



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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WHAT'S NEW?

Meet the Education Minnesota Human Rights Award Recipient	2
2019-2020 HVTU Governance Board	2
When Our President Speaks	3
NEA RA 2019	3
A Message from Curt Rock	4
MEA 2019	4
Save the Date	4



Union Goal

Matthew Wilmes
HVTU Vice-President, Education Minnesota Governance Board
District "I" Representative, Lewiston-Altura EM President

Each year educators come back to a new school year and typically develop goals. Over the summer, excellent educators reflect on the past year, decide what worked and what didn't, and determine how to improve. As a union leader, I think about how things went in my local. I reflect on what went well, what didn't, and how I contributed to those failures and successes. How about you? How did things go for you last year? Have you formulated a new goal or a few new goals?

I want to suggest that each educator must take time to consider their role as a union member. Were you active? Some people see a role in the local such as a building representative, steward, on the executive committee, or negotiator as contributing to their active status. Some people consider an active member as someone who attends a

training or event such as the HVTU Fall Drive-In, MEA in St. Paul, the Representative Convention, Lobby Day, or Summer Seminar.

Goals are important. Goals matter. Sometimes goals are developed for us. Sometimes we build our own goals. How about making a goal in your union life? Go to a training, event, or union-sponsored professional development. Attend a meeting such as the Representative Convention, NEA National Assembly, or AFT Convention. Financial support is available for all members.

People are ready to help so that you are never alone. Reach out to your local president for information. Reach out to me wilm0025@hotmail.com. Develop a goal to do one thing for your union.



AFT TEACH 2019 Conference

Alicia Katka, HVTU Webmaster, Houston RVEA

I had the privilege of attending the AFT Teach conference July 11-13. The AFT TEACH conference is held every other year in Washington DC. The conference offered professional development opportunities, a chance to network with other educators from across the nation. The conference offered a wide variety of sessions covering topics for teaching including social justice in the classroom, instructional strategies, and educator well-being. Some of the session topics that I had the opportunity to attend included incorporating native American culture in schools, teaching tolerance using the social justice standards, engaging students through career and apprenticeship programs, and managing stress, among others. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the AFT Teach conference and would welcome the opportunity to attend again. If you are interested in attending the AFT Teach Conference in the future, look for information that comes from your local president in the spring.

Come Meet Education Minnesota's Human Rights Award Recipient at the HVTU Fall Drive In

Jim Parry grew up in Stewartville, MN, and now leads the REACH Stewartville Program there for students in grades 6-12. He shares his experiences of overcoming ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) to motivate his students to overcome any obstacles they are facing and inspire others to understand that it takes just one caring adult to make a positive impact in the lives of youth. REACH Stewartville was a Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals 2016-2017 Star of Innovation Award winner for demonstrating a positive impact on education and the advocacy of children. Jim is also the 2019 Education MN Human Rights Award recipient.

"Combating ACEs with REACH" will be

the presentation by Jim Parry at the Fall Drive In on October 9 in Eyota at the Dover-Eyota High School.

Students who have had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) bring significant challenges to our classrooms. In this session, participants will learn more about the effects of ACEs and trauma-informed education as well as gain resources to further their understanding of ACEs and how to make personal connections with students dealing with them. The case study of REACH Stewartville will be shared. REACH Stewartville is making positive connections with students through Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character, and Hard work (REACH). Session resources focus on assisting

schools in making personal connections, providing character education, resilience building, understanding the effects of ACEs, and building a culture of giving and empathy for others.

Education MN Human Rights Award: To me, this award is really about the power of REACH and how it supports human rights for all students. Every child deserves unconditional love and non-judgmental support, no matter their grades, behavior, family history, or life struggles. I am blessed to work with such an amazing group of young human beings.

"They're all great kids; some just don't know it yet." – Jim Parry

2019-2020 HVTU Governance Board

Joe Cerar, President
(Plainview-Elgin-Millville EM-PEM)

Matthew Wilmes, Vice President
(Lewiston-Altura EM-LA)

Kiel Koehler, Treasurer & Negotiations (Houston-RVEA)

Deanna Capelle, Secretary & Communications & Newsletter (Kingsland EM)

Jean Klinski, Elections/Membership (Caledonia ESP)

Thomas Whalen, Government Relations Co-Coordinator (Byron)

Justin Blom, Government Relations Co-Coordinator (Byron)

Alicia Katka, Webmaster (Houston RVEA)

Angela Forland, Professional Issues (Kingsland EM)



Joe Cerar, HVTU President

Joe is in his 28th year as a high school social studies teacher, the last 25 being at Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School. In addition to being part of the HVTU leadership team,

he serves on the Education Minnesota Governing Board, the MN AFL-CIO General Board, and various regional and local union groups and committees, as well as being PEM's current Chief Negotiator. He and his wife, Jodi, have 4 children and live in SW Rochester. In his free time, he enjoys all things political, curling, hiking and biking, hunting and fishing, and spending time at his cabin in NE Minnesota



Matthew Wilmes, HVTU Vice-President

Matthew is a 7-12 Vocal and Classroom Music Teacher at Lewiston-Altura High School. He serves as the Local President,

HVTU Vice President, and on Education Minnesota's Governing Board as the Election District I Representative. Matthew recently graduated from Winona State University with a Master's in Leadership Education. In his free time he spends time with family and travelling.



Kiel Koehler, HVTU Treasurer

My name is Kiel Koehler and I have been your HVTU treasurer for the past 7 years. I teach mathematics and industrial arts at Houston High School and also coach boys golf. I look forward to serving you as

your treasurer and if you have any questions for me please drop me an email. You can find my email on your desk calendar. I hope you have a safe and productive school year and hope to see some of you at our HVTU outings.



