

News & Views

◆ Billings Education Association ◆ 510 North 29th Street ◆ Billings, MT 59101 ◆ 1-406-248-9812 ◆

Marshall leaves MEA-MFT position

Cathleen Marshall was hired as the *BEA* secretary by *BEA* President Lorraine Jensen on October 1, 1989. Now, exactly 15 years later, she is getting married and will be moving to Arizona.

Cathy worked with Steve Henry as the *BEA* Office Manager/Bookkeeper when he became *BEA* President in 1990, and briefly with Scott T. McCulloch when he became *BEA* President in 1995.



In September 1995, Dolores Kembel retired and Cathy assumed the administrative assistant position for the *MEA* field office located in the *BEA* building, again working with Steve Henry who had become the *MEA* UniServ Director when David Sexton retired. Cathy has been a part of this office for so long it is hard to imagine that she will not be here. She will be missed but we are all so very happy for her and wish her the best in her new life in Arizona.

Pat Johnson will assume Cathy's position. She currently works at the *MEA-MFT* Northwest Field Office in Missoula and will move to Billings soon.

VOL. 41, NO. 1
September, 2004

After 15 years, I would like to say good-bye to all the people I have met throughout my employment with the BEA and MEA-MFT. It is a bittersweet departure, but finding love is wonderful, especially at my age. I am getting married on October 1st and will be moving to Arizona with my son. I have enjoyed the many "ups and downs" of the past years. I will miss the many friends I have met working in this office but I am also looking forward to my new life with Paul in Arizona. I'll be sitting by the pool and playing golf on the course this winter!

Cathy

Important Tips for Conference

October 21-22, Helena

MEA-MFT Educators' Conference



Pre-registration forms (page 7 of the Conference Catalog) must be postmarked or delivered to the Helena *MEA-MFT* office by Monday, October 4, 2004. The *MEA-MFT* Conference programs have been distributed to members through the Building Reps. A limited number of copies are also available at the *BEA* Office. School District 2 teachers may earn one quarter step-up credit for completing 10 sessions at the *MEA-MFT* Educators' Conference.

Lance Dyrdal, public relations chair for the 2004 conference, invites all Montana educators. Registration forms are also available online. The registration form is a *PDF* file. An *Adobe Acrobat Reader* is necessary to view *PDF* files, but teachers may download the program for free from the Adobe web site. Instructions and download are provided.

Conference attendees should also make reservations for rooms now. A list of motels/hotels in Helena is on Page 3 of this newsletter. Don't wait—rooms fill quickly.

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'



BEA sponsors Logo Contest

Here's an easy way to win a \$50 gift certificate from a business of your choice. Just design a new *BEA* logo and you can be the winner! To qualify, pay attention to the following rules.

- ◆ *BEA* members submit a logo design by October 11.
- ◆ The design must be monochromatic, reproducible and must readily identify the *BEA*.
- ◆ *BEA* Board of Directors will select up to 5 designs from those submitted by October 11.
- ◆ Rep Council will vote to decide the winning logo at the October 19 meeting.

Reminder: MT Shares Deadline

United Way/MT Shares Campaign Coordinators are urged to return all completed MT Shares pledges forms to the *BEA* Office by Sept. 30.



Call the United Way to pick up your school's United Way materials when they have been completed. Thank you for your assistance in both the United Way and MT Shares campaigns.



Allan Audet
BEA President



Vote

Nov. 2, 2004



PLAN For the Future



The 2004 -2005 legislative session is going to be one of the most important sessions for education in decades. With the recent *Sherlock* decision on school funding and the pending response from the State Supreme Court, legislators will be faced with some very difficult decisions. It will be imperative that we have legislators who are pro-education and are willing to listen to those of us in the education community.



The school-funding lawsuit brought by the Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) will play a key role in this legislative session. Judge Sherlock has already ruled in favor of MQEC and we are now waiting for a decision from the Montana Supreme Court. Many groups are considering the following remedies for the lawsuit.

