



# CAPSULE

## THE KRAMER BROWN NEWSLETTER

Badger, Goodridge, Greenbush-Middle River, Grygla-Gatzke, Kittson Central, Lake of the Woods, Lancaster, Marshall County Central, NWRIC, Red Lake County Central, Red Lake Falls, Roseau, Stephen-Argyle, Thief River Falls, Tri-County, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo, Warroad

### Special points of interest:

- KB Recognition Awards
- Kramer Brown Scholarship Recipients

## 2022 Kramer Brown Recognition Awards

May 2022

After two years the Kramer Brown IO was able to hold the Recognition Dinner awards banquet on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at the Quality Inn in Thief River Falls. Retirees, Teacher of the Year and Friends of Education were honored that evening.



### SPRING 2022

#### Inside this issue:

- From the Field 5
- KB Chair 6
- Meeting Minutes 7-14
- Upcoming Events 18
- Scholarship Recipients 16

## Retirees



Stephanie Olson, Goodridge Co President, Eric Mickelson & Alice Sather, Goodridge Retirees



Carol Rhen, Greenbush Middle River Retiree & Mara Gust, Greenbush Middle River President & KB Chair



Don Krause, Lake of the Woods Retiree & Nicole Fiala, Lake of the Woods President & Board Rep



Angel Bergerson Red Lake County Central Vice President, Dawn Halvorson & Penni Nelson, Red Lake County Central Retirees & Kate Moll Red Lake County Central President & Board Rep

# Retirees



*Maranda Peterson Roseau Board Rep & Ann Olson,  
Roseau Retiree*



*Stacey Leake, Thief River Falls President & Board Rep &  
Denice Nelson, Thief River Falls Retiree & Board Rep*



*Rose McDonald, Warroad President & Board Rep & Lori  
Schaible, Warroad Retiree*

Have a wonderful retirement to the 2021-22 Retirees!  
Thank You for your many years in the Education Field!

## **The 2021-2022 Retiring Educators are:**

**Goodridge:** Eric Mickelson, Alice Sather

**Greenbush-Middle River:** Carol Rhen

**Kittson Central:** Janel Dahl, Kim Jones

**Lake of the Woods:** Don Krause

**Red Lake County Central:** Dawn Halvorson, Penni Nelson

**Roseau:** Paul Grafstrom, Ann Olson

**Thief River Falls:** Mary Anderson, Denice Nelson

**Warroad:** Linda LaMie, Tracy Pieper, Lori Schaible





# Teacher of the Year



*Rose McDonald, Warroad President & Board Rep & Patti Hodgson, Warroad Teacher of the Year*



*Maranda Peterson, Roseau Board Rep & Beth Ulvin, Roseau Teacher of the Year*

## The 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year Awards:

**Lake of the Woods:** Joyce Beckel

**Roseau:** Beth Ulvin

**Tri-County:** Jennifer Klegstad

**Warroad:** Patti Hodgson



Congrats to all 2021-22 Teachers of the Year! Your dedication is an example for all!

# Friends of Education



*Badger Substitute Teachers Friends of Education: Anne Stenberg, Kim Langlie, Sarah Jack, Carol Novacek, Martyn Novacek, and Gretchen Lee, Badger President*

## Friends of Education Awards:

**Badger:** Substitute Teachers (Anne Stenberg, Kim Langlie, Sarah Jack, Carol Novacek, Martyn Novacek)

**Lake of the Woods:** Jeff Birchem, Gretchen Mehmel

**Red Lake Falls:** Sherry Knott

**Roseau:** Dan Berggren

**Warroad:** Arnesen's Rocky Point Resort



## Thank you to all the local Presidents for the work you do throughout the year!

*Presidents recognized are:*

Badger .....	Gretchen Lee
Goodridge .....	Elroy Johnsrud
Goodridge .....	Stephanie Olson
Greenbush-Middle River .....	Mara Gust
Grygla-Gatzke.....	Gene Lunsetter
Kittson Central .....	Kari Jensen
Kittson Central .....	Bailey Peterson
Lake of the Woods .....	Nicole Fiala
Lancaster .....	Cory Waling
Marshall County Central .....	Matthew Sundberg
NWRIC.....	Kathleen Kallis
Red Lake County Central.....	Kate Moll
Red Lake Falls.....	Marshall Mickelson
Roseau .....	Jeff Swanson
Roseau .....	Leif Eidsmoe
Stephen-Argyle .....	Shawna Peterson
Thief River Falls .....	Stacey Leake
Tri-County .....	Heidi Hanson
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo .....	Elizabeth Murray
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo .....	Stacy Hanson
Warroad.....	Rose McDonald

