



ACTION

Affiliated with NEA and KEA

J E F F E R S O N C O U N T Y T E A C H E R S A S S O C I A T I O N

1941 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218 ♦ 454-3400 ♦ 452-2794 (fax) ♦ www.jcta.org ♦ May 13, 2009

WHAT'S HAPPENING

All meetings are at the JCTA office unless otherwise specified.

THUR. MAY 14 :

⇒ Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 P.M.

MON. MAY 18:

⇒ Professional Representatives Meeting, 4:30 P.M., **UAW Hall, Fern Valley Rd (RETIREMENT PARTY FOR STEVE NEAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING!)**

TRANSFER BOOK

If you applied for a transfer and would like to see where you are on the lists, the transfer book is now available at the JCTA office for your viewing pleasure.

JCTA RETIREMENT DINNER

The 2009 JCTA Retirement Dinner will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center on Thursday, May 21, 2009. The doors open at 6:00 P.M., and the program begins at 6:30 P.M. If you are retiring and have NOT received your invitation yet, or for more information, contact Jennifer Lawson (Jennifer@jcta.org) at 454-3400.

PR ELECTIONS

Next year's Professional Representatives (PR's) and Alternates should be elected during the month of May. Schools are entitled to one (1) PR for every 15 members or major fraction thereof. Schools are also allowed one (1) Alternate for every PR. Nominations are open to all JCTA members, and voting is done by secret ballot. Any JCTA member may call for an election. Send changes to Kathy Donahue (kathy@jcta.org).

JCTA DUES FREEZE

JCTA dues will be "frozen" at the 2008-09 rate for the 2009-10 school year. This does NOT affect rate increases for KEA or NEA.

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

Now is the time to check and see if your teaching certificate expires on June 30, 2009. If so, you should seek renewal immediately! If you are currently taking college credits for renewal, you should begin the renewal process immediately upon the end of the semester. For more information, contact JCPS at Jcps.certification@jefferson.kyschools.us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What can JCTA do for you? As President of JCTA, I'm privy to what goes on with our teachers as well as our staff, and unless you've had an issue that required JCTA's help or have that direct, day-to-day contact like I do, it's understandable why someone might be wondering about whether joining the Association is the right move for them. People want to know what we've done and what we are capable of doing. After reading the following list (which I'm sad to say doesn't include everything - there just isn't room!), I hope everyone has a better idea of how JCTA can and does work for them:

- JCTA has processed and resolved grievances for teachers in all areas of the contract including discipline, evaluation, assignment, etc.
- JCTA enlisted the help of members to produce commercials promoting teachers
- JCTA is working with members who are concerned about student discipline problems in their school
- JCTA negotiated and has implemented new procedures for teachers facing the non-renewal of their contract
- JCTA helped elect pro-public education candidates during the November elections and tackled tough issues within the legislature during this year's legislative session
- JCTA has already begun working with KEA on initiatives for the 2010 legislative session to ensure your benefits and to increase your salary
- JCTA staff continue to participate in trainings at the state and national level in a process of ongoing learning that helps them to help you!
- JCTA provided trainings for new Professional Representatives, SBDM Council members and new teachers
- JCTA is planning trainings for the coming school year on an advanced level for Professional Representatives
- JCTA has helped teachers with the NEA attorney referral program and in obtaining legal assistance from KEA for arbitrations, mediations, EPSB issues, etc.
- JCTA is assisting teachers in signing up for the JCTA Sick Leave Bank and in obtaining days from the Bank
- JCTA continues to provide members with representation during due process meetings
- JCTA is working to revise the JCTA website and added a Facebook page
- JCTA has assisted members with assault/injury situations
- JCTA has assisted members in obtaining proper District assistance when filing charges against students
- JCTA has represented members during District and CPS investigations
- JCTA hired more staff to provide even more assistance
- JCTA held a fall luncheon for retired members and are preparing for the retirement dinner
- JCTA is assisting up and coming teachers through the NEA Student Program
- JCTA has counseled and assisted members in utilizing appropriate leave time
- JCTA has helped teachers with and through the arbitration process
- JCTA was successful in many arbitrations this year including two that put teachers back to work who were wrongfully discharged
- JCTA provided five workshops regarding transfers and now maintains a booklet of all transfer requests in the District for the coming school year
- JCTA continues to bring you informative articles via the newsletter, *ACTION*, and has posted important information on its website at www.jcta.org.

As I mentioned previously, this list is by no means an all-inclusive list of what JCTA has done or can do. When looking at this list, you may very well see something that you've experienced, and if not, just remember that as a MEMBER, JCTA will be there for you if and/or when a day comes when you do experience something on this list.

Brent

Thank You Board of Directors and Professional Representatives!