☆ **Educator Entitlement**

Funding for teachers similar to what is currently provided for students in the form of ANB. This source of funding would be more stable as teacher populations do not fluctuate as much as student populations.

☆ **Progressive Basic Entitlement**

Provide basic entitlement based on a set number of students rather than one entitlement per district.

☆ **Off site ANB**

Develop a plan for distance learning that will provide funding for the students that are served.

☆ **Indian Education for All**

Funding to provide training to better meet the diverse needs of the Native American population.

☆ **Flexible Scheduling**

Allow individual districts to set the working hours to better meet student needs.

☆ **Full ANB Funding** for children beginning at age 5: Full Day Kindergarten

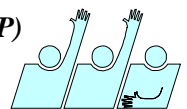
☆ **Increase Elementary ANB** to levels equal to high school levels.

☆ **Repeal SB 424/03 Retirement Provision.**

☆ **State Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)**

☆ **Increase TRS Multiplier**

Keep these ideas in mind as you talk with the candidates. Consider them as they are discussed at this year's legislative session. We can make a difference if we work to become educated about the issues and elect knowledgeable people to represent our interests in Helena.



Be an educated voter. Some candidates do not always promote the best interests of public education. Other candidates view vouchers, charter schools, or privatization of services differently than we do. Some candidates do not demonstrate a willingness to generate new revenue for education. The BEA PAC endorsed candidates have proven voting records in support of education. The new candidates have assured us of their support. Keep this in mind when voting on November 2.



Each of the BEA PAC endorsed candidates has expressed the need for assistance. As Election Day draws near, the workload and time commitment for the candidates increases and your support will be necessary and greatly appreciated. Contact your candidate of choice and volunteer to lend a hand to help assure an educational voice in Helena during this legislative session.

The assistance comes in various forms:

- **Phone banks**
- **Sign location coordinator**
- **Mailings**
- **Literature Drops**
- **Voter Identification / Registration**
- **Door to Door Conversations**



Billings Education Association Political Action Committee
ENDORSEMENTS



2004 STATE ENDORSEMENTS



Supreme Court Justices

Jim Nelson
Brian Morris

Superintendent of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch



Secretary of State
Bill Kennedy

Governor
Brian Schweitzer
John Bohlinger

MEA-MFT COPE Endorsement



2004 LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

Gary Forrester
House District 44

Tyler Smith
House District 49



Mark Noennig
House District 46

Matt Millenbach
House District 50

Lyn McKinney
House District 47

Robyn Driscoll
House District 51

Wanda Grinde
House District 48

Arlene Becker
House District 52



Carol Gibson
Elsie Arntzen
Co-Endorsement
House District 53

Gary Branae
House District 54

Michael Lange
Bea Ann Melichar
Co-Endorsement
House District 55

Lane Larson
Senate District 22

Kim Gillan
Senate District 24

Bruce Simon
Lynda Moss
Co-Endorsement
Senate District 26

Chris Daem
Senate District 27



Helena Area Lodging Facilities
2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference



Best Western Great Northern Hotel
835 Great Northern Blvd. (Box 1135)
Helena, MT 59624
406-457-5500 or 1-800-829-4047
Single or Double: \$84

Blackstone Inn
2300 North Oakes
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-3064 or 1-800-743-7480
Single, \$40 —Double, \$84

Budget Inn Express
524 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-0600 or 1-800-862-1334
Single, \$30 —Double, \$39

Days Inn
2001 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-3280 or 1-800-329-7466
Single, \$55 —Double, \$65

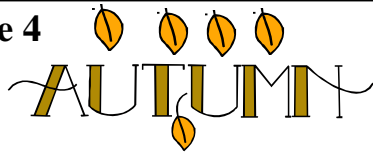
Elkhorn Mountain Inn
1 Jackson Creek Road
Clancy, MT 59634
406-442-6625
Single, \$49.95 —Double, \$55

