



LIVONIA
Paraprofessionals'
Association

www.iammea.org/lpa

Newsletter

November/December 2020
Issue #2

LPA ... Providing support in education

What a year this has been. A year of loss, hope, fear, loneliness, angst, perseverance and above all resilience. Sometimes experiencing all of these in one day. I found this quote by Eleanor Roosevelt fitting. "If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." I think most of us can attest to having more than enough flavor in our lives right now.

Instead of focusing on the negative aspects of 2020 let us be thankful for what has kept us going each and every day and celebrate it. Each of us is a gift in our own right. This new year let us celebrate our uniquenesses.

Whatever your plans are for the holidays remember to laugh often, love unconditionally and brace yourself for impact!

Cheers!
Sue Gonyou
President, LPA

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language.
And next year's words await another voice."*

-T.S.Eliot "Four Quartets"



As news continues to be an ever changing event you may feel out of touch with what is going on. As stakeholders in your union it is sometimes difficult to sit back and wait for things to unfold. Please consistently check your emails for current updates and pertinent information. What you heard yesterday may be different tomorrow.

Coming up in January 2021 we will begin taking nominations for President, Public Relations & MEA/NEA RA Delegates.

This is an especially excellent time to become involved! Consider serving on your board as a voice for the LPA.

The full descriptions of duties can be found on pages 4-6 of the LPA By-Laws which you can find on our website:

www.iammea.org/lpa



Your Executive Board

President

Sue Gonyou

gonyousue@gmail.com

Vice President

Cyndi Kaptanowsky

ckaptanowsy@gmail.com

Secretary

Lisa Durand

thedurands@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Leona Andres

leonaandres256@gmail.com

Public Relations

Christy Trepkowski

christytrepkowski@gmail.com

Cluster Representatives

#1 Georgia Tzelepis

georgiatzelepis@gmail.com

Buchanan, Career Center, Churchill, Coolidge, Holmes, Hoover, LTP, Niji Iro, Randolph, Riley, Roosevelt, Rosedale, Stevenson, Skill Center, Webster

#2 Chele Dolan

mdolan7@earthlink.net

Cleveland, Cooper, Emerson, Franklin, Frost, Grant, GSRP, Hayes, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Randolph, Transportation

Welcome New Paraprofessionals

Anne Cox - Jackson Center
Stephanie Steven - Roosevelt ASD
Jackie Hurst - GSRP

All new employees receive a LPS email account. If you have not received your account information yet, please contact your administrator. The district and the LPA use district email to keep you updated on all pertinent matters so be sure to check it regularly.

Do you know? Newly hired members receive \$15,000 in term life insurance free of charge from the NEA in their first year of employment. To find out how to enroll contact Cyndi Kaptanowsky at ckaptanowsky@gmail.com

General Membership Meeting:

January 28, 2021 via zoom

Building Rep Elections

In a perfect world we would have had our Building Rep Elections by now. Because paras are still being placed we will follow up with this.

Keep in mind if you have any concerns please bring them to your cluster rep.

Check your payroll vouchers at the RESA website to be sure that:

--the sick day allotment for this year was added correctly to your balance from last year.
--any unused Personal Business days have been changed over to sick days and added to your sick bank.

--the correct number of Vacation days have been added to your vacation bank.

<https://hrweb.resa.net/eemployee>

**If you go out or return from any type of leave, you must notify Cindi Kaptanowsky so we can let the MEA know.



MEA

Need to join the union:

<https://tinyurl.com/joinLPAunion>



10 REASONS YOU SHOULD THANK A UNION

Source: <http://bigcorporationhouse.blogspot.com/2011/04/ten-union-35-ways-unionists.html>

1. WEEKENDS
2. WORKDAY BREAKS
3. PAID VACATION
4. FMLA
5. SICK LEAVE
6. SOCIAL SECURITY
7. MINIMUM WAGE
8. 8-HOUR WORK DAY
9. OVERTIME PAY
10. CHILD LABOR LAWS

How Do I Pay My Dues If I'm Not Signed Up For Edues Auto-Payments?

There are several ways to pay your dues balances, in light of the Michigan Legislature's 2012 decision to prohibit you, as a school employee, from paying your dues via payroll deduction:

Online: The quickest and easiest way to pay your dues is online at mea.org/edues. There, you can log in to your secure online account to make a payment, and you can enroll in our eDues automatic payment program, so your monthly dues can be paid from your bank account or credit card automatically. If you need assistance in accessing your online account or setting up recurring payments, please contact the MEA Help Center at help@mea.org or 866-MEAHELP (866-632-4357).

By phone: You can make a payment any time using our automated phone system by calling 877-333-6007. To make a payment by phone, you will need your Billhighway account number, found at the top of your statement, as well as your zip code.

By mail: You can also mail your payment directly to our bank's secure processing facility. Checks should be made payable to Michigan Education Association and include the Billhighway account number, found at the top of your statement, in the memo area. Send payments to: Michigan Education Association PO Box 638341 Cincinnati, OH 45263-8341

I Have A Past Due Balance. Can I Set Up A Payment Plan?

If you cannot pay your balance in full at this time, MEA will work with you on a payment plan that will ensure you remain in good standing and are eligible for all the rights and benefits of membership. The MEA Help Center is available to help you set up payment plans, which includes determining a monthly payment you can afford, enrolling you in eDues for automatic payments for future month's dues, and, as a feature, getting you set up for automatic payments to pay down your prior year(s) balance over time. Alternatively to a payment plan, you may participate in the MEA's Commitment to Membership program. This program allows members to pay their current monthly dues, be in good standing, and receive a credit towards their outstanding balance. If you have questions, are interested in participating in this program or want to establish a payment plan, just contact the Help Center at help@mea.org or 866-MEA-HELP to get started.