

The Tell Tale

Rockwood NEA Newsletter

Volume 43 Issue 8

Navigating the Waters

Allison Seitz, President

One of the great things I have an opportunity to participate in as RNEA President is the selection process for our Rockwood Teacher of Year. I honestly enjoy sitting down to read the incredibly passionate, often humorous, and always touching statements by the candidates as they describe their teaching philosophy, why they became teachers, etc. Their energy and dedication reenergize me as I begin to think about returning to the classroom in the fall. While I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your president, I believe that my true calling is to be surrounded by 12 year olds. So the best part of taking time to read teacher of the year entries and complete scoring guides is knowing that all of the students in Rockwood have great teachers. Yes, the applications on my desk represent those selected as this year's best, but in the end, Rockwood students win because they learn from the best teachers everyday in every school in Rockwood. Congratulations to our teachers of the year! Congratulations to *all* our teachers for a great year! And thank you for a great two years as your president!

Please join your RNEA colleagues for a National Teacher Day celebration at Mulligan's on May 9th! Next month's president's article will be from your president-elect, Erik Graham.

You're Invited!

- Who?** ALL RNEA MEMBERS
- What?** Come celebrate National Teacher Day
- When?** May 9th after school from 3-7p.m.
- Where?** Mulligan's, at Clarkson and Manchester
- Why?** Your colleagues! Appetizer and drink specials! Why NOT?!

Dates to Remember

May 8-13 Teacher Appreciation Week
May 9 National Teacher Day
May 10 Joint AR/Exec Board 4:30 Crestview
**If you are newly elected, please join us.*

A Progress Report on NEA Successes in "Fixing and Funding" the NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT (NCLB)

*NEA, guided by your ideas on "fixing" the flaws in the law, released the "Great Public Schools for Every Child Act" calling for significant changes to NCLB. Based on our proposals, thirty NEA-supported bills have been introduced in Congress to either fix the flaws in the law, add positive provisions to close the achievement gaps, or ensure increased funding for critical NCLB programs such as Title I. A total of 207 Representatives and 33 Senators have sponsored at least one of these bills, building support for major changes in the law.

*NEA won nine changes in the national rules governing the law. Based on NEA proposals the U.S. Department of Education issued national rules changes to help correct some of the most unfair and impractical aspects of the law that:

- Allow more appropriate assessments to be used for students with cognitive disabilities;
- Recognize that newly arrived immigrant children who do not speak English should not be required to take the NCLB required reading test;
- Exempt students with serious medical conditions from counting in the requirement that at least 95 percent of students in each subgroup take the mandated NCLB tests or the school will fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP);
- Will allow some states to utilize use a state-designed growth model to measure AYP, a more appropriate measure than the current practice of comparing this year's third-graders to next-year's third-graders;

*NEA initiated, with several affiliates and nine school districts, the first national lawsuit challenging the unfunded mandates imposed on states and school districts by NCLB.

*NEA's "one-size-fits-all" critique and its companion that "NCLB is focused on the wrong priorities: testing, paperwork, and bureaucracy" helped mobilize educators and the general public, and have been used extensively in news coverage of the law, editorials, and by many other national and state organizations and officials.

*NEA empowered state and local affiliates to influence implementation of the law in their states and school districts.

April 11, 2006 – edited for length by Rockwood NEA. Entire article can be found at MNEA.org

Congratulations to...

this year's Teachers of the Year! (RNEA members in bold)

Marylyn Luther – Babler

Kim Kovash – Ballwin

Barbara Schneider – Blevins

Liz Kilian – Bowles

Debbie Albert – CCL

Meredith Sallee – Chesterfield

Mary Kay Kenkel – Early Childhood

Kim Keachie – Ellisville

Andrea Lockwood – Eureka Elem.

Becky Knight – Fairway

Amanda Delmain – Geggie

Talayna Marco – Green Pines

Kary Bachert – Kehrs Mill

Marilyn Jones – Kellison

Twila Cordes – Pond

Christine McGrath – Ridge Meadows

Eric Smith – Stanton

K.C. Klein – Uthoff Valley

Chris Beger – Westridge

Mendy Crews – Wild Horse

Kim Harmon – Woerther

Kelly Van Sciever – Crestview

Doug White – LaSalle Springs

Sheila Dunham – Rockwood South

Glenn Hancock – Rockwood Valley

Keaton Treece – Selvidge

Rick Voss – Wildwood

Russ Carlisle – Eureka High

Colleen Fields – Lafayette

James Kremer – Marquette

Cheryl Apperson – Rockwood Summit