## Thank you Kramer-Brown Governing Board!

Chairperson .....	Mara Gust, Greenbush-Middle River
Vice Chairperson .....	Heidi Hanson, Tri-County
Secretary .....	Marcy Helling, Thief River Falls
Treasurer .....	Amber Schoepp, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

**Local Representatives to the Kramer-Brown Governing Board**

Goodridge.....	Alexis Hruby
Greenbush-Middle River .....	Debra Koebernick
Grygla-Gatzke .....	Robin Johnson
Kittson Central.....	Mark Christenson
Lake of the Woods.....	Nicole Fiala
Marshall County Central.....	Lisa Donarski
NWRIC .....	Kathleen Kallis
Red Lake County Central .....	Andrea Eskeli
Roseau .....	Teresa Hulst
Roseau .....	Maranda Peterson
Stephen-Argyle.....	Shawna Peterson
Thief River Falls .....	Denice Nelson
Thief River Falls .....	Stacey Leake
Thief River Falls .....	Marcy Helling
Tri-County.....	Heidi Hanson
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo .....	Cindy Franks
Warroad .....	Rose McDonald



## From the Field



Kevin young

### It Time To Start Thinking About The November Election

Yes, it is time to start talking politics and the November mid-term election. If you remember, prior to the 2018 mid-term election you heard from local leaders and Education Minnesota staff about the 33,000 drop off voters in the 2014 mid-term election. The ask at that time was to get to the polls. Well, this year the message is the same. We encourage, ask, and

need all members of Education Minnesota to vote. Please take the time to research the candidates and their positions on public education. I ask you to support candidates that support public education, but most of all, just vote. Current Governor Tim Walz has been endorsed by Education Minnesota. Soon Education Minnesota members will be screening and endorsing other candidates running for political office. Please be ready for communications that will come from our office regarding the need for members to help screen candidates. Screening will most likely take place in late May and June, after the legislative session has come to a close.

It is never too early for you to identify and engage fellow members to get involved in the political process. We are looking for volunteers from ALL our locals to work on "get out the vote" campaigns. We need your help in engaging your local members to vote. As mentioned earlier, Education Minnesota will continue to endorse candidates, but the focus this year will be to get all members to the polls. If you would like to be on your local team to help make this happen, please let me know.

Another way to get involved is to participate in the Political Refund Contribution Program. This program allows any resident of Minnesota to make a contribution to any candidate and be reimbursed up to \$50.00 for singles and \$100.00 for married couples. To learn more about this program you can go to <https://cfb.mn.gov/citizen-resources/board-programs/public-subsidy-of-campaigns/political-contribution-refund-program/#:~:text=Minnesota%20refunds%20up%20to%20%2450%20per%20calendar%20year,Revenue%20along%20with%20a%20contribution%20refund%20application%20form>. This is a great way to support a candidate of your choosing and get involved in the political process.

Education Minnesota would also like to know if there are any local levy campaigns or school board races your local would like supported. We can help you in the process of passing a levy or endorsing various school board candidates. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any such local races. We want to help.

