

AEA Viewpoint

August 2008



Take the lead.

Auburn Education Association Newsletter
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Back to School!

The “dog days of summer” are not quite over, but every educator I know is already returning to school, with thoughts of summer far behind. The last week of August is packed with Learning Improvement Days, District Designated time, building retreats and preparing for the 2008-2009 school year.

Your Association stayed busy this summer. AEA members attended the NEA Representative Assembly in Washington DC. **Look for**

member reflections inside.

AEA members attended the Washington Education Association Leadership Academy, improving their skills in Strategic Bargaining as well as Cross Cultural studies.

Your AEA Executive Board welcomed new educators with a catered luncheon on August 21.

Don't forget to look for the **hidden name** inside the Viewpoint. If it is your name, you win a gift card to Starbucks!

Simply email the AEA office to

claim your prize and take the opportunity to squeeze some last minute refreshment before plunging into the year.

Best wishes for a smooth start to a great new year!



Cathy deJong is a 2nd grade teacher, currently on leave as the President of the Auburn Education Association



AEA Executive Board member, Kristin Todd, helps welcome new educators during the Auburn Education Association luncheon.

Reflections from Representative Assembly

It was an honor to represent you at the NEA convention this year! As a new delegate I was truly impressed by the democratic process. Sitting in a room of 10,000 plus educators from all across the country was overwhelming!

One of the most interesting skills I learned was how to “read the room”. As an issue was brought up for a vote you could look around the room to see the various signs that the delegations would display indicating their vote. Arkansas had a razorback with a tail in different positions. If the tail pointed up, that meant that they were voting yes. If the tail pointed down, they were voting no on the issue. I think their sign was the most “colorful” of the various states! I was also very impressed by the back stage tour that new delegates were allowed to participate in. While touring one of the control rooms, I noticed a chart on the all with all the states listed. There were red, green, yellow, and white boxes next to the state names for all the new business items. These colors indicated how each state caucus had decided to vote on each issue. Washington State had white boxes all the way across the line. I learned that this meant each delegate in our state could vote their own conscience. We would have a caucus meeting each morning to decide how the group felt on major issues but when the vote came up on the floor each delegate still had the freedom to vote as they felt best represented their district. Many state representatives did not have this freedom. If the caucus had voted yes, they were required to vote that way. Just one more reason I was proud to be from Washington!

It was a wonderful experience and I thank you for the opportunity! - Anne Clark

Look for the AEA Marketplace to return in our first edition of the 2008-2009 school year! Thank you to everyone who utilized the AEA Marketplace for goods and services within the AEA community!