



December, 2008

### **TOO CAMPAIGN SUCCESS!**

Welcome to our **New Members** and thanks for joining AEA! To date our TOO Campaign has welcomed 70 new members. Many thanks to our hard-working Building Delegates, office staff, members and **New Members** who made this possible. AEA is now 1560 members-strong. Recruit a new member and receive a \$10 signing incentive. New members who enroll in December or January will receive a \$25 gasoline gift card as well as all the benefits and peace of mind of being an AEA/VEA/NEA member. Log on to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and click on "Member Benefits" to learn more about the educational and financial benefits available as a member of the nation's largest Education Association.

### **ATTENTION DELEGATES!**

Collect personal email addresses for all members in your building and forward them to AEA by January 31, 2009 to receive a \$25 gas card!

### **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" and learn about professional opportunities.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION for AEA**

The AEA office telephone number is (703) 379-1650. The email address for Interim UniServ Director is [kpaine@veanea.org](mailto:kpaine@veanea.org). President Shelley Jennings's email address is [president@aeava.org](mailto:president@aeava.org), and Administrative Assistant Alysha Page's email address is [page@aeava.org](mailto:page@aeava.org). Don't forget our website: [www.aeava.org](http://www.aeava.org). Notice: AEA Offices are closed during Winter Break from December 23 through January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **\$\$ YOUR MONEY**

1. Don't forget to collect your receipts for unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses for your 2008 income tax return.
2. Your AEA DUES may be eligible for a partial deduction on your income taxes. Your calendar year payroll dues deductions for tax purposes are: T-Scale full time \$623.63; ESP Full-time \$322.48. Divide the relevant dues in half if you are a half-time employee. Consult your tax advisor for specific advice.
3. If you are considering switching to another 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity, making the change by December 15<sup>th</sup> will ensure your contribution is deducted from your first '09 paycheck and you won't miss receiving APS matching funds.

### **2009-10 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The Superintendent's Proposed Tentative Calendar for School Year 2009-10 will be posted on the APS Website from January 21 through February 18, 2009. Surveys soliciting input from APS staff will be made available. This is your opportunity to express your concerns and provide input. AEA President Shelley Jennings and Vice President Wanda Perkins are members of the Calendar Committee, and need to hear from you concerning the various components of the calendar. Remember that Conference Days, Early Release Days, In-service Days, and our beloved holidays are all key parts of the calendar. Complete and submit the survey and let your voice be heard. Members are also encouraged to contact AEA directly via the contact information listed above.

### **ELECTIONS**

**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 is January 23, 2009. To serve as a **Representative** to the **2009 VEA and/or NEA Conventions** submit your name to be on the ballot by January 23, 2009 to [aea@aeava.org](mailto:aea@aeava.org). *Nominations by telephone will not be accepted.*

### **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>.

### **INAUGURATION DAY**

Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> is a Teacher Work Day for Arlington County Public Schools and school is not in session for students. Per Assistant Superintendent Dr. Betty Hobbs, ten (10) month employees may take personal leave and twelve (12) month employees may take annual leave.