

January, 2009

**AEA MEMBERS RECEIVE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION!**

Congratulations to the following **Arlington Education Association** members who recently earned National Board Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS):

<b>Christine Altizer Joy</b>	<b>Anne Calby</b>	<b>Maureen Kennelly-Nolan</b>
<b>Latanja Elaine Thomas</b>	<b>Nawazish Tareen</b>	<b>Laura Hansen</b>
<b>Gwenn Zaberer</b>	<b>Rebecca S. Miller</b>	<b>Jennifer Stacy</b>
<b>Tracey Shepardson</b>	<b>Sharon Ruggieri</b>	<b>Robyn Kaye</b>
<b>Jon Schildknect</b>	<b>Laina Diamond Silversmith</b>	<b>Lilliana Maldonado-Mendez</b>
<b>Jacqueline Smith</b>	<b>Gregory Chapuis</b>	<b>Phillip A. Krauth</b>
<b>Christine Wiedemann</b>		

All National Board recipients received a personal note of congratulations and a NB pin from President Jennings.

**Inauguration Day**

This day was treated as a Snow Day. Ten month employees did not report to work. Twelve month essential employees reported to work. Twelve month nonessential employees could use annual leave. AEA advocated on behalf of twelve month employees for the complete closing of the school system so that twelve month employees would not be required to take leave. However, the School Board anticipated savings of over \$300,000 in overtime salary that would have been paid to essential employees had they been required to report were the system completely closed. The proposed 2009-10 APS budget reflects the critical shortfall in revenue caused by recent economic downturns in the county, state, and national economy. AEA supports all members and APS employees and expects the \$300,000 in overtime savings may also prevent job losses during the next school year. A-scale members: Be alert to updates concerning the cancelled January 20 in-service. T-scale members-While January 20<sup>th</sup> was treated as if it were a *snow day*, it was not an actual *snow day*. It was a scheduled Teacher Workday with no classes in sessions. Therefore, there is no need to make-up for instructional time.

**2009-10 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Dr. Smith's Draft 2009-2010 School Calendar will be posted on the APS website from January 21, 2009 through February 18 2009 to receive feedback from APS staff, parents and the community. Last year some members expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the calendar such as Elementary Conferences and teacher workdays. Don't miss this opportunity to provide input before the final calendar is approved by the APS School Board!

**ELECTIONS**

1. **AEA** wants **YOU!** Interested in serving as a member of the **AEA Executive Board**? The offices of President, Vice President, Elementary, and Middle School Representatives are open. Email [aea@aeava.org](mailto:aea@aeava.org) to obtain your petition. The deadline for self-nomination and submission of petitions has been extended to Friday, January 30.
2. **AEA** needs **Representatives** to the **2009 VEA and/or NEA Conventions**. Submit your name to be on the ballot by February 13, 2009 to [aea@aeava.org](mailto:aea@aeava.org). Nominations by telephone will not be accepted. The VEA Convention takes place in Hampton, VA, April 23-25. AEA will provide professional leave. The NEA Convention takes place in San Diego, CA July 1-7.

### What is “Buy Back”?

Did you know you can increase your retirement benefit or perhaps even retire earlier? If you are an active member, you may be eligible to purchase qualifying prior service credit. - The earlier the better!

If you apply within the first three years of employment, your cost will be based on 5% of your salary at the time of application.

Payroll deduction makes the buy back easy, payments based on your current salary.

If you apply later in your career, the cost will be based on your salary at the time at a higher actuarially equivalent rate.

Bottom line, the longer you wait the higher the cost. Buy back early!

For more information on the Virginia Retirement System – click here: <http://www.varetire.org/Members/PPS/Index.asp>.

### Travel Reimbursement for Itinerant Teachers

There is a local travel form on **APSNet** for teachers to use. Teachers can fill out trips on this form and it will total the costs.

Teachers need the staff person at their work site, who is responsible for submitting teachers’ expense reports, to input the expense report in STARS. The staff person in the office should know how to proceed. However, he/she must have the authority to enter an expense report for teachers. If the office staffer does not have this authority, he/she should call Endia Holmes (x8641) to ask how to proceed. The teacher will need to have the local travel form approved by the supervisor and give the original to the office staff person. Teachers should retain a copy for their records. The office staff person will send the original travel form, along with a print out from STARS to Finance.

### \$\$ YOUR MONEY

#### Is One Click Worth \$400 to You?

1. Don’t forget to collect your receipts for unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses for your **2008 income tax return**. Your **AEA DUES** may be eligible for a partial deduction on your income taxes. Go to the AEA website: [www.aeava.org](http://www.aeava.org) and click on the December “Action Report” for details.

2. \$400 dollars is the possible savings you may net by switching to NEA Members’ Auto & Home Insurance Program. NEA Auto Insurance includes \$500 personal property protection, including school supplies you’ve purchased, if stolen from your locked or unlocked vehicle! The deductible is waived entirely for vandalism to your vehicle that occurs on or within 500 feet of school property, or while away attending a school sponsored event! Special Rates and Outstanding Coverage details are available at 1-866-680-5144 or go to [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com).

### Member Satisfaction!

In cooperation with APS Senior staff, members in Facilities were successfully returned to their previous work schedules. Also in cooperation with APS Senior staff, an extra day was added to the second quarter grade preparation window for all APS teachers.

### TEACHER EVALUATION

Per the Teacher Evaluation Handbook, Probationary teachers and teachers on Continuing Contract *with less than successful ratings the preceding year* must receive their second observation by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### AEA IS ON THE WEB!

Check out the new and improved AEA website at [www.aeava.org](http://www.aeava.org). You’ll find the latest information about your professional organization and how it is working for you! Read the latest “Action Report” to keep abreast of current events for all APS educators.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The *Instructional Conference Building Relationships: One Student at a Time* on Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at George Mason University has been canceled until further notice. If you registered and paid for this conference, please contact AEA for your refund.

### AEA WANTS YOUR STORIES!

What is your story? New baby, new degree, new marriage, anniversary, a happily resolved dispute? Share your stories in our “**Action Report**”. Email [aea@aeava.org](mailto:aea@aeava.org).