What makes JCTA so strong? Our members. We'd like to offer a special thanks to the following members who serve on our Board of Directors and as Professional Representatives or PR Alternates from **Regions I:**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CECILIA LOKITS, JUSTIN ELLIOTT, KATHLEEN BETHGE, DIANE MCKIM AND MARIA SCHRENGER

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Ahrens - Jane Warren

Atkinson Elem - Cat Timmerman, Loren Atherton

Brandeis Elem - Regina Puryear, Cheryl Mahan

Brown School - Barbara Doyle

Byck Elem - Diane Zipp

Carter Elem - Pamela Burris, Yolanda Wood

Central HS - Grant Wallace, Lorette Nuzzo, Stephen Bush, Timothy Johnson

Churchill Pk. School - Kathleen Bethge

Cochran Elem - Roxana Walker

Coleridge-Taylor Elem - Sally Gamble, Lola Morrison, Dana Vinson

Englehard Elem - Joseph Stewart

Foster Elem - Rita Dama, Terri Davenport

Frayser Elem - Mary Lega, Michelle Lynn

Hazelwood Elem - Kerri Watson, Lori Davis

Iroquois HS - Susan Heichelbech, Richard Pickerill

Jacob Elem - Meigan Sullivan, Jennifer Matherly

Johnson MS - Brenda Sivado, Christy Mathis, Mark Sivado

Kennedy Elem - Sharry Jennings

King Elem - Donna Obryan

Male HS - Barry Steenberg

Manual HS - Joseph Crain, Timothy Smith, Randolph Wieck, John Albright, Kathleen Geary

Maupin Elem - Larry Pelkey

McFerran Elem - Jeanine Ross, Erika Collins, Joyce Mayes

Mill Creek Elem - Nancy Pennington

Noe MS - Adriana Thornton-Clark, Larry Price, Christy Pollock

Olmsted North - Kristi Kennedy, Robert Gaskins, Christopher Rasheed, Jeff Phelps, Samantha Taylor, Ryan Rodosky

Olmsted South - Kristin Hagan, Mallory Schaefer, Robbie Hayes, Angela Magnuson

Portland Elem - Verna Dorsey

Roosevelt/Perry Elem - John Timm, Tina Bryant

Rutherford Elem - Lynda Currington, Seth Manning

Semple Elem - Tiffany Mosley, Marilyn Hazard

Shawnee HS - Charles Caldwell

Western MS - Robert Mudd

Young Elem - Jade Ferraro, James Brown, Nikita Tillman

Youth Performing Arts - Georgette Kleier-Hott

Important Information for 2009 Retirees

If you are planning on retiring this year, you should first request a KTRS Form 23: Application for Service Retirement packet from the KTRS office at least 60 days before your prospective date of retirement. JCPS will be required to fill out a part of the retirement application (Sections VII and VIII) so be sure to allow sufficient time for this process as well. The deadline to file for a July 1st retirement date is June 1, 2009. Keep in mind that all retirement applications must be submitted by the FIRST of the month PRIOR to the month of retirement. July 1st retirees will receive their first annuity payment by direct deposit on July 29th. For more information, please contact the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System at 502-848-8500.

4-H Celebrates 100 Years

Kentucky 4-H is celebrating 100 years and are actively seeking 4-H alumni for a possible banquet in August. If you were a member of 4-H, and would like to participate, contact the Jefferson County 4-H at 569-2344.

Teaching Contracts

If you have signed a teaching contract for the 2009/10 school year, be advised that if you must break that contract **FOR ANY REASON**, you must do so at least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the 2009/10 school year. If you do not, you can be found in breach of contract.

Call First

Spring is a very busy time around the JCTA office. If you need to meet with your UniServ Director, please be sure to call the office to schedule an appointment or to make sure that your UniServ Director will be available if you plan to drop by. Call 454-3400.

Itinerants

For purposes of planning, inventory, and storage of equipment/supplies, itinerant teachers NOT returning to a school should not be schedule for classes the last instructional day at that school. Itinerants who will be returning to their school for the 2009/10 school year should be free of classes at least half of the last instructional day at that school. This obviously can affect teachers' planning time, so now is the time to prepare! If you have questions, please contact JCTA.

Personal Days

As we head into the final days of the school year, please remember that the contract DOES NOT allow for personal days to be used during the last five (5) days of the school term. JCTA interprets that to mean the last five (5) student days. Be advised that of the two (2) remaining work days for teachers that go beyond the school term, one (1) of those days is a professional development day (Gold Day).

Purchasing 2008/09 Service Credit

Teachers who had unpaid contract days in the 2008/09 fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) should contact the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) at 502-848-8500. The deadline for purchasing this type of credit is December 31, 2009. If you were granted an unpaid leave of absence during the 2008/09 fiscal year, the deadline for purchasing these days is June 30, 2010. Mark your calendars and act accordingly because the longer you wait to purchase the service credit (after the deadlines have passed) the more expensive the cost.

Planning Time – Business as usual

Teachers, the end of the school year is fast approaching, but as far as your rights under the contract are concerned, everything should remain **BUSINESS AS USUAL!** We are getting calls from teachers about their planning time being reduced or completely cut during testing, for field days, for assemblies, etc. – this is not acceptable! Teachers at the middle and high school levels are entitled to 50 minutes of planning per day. Elementary teachers are entitled to 200 minutes of planning per week. There are no exceptions. If your planning time is being affected, contact your UniServ Director to discuss your options.