Deanna Capelle, HVTU Secretary & Communications & Newsletter

Deanna is a member of Education Minnesota Kingsland and is a third grade teacher there. She has taught elementary students for 35+ years and has held many offices in her local. She has two grown daughters, both of whom are nurses. She enjoys walking, watching Hallmark movies occasionally, and spending time with family and friends.



When Our President Speaks . . .

Joe Cerar, HVTU President, Education Minnesota Governing Board, Plainview-Elgin-Milville EM

Greetings, HVTU members, and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We have a lot of important information in this month's edition of HVTU Issues so this message will be brief. First, thank you to our returning leaders, Vice-President Matthew Wilmes, and Treasurer Kiel Koehler. And welcome to the newest member of our leadership team, Secretary Deanna Capelle.

One area of focus for HVTU leadership over the upcoming year is to work on better connecting with our locals and their members. We want our entire membership to realize all the benefits available through HVTU, Education Minnesota, NEA/AFT, and the AFL-CIO. We also want to provide the support and encouragement you need as we continue to re-invent our union.

Our leadership team would love to visit each local over the upcoming year at a membership meeting or some other event that works best for you. Please invite us when you can! Also, we want to encourage each of our member locals to send a delegate to HVTU Governing Board meetings which are held about every other month. And finally, if you have any other ideas of what we can do to support you, please let us know. HVTU is in strong financial shape and has the resources to support our membership in whatever ways are needed.

On behalf of Matthew, Kiel, and Deanna, I hope you have a great year and please reach out and connect with us!

National Education Association Representative Assembly

Angela Forland, HVTU Professional Issues, Kingsland EM

Every summer members of the largest Union in the world come together to complete the business of their association. HVTU had four members in attendance this year. The annual National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly (RA) was held in Houston, Texas, July 3rd through the 7th. The 8,000 members that attended this year were treated to a whopping 170 New Business items (a record high) and were able to participate in the first ever Presidential Candidate Forum. This new experience was a highlight for many members both new to the RA and returning to the RA.

Members had an opportunity to march in protest of the imprisonment of children being detained due to immigration laws. It was amazing to march along side union brothers and sisters in protest of protecting our children while chanting "education not deportation."

Another highlight this year for Education Minnesota was being able to support and rally around our very own

Ellen Olsen for another term on the Executive Committee. It was awesome to stand with my fellow Minnesotans chanting "O-L-S-E-N vote for Ellen once again!" Our delegation was well known for supporting our own. Almost the entire delegation showed up to stand behind Ellen. Oh, and Ellen won re-election!

There were many "firsts" for the Minnesota Delegation. We met our 3-1 goal for diversity among representation, we met the 100% participation of all members in attendance contributing \$200 for the PAC, and for the RA to end early the last day despite having a record number of new business items.

Overall the Representative Assembly is an opportunity for members to get out and see how educational needs are different in all states, how the NEA conducts business, and for you to get a say in the organization. It is a great way to get involved and to make your dues really count.



Education Minnesota NEA RA 2019 Delegates



“A Piece from the Rock”

Curt Rock, Field Staff

Welcome back to another school year filled with new students, new curriculum, and new experiences. I know all great educators plan for the future whether it is with lesson plans, activities for students, or other responsibilities given to you in your assigned job.

As you plan your year, please keep Hiawatha Valley Teachers United (HVTU) in your options for things to schedule in your calendar.

Here are some dates you will want to mark in your calendar and consider attending:

- Organizing for Settlement grant meeting—Wednesday, September 25, Rochester (place TBD)
- Fall Drive In – Wednesday, October 9 at Dover-Eyota HS in Eyota
- MEA – Thursday, October 17 at St. Paul River Centre
- Member Rights Advocate I training – Saturday, September 21 at Mayo High School in Rochester
- Member Rights Advocate II training – Saturday, October 12 at Mayo High School in Rochester
- President and New Member meeting with EDMN President Denise Specht – Wednesday, October 30 at Willow Creek Golf Club, Rochester
- Member Rights Advocate III training – Saturday, November 2 at Mayo High School in Rochester

There will be more information coming to your local as each date gets closer.

Just a heads up, as people change or are elected to various positions in your local, please get those changes to Cherie Weller at cherie.weller@edmn.org as soon as you can. The information we send out is only as good as the up to date contact information we have from you.

At the request of Education Minnesota, Hiawatha Valley Teachers United will be implementing the following guidelines for registering for Fall Drive In sessions and the Spring Professional Conference sessions. **“All registrations will be closed one (1) week prior to the event.”** HVTU will try to give members plenty of time to register for sessions at these two events. All we ask members to do is to be respectful of our deadlines so we can host the best possible events and have plenty of time to coordinate with Education Minnesota.

Earlier this summer I sent out an email to all local presidents letting them know how long it has been since your local constitution and bylaws were last reviewed. The thought is to look them over every 3 to 5 years. Please let me know where you are in the process. If you would like me to meet with your local review committee please let me know.

Just a reminder, as you settle your local contracts remember to complete the Costing and Settlement Report Form and send it to me as soon as possible. I also would like an electronic copy of your new 2019-21 contract. These items need to be filed with Education Minnesota as soon after ratification as possible. If you have any questions please let me know. As you bargain with your school districts, remember I am here to help either in person or as a resource person. Let me know what I can do for you.

Minnesota Educators Academy

When: Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019 (no Friday sessions)

Where: Saint Paul RiverCentre 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul MN

Admission: Free and open to Education Minnesota Members only.

Registration: Education Minnesota members must register for workshops. Registration is now open.

Register: <https://educationminnesota.org/events/mea/2019-MEA-details>



Save the date

**HVTU Spring
Professional
Conference**

April 1, 2020

Dover-Eyota High