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Dates to Remember:

- October 20—Pizza and Politics, Godfather's Pizza, Hampton
- November 5—Unit Two Executive Board Meeting
- November 7 and 8—ESP Conference, Des Moines
- November 10—Bargaining Training, Mason City, Roosevelt Middle School, 6:30-8:30
- November 11—Bargaining Training, Fort Dodge, Senior High School LMC, 6:30-8:30
- November 12—Bargaining Training, Eldora-New Providence, High School Media Center, 6:30-8:30
- December 2-4—Chris Bern, ISEA President, visits Unit Two
- December 3—Unit Two Executive Board Meeting

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It Takes Two!

October 2008

President's Message

Hello!

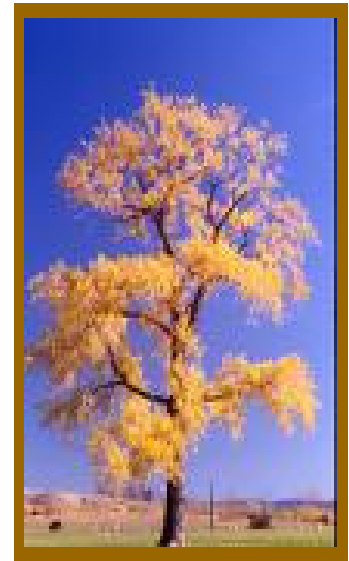
As the start of another school year has come and gone change is taking place across Unit Two. The leaves are starting to change color, as the weather grows colder. Some school districts in Unit Two are changing names and mascots as they consolidate and share grades. Unit Two has changed UniServ directors. Jane Elerding has replaced Cindy Carroll, who returned to Utah to be closer to family. Some of the Unit Two executive board has changed to new names and faces.

But probably the biggest change that will take place this fall will occur in the government. It is our responsibility to elect a new President this fall. Many of us are Republicans, and many of us are Democrats, but all of us are educators. We should all have

the same goals. As such, I would like to encourage everyone who reads this to put some time into a campaign. Whether it is local, state, or federal, it is important that educators are involved by helping elect pro-education candidates.

As the Unit Two training sessions start, I hope to inspire more people to become involved. If you already are, then bring someone new along to trainings or meetings. If you have never been to a training or meeting, I encourage you to attend just one. (You might find you liked it so much you will want to attend more.) If you have a particular area you would like to receive training in, let the UniServ office know. Our UniServ directors are able to provide training in many areas and topics.

Daniel Sarasio Meyer
dsmeier@mchsi.com



ISEA
*Great Education.
It's An Iowa Basic.*

Summer Conference

"I loved it!" "Awesome!" "It rocked!" These reactions might sound like reviews of the newest hit movie, but they are really some of the comments from Unit Two members who attended the August ISEA Summer Leadership Conference at Buena Vista in Storm Lake. Unit Two had twenty-five conference attendees and many were willing

to share their experiences for this newsletter.

This year's attendees broke their comments into three "C's": courses, camaraderie, and climate. Mason City member, Joslyn Stock, took the class Increasing Student Effort and Responsibility and thought "the ISEA Directors who led the

class did a wonderful job making it relevant and not a lecture style class." Angela O'Toole from Clear Lake found a graduate credit course interesting since it dealt with her teaching area.

Many Unit Two members praised the camaraderie aspect

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Summer Conference

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of the conference as shown by the number of comments regarding the benefits of meeting teachers within Unit Two and from across Iowa. Allison-Bristow's Mari Cramer shared that Summer Conference was "... a great experience for a 'newbie'; everyone was welcoming and helpful."

Members frequently mentioned the conference climate. Laura Grommesh of Mason City stated, "Every session I attended was packed full of great

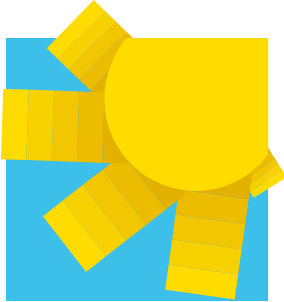
and interesting information." Clear Lake's John Morgan believes that Summer Conference is what propelled him to active membership in ISEA.

Summer Conference is an event every member should consider experiencing.



Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80.

Henry Ford



The legislature provided an additional \$75 million to Teacher Quality Allocations.

ISEA Legislative Update

ISEA and ISEA members worked with the Iowa legislature and Governor Culver to help improve public education in the state. In spite of the disappointment of the Chapter 20 bill, the legislative session ended with some important changes that will positively impact ISEA members. The legislature provided an additional \$75 million to Teacher Quality Allocations. It also mandated that these funds be

paid to individual teachers each month starting in October. This eliminates some districts holding the money and collecting the interest that the teacher should be collecting. Market Factor funding was eliminated and the Professional Development allocation was increased by \$8.5 million that must focus on professional development related to the core curriculum. The Pay for Performance pilot program

monies was decreased from \$2.5 million for \$335,000. Finally, there is an increase for minimum salaries of beginning teachers (first and second year) to \$28,000 and all career teachers to \$30,000. In addition, AEA's had \$2.75 million of reductions restored and the General Assembly's intent to restore the remaining \$2.5 million in 2009-10.

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New Director—Jane Elerding

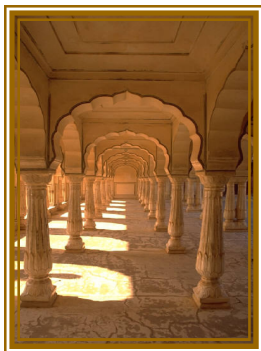
After twenty-five years teaching students and advocating for members in Southeast Iowa, I have returned to my home of Eldora. During my years away from the Unit Two area, I taught high school English, speech and drama, and directed extra curricular speech and drama activities. My association work included many years in leadership, bargaining and grievance. In addition, I represented my local at Delegate Assembly and as a member of

the Geode Executive Board. I am excited to be one of the Unit Two directors and I am looking forward to meeting and working with you.



Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.

Dr. Haim Ginott



Political Action

“Political activity is a fundamental responsibility of any citizen. Because it is so important to our democratic form of government, the responsibility is even greater for teachers than it is for many others. The fact that education depends so heavily on favorable political action is a very important reason for teachers to be interested.” This was the sentiment of ISEA Executive Director Charles F. Martin in 1956. Today there are still people who believe that the role of educators is simply to educate; how-

ever, more educators are realizing that it is their duty to be politically active. The following list contains education topics decided by elected leaders: bond issues, guidance counselor and media specialist requirements, NCLB regulations, school technology funding, teacher quality compensation, Phase I and II, IPERS, school finance formula, core curriculum, charter schools, safe schools, pay for performance, instructional support levies, tuition tax credits, ballot initiatives and the Board of Educa-

tional Examiners.

One needs to remember that citizens who do not vote have no political influence; citizens who only vote have little political influence. Educational employees can influence education decisions by working collectively to define them and by electing candidates who support quality public education.



**Election Day is
Tuesday,
November 4.
Remember to
Vote!**

ISEA Legislative Update

(Continued from page 2)

The Education Appropriations Bill (HF 2679) integrates the Teacher Compensation Allocation, Educational Excellence Phase II, Professional Development and the Early Intervention Block Grant into the school foundation aid formula. The use of the funds will not change and all current requirements of the funds will remain in the Code. School districts are guaranteed 100% of the previous year's funding level. Beginning in the

2009 Legislative Session, the General Assembly will approve categorical allowable growth in a bill that is separate from regular allowable growth and will also determine allowable growth for 2010-11.

House File 2663 increased the state sales and use tax from five to six percent. The increased revenues are deposited in the new Secure and Advanced Vision for Education Fund (SAVE) to be distributed

to all school districts. These revenues are replacing existing School Infrastructure Local Option taxes (SILO). All existing local sales and services taxes are repealed with a statewide per pupil amount calculated annually.



American Education Week

During the week of November 16-22, NEA will be celebrating the 87th annual American Education Week. This event spotlights the importance of providing every child in America a quality public education beginning in kindergarten through college. Each day of the week will have a focus.

- November 17—
Open House Day
- November 18—
Parents Day
- November 19—
ESP Day
- November 20—
Educator for a Day
- November 21—
Substitute
Educators Day

Go to

www.nea.org/aew/index.html

for more information and access to the online toolkit.



Unit Two Art Teacher Wins State Award

Osage's Cyndi Spears was recently selected the 2008-09 elementary art teacher of the year for the state of Iowa by the Art Educators of Iowa. Spears was nominated for the award by a former student who always wanted to be an art teacher. Ms. Spears says, "We worked together, not only until her journey was complete and she got her first art teaching position, but throughout her first year of teaching."

Spears is originally from northeast Iowa where she graduated from North Fayette High School and then attended Wartburg College. Four summers as a camp counselor inspired Spears to become a teacher where she could moti-

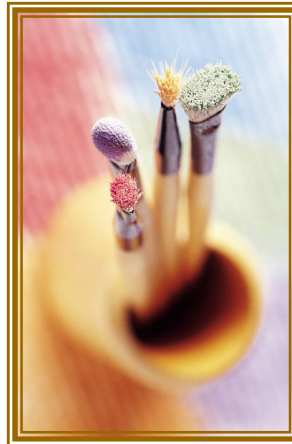
vate others to be creative.

Her first three years were at Fayette where she was the K-12 art teacher and coach. Cyndi has taught in Osage since 1982 and teaches nearly 500 students in the K-6 art

program. Second semester she also teaches a class at the high school.

Spears says she loves teaching art, listening, and watching kids create. "Art requires one to use his/her thinking skills to process information. How one solves problems creatively is essential to every successful student."

"We are all artists and creative thinkers. We just happen to be successful at different levels."



Quote Source:
Mitchell County Press-News
9/30/08

www.isea.org

2008-09 Unit Two Executive Board Members

We want to thank all of our 2008-09 Unit Two Executive Board members for their time, energy, and dedication they give to make Unit Two the great UniServ Unit that it is!

Daniel Sarasio Meyer, President
Forest City EA
Laura Grommesh, Vice-President
Mason City EA
Judith Handsaker, Secretary
ISEA Retired
Andrew Van Hooreweghe, ISEA Executive Board
Grundy Center EA
Stan Van Hauen, ISEA Retired Representative
ISEA Retired
Norma Russell-Adson, Member-At-Large
Fort Dodge SCEA
Mari Cramer, Member-At-Large
Allison-Bristow EA
Karen Koenig, Member-At-Large
Iowa Falls EA
John Morgan, Member-At-Large
Clear Lake EA
Cheral Morgan, Member-At-Large
ISEA Retired

Matthew Berkley, Member-At-Large
Mason City EA
Maurine Jaquis, Building a Better Teaching & Learning Environment Chair
ISEA Retired
Cathy Petersen, Strengthening Local Associations Chair
Rockwell-Swaledale EA
Clara Hinman, Building Support for Public Education Co-Chair
ISEA Retired
Peggy Amble, Building Support for Public Education Co-Chair
SCMT EA
Terry Laughlin, Protecting Member Rights Co-Chair
Clarksville EA
Betty Dittrich, Protecting Member Rights Co-Chair
Eldora EA

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