and Friday, October 20, is well under way, with most committees already hard at work. One key component, registration, relies heavily upon local volunteers.

Registration Committee Chair Pat Evans, West High teacher, will send out flyers in September for help. Evans suggests teachers give serious consideration to leaving open a two-hour slot during one or both days in which they can help with registration. "Crunch Time" occurs during the opening hours on Thursday morning. Many volunteers are needed to begin a shift at 7 a.m.

The entire registration process takes only a few minutes. A large number of volunteers at the registration tables would streamline the whole process and get attendees to their sectionals as quickly as possible.

Evans has served as chairman many times but is planning to retire soon. Anyone interested in serving as Registration Committee Chairman in future MEA-MFT Educators' Conferences should call him at West High (655-1387) or at his home (248-5076).

BEA members should consider volunteering a few hours on October 19 and 20 so Billings can maintain its well-deserved reputation of producing a conference better than any other in the state.



ZOOMONTANA FUNDRAISER

Volunteers Needed



The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association and ZOOMontana will be presenting the First Annual YELLOWSTONE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL AT ZOOMONTANA on August 4-6. Friday, August 4, after 6 p.m., eight local bands and a possible jam session will be

featured. Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 3-4 national/regional groups and some local talent will perform. The festival concludes Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast and a bluegrass gospel jam session. All proceeds go to ZOOMontana.

To make this event work, volunteers are needed. Jobs include parking lot/traffic control, entrance gates, information, and general help. Four (4) hours of help will get you a weekend pass to the festival and the ZOO. For more details contact:

Barry Gum at gumb@billings.k12.mt.us (work) or GUMPB@msn.com (home)



Summer Politics: Watch for these Issues



Primary Election: June 6!
General Election: November 7!
Make sure you vote!

The political wheels keep turning during the summer.

NCI CI-97 (also called the *Stop Over-Spending initiative*) will hamstring government spending. **DO NOT SIGN** a petition to put this initiative on the ballot.

I-151 (*Raise Montana*) will increase Montana's minimum wage to \$6.15 per hour. **DO SIGN** the petition to get this initiative on the ballot this fall. The petition is at the *BEA* Office.

You must be registered by October 10 to vote in the November 7 election. If you are not registered, call the *BEA* office for a voter registration form or go to <http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/elections/> to download a form.

Register for Summer ER&D Classes NOW

Register for these classes soon. Call Community Education at 247-3700. For more information, visit the *BEA* website, <http://www.beabillings.org/>



[ER&DCourses.html](#)

Thinking Math I for Grades K-8

June 1, 2, 5, 6, & 7

Reading Comprehension for Grades K-8

June 5-8 or August 1-4

Managing Anti-Social Behavior

May 30, 31 & June 1 or August 14-16



Red Cross Needs Instructors



The local chapter of the American Red Cross is looking for instructors to teach community classes, approximately one every two months. Teacher certification requires two days of free training. The next training class will be June 3 and 4. For more information,

please contact the *Preparedness & Response Associate*, Adene Hammond at 245-3512 or hammonda@usa.redcross.org.













Thank you Volunteers!

The *BEA* Political Action Committee and Support Your Schools extend a heartfelt thank you to all who helped with the School Elections. Phone calling, signs in yards, getting family and friends to the polls, spreading the



word to the public, all these efforts are greatly appreciated.

May - August Calendar

	May 16	Representative Council
	May 23	Turn in Insurance forms to Building Reps
	May 25	Reception for Stroebe & Moses
	May 27	Last day of school
	June 1	Non-renewal Deadline
	June 6	Primary Election
	June 30	Completed Insurance forms due
	June 30-July 5	NEA RA in Orlando
	July 24-26	MEA-MFT Summer Conference
	August 21	Teachers back to School!



Individual Teacher Contracts

Know Your Master Agreement

Individual Teacher Contracts will be distributed soon.

Building Representatives will have a copy of the 2006/07 Salary Schedule after May 16. Stipends are not included in the individual teaching contract.

If you have questions regarding your individual teacher contract call *BEA* President Allan Audet, 248-9812. (See *MCA 20-4-205 Notification of teacher reelection- acceptance* for exact language.)

Keep these important points in mind:

- Examine the contract for accuracy.
- Make sure your salary placement is correct.
- Remember to sign and return the original to District Human Resources within 20 days of receipt. If the signed contract is not returned within 20 days, the District will consider the position not accepted and the contract void.
- Make sure the Human Resources Department has a current mailing address on file in case the District does not distribute contracts before the end of the school year.



Make Your Vote Count:

'Permanent Absentee Voting'

Never miss another election! You can complete an application for absentee voting so that a ballot for every election is automatically mailed to you. Download the application from

the site <http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/elections/>



House Painters

NEED your house interior repainted? Call for that exterior job too! Big or small—Dave Barnett & Mike Cantrell can do the job! 656-7767 or 628-7122

BEA President, ALLAN AUDET
 1st Vice President, JEFF GREENFIELD
 2nd Vice President, DIANE WELHAVEN
 Secretary, JOAN SLEETH

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