Fairfield Inn
2150 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-9944 or 1-800-228-2800

Hampton Inn
3000 U.S. Highway 12 East
Helena, MT 59601
406-443-5800 or 1-800-426-7866
Single, \$70 —Double, \$79

Helena Comfort Inn
750 Fee Street
Helena, MT 59601
406-443-1000 or 1-800-228-5150
Single, \$35 —Double, \$50

Helena Inn
910 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-6080 or 1-877-387-0102



September/October Calendar

- Sept. 30 Return MT Shares Forms to BEA
- Oct. 1 Step-Up Credit Deadline
- Oct. 1 Montana Educator Forum - Helena
- Oct. 4 MT Ed. Conference Registration Deadline
- Oct. 4 Voter Registration Deadline for Nov. Election
- Oct. 13 BEA Board of Directors
- Oct. 19 Representative Council/By-Laws Election
- Oct. 21-22 MT. Educators Conference - Helena
- Oct. 31 Halloween

Know Your Master Agreement

Several important deadlines are quickly approaching. During the month of April, Human Services announced that teachers taking classes were eligible for a lane change/educational step-up if they completed their classes before Sept. 1, 2004. Those credits **must be submitted to the Human Resources Office by October 1, 2004** to be used for advancement on the salary schedule for the 2004-2005 school year. Verification must include the official transcript, unless the transcript is not available. In such cases, grade slips will be acceptable pending the official transcript before Dec. 31, 2004. Don't let procrastination cost you money.



Aukshun Appointed

Billings West teacher Margaret Aukshun of West High is a co-editor of the new **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics** publication, "Using Activities from the *Mathematics Teacher*." Aukshun was also selected as a content reviewer for *Measured Progress's National Content Review Committee*. *Measured Progress* is the company in charge of MontCAS as well as other states' assessments. Aukshun reviewed items that may appear on the spring *Grade 10 MontCAS* test.



FOR SALE

1984 1500 Sierra 4x4.

One owner, low miles. Warner hubs. \$3,200.
Call 671-5511.



Official Publication
Billings Education Association
510 North 29th
Billings, MT 59101
248-9812
www.beabillings.org



News/Views Editor
Marilynn Sexton

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

Proposed BEA By-Laws Changes

BEA for 10/19/04 Election BEA

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

- A. Active membership is offered upon payment of dues to all persons employed by the Billings Public Schools who are represented by the Association in collective bargaining.
- B. Active members shall hold appropriate memberships in the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers MEA-MFT and the National Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers.

Section 2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- A. Associate membership is offered upon payment of dues to persons not eligible for active membership. Associate members do not have the right to hold office or the right to be voting members of the Association.
- B. Associate members shall hold appropriate memberships in the MEA-MFT and NEA.

ARTICLE VIII: NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

- Section 1.** BEA Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly shall serve for a term of one year.
- Section 2.** Distribution of expense monies shall be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- Section 3.** The President, First Vice-President, and the Second Vice-President, and Secretary will serve as ex-officio delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION OF MASTER AGREEMENT

- Section 1.** An Association meeting shall be called by the Board of Directors for the purpose of discussing any proposed Master Agreement. Copies of the proposed Master Agreement shall be made available to the members through their Faculty Representatives not less than two days prior to the meeting, and shall include notification of date, time, and place of the meeting.
- Section 2.** The ratification vote shall be an all member ballot conducted in the schools. Absentee ballots will be made available.

BEA PAC Needs Help

Your BEA PAC needs volunteers to assist endorsed candidates. YOU can be a part of a very important process by volunteering for any of the activities listed below. Return form by Sept. 30.

- Literature Drops
- Yard Signs — Placing and taking down
- Yard Signs — Placing one in my yard
- Phone Banks — At election time
- Donation — Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.
(Payable to BEA PAC)

Name _____ School _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____