We continually hear, Elections Matter. Well, it is true. It is time to think about the future. A few days ago, I attended the Kramer-Brown IO Recognition Dinner. During this event the K-B IO recognized IO Leaders, Local Presidents, Local Teachers of the Year, Friends of Education, and last, but certainly not least, retirees. On my drive home after the event, I thought about how hard it is going to be to replace all the retirees that were in the room and those that were not able to attend. Of those attending, there were at least 3, maybe 4 with 40 plus years of experience, with most others having 30-35 plus years of experience. How does one replace a teacher like Carol Rhen from G-MR. Carol has taught for 40 plus years, in a wide variety of subject areas. From LOW, Don Krause is

retiring after many years in the classroom, as a coach, and taking students on overseas trips. Retiring from Goodridge, are Eric Mickelson and Alice Sather. Two individuals with long, respected careers in education. From RLCC, Dawn Halvorson and Penni Nelson are both retiring after many years in the District. Attending from TRF was elementary teacher Denise Nelson. We heard how the newer teachers see Denise as a mentor, providing so much encouragement and support to new teachers in the District. From Warroad, attending was Lori Schaible, a long time elementary teacher in Warroad. We heard how these people were not only teachers, but mentors, coaches, advisors, union leaders/advocates, and leaders in their communities. How do you replace these people? The answer is, you just don't. The hope is we can attract new people to the profession that can eventually step up to fill the large wholes these people leave behind. But, there is a problem. Like it or not, politics rule our public education world. There is a move in this country to underfund and undermine public education. We need to step up, become involved and not let this happen. How? By voting in all elections. We need to make sure the voice of public education is heard. We need to take an active role in the political process. Please get involved. The most important thing you can do is vote. That may seem like common sense, but we cannot afford to have Education Minnesota members not vote in the upcoming November election. Getting good results from elections is one of the most important things your union does to ensure that public education thrives in Minnesota. The real work of getting education friendly candidates elected comes from engaging ALL of you. It is time to stand up for public education. Please utilize the Education Minnesota web site, <https://www.educationminnesota.org/> for more details regarding Education Minnesota work at the legislature and the positions Education Minnesota has taken on a wide variety of topics.

Over the next few weeks and months, The Education Minnesota PAC will make formal endorsements of candidates. They will be posted on the Education Minnesota web site. Once the information is available, I will be sending local leaders the information to share with all members. The most important thing you can do is get involved. Whether you make a financial contribution to a candidate, volunteer to help a candidate's campaign or help at an Education Minnesota sponsored event, getting involved is not difficult at all.

We also would like to know if you have any local levy campaigns or school board races you want supported. Education Minnesota can help you in the process of passing a levy or endorsing various school board candidates. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any such local races. We want to help. We continually hear, Elections Matter. Well, it is true. It is time to think about the future. Like it or not, politics rule our public education world. We all need to take engaged in the process. Please get involved!!!!

As always, please do your best to be involved in YOUR Local. TOGETHER we can do so much. I would like all of you to know that I am here to help you in any way I can. Whether you have questions regarding your contract, negotiations, TD&E, ACA, elections, or any other item, please send an e-mail or give me a call. I can be contacted at the Education Minnesota Bemidji Field Office at 1-218-751-5957 or 1-800-622-4971. My e-mail address is [kevin.young@edmn.org](mailto:kevin.young@edmn.org).



Mara Gust

## 2021-22 Kramer Brown I.O. Chair

Happy Spring! I am thrilled to be writing after attending many *in-person* meetings, events, and gatherings this year. It has been healing to reconnect with friends and colleagues. This year, Kramer-Brown IO hosted the Fall Drive-In, new member and local leader meetings, the Overnighter in Bemidji (in cooperation with the Northland United IO), and the Recognition dinner, as well as other events. Please join me in thanking board members for their efforts this year!

The most recent Kramer-Brown board meeting was in conjunction with the Kramer-Brown Representative Assembly this past March. Delegates who attended this assembly also represent locals at the state Education Minnesota Representative Convention. If you have never attended the Representative Convention, I encourage you to think about it in the future. It is a fun event where you can network with colleagues but most importantly see how our union works at the state level and be a voice for your constituents.

In early May, the Kramer-Brown board hosted its annual appreciation dinner at the Quality Inn in Thief River Falls, for the first time in 3 years. We honored Teachers of the Year, retirees, and Friends of Education. You'll see photos in this edition of the Capsule. This is always a special event to mark the end of the school year and celebrate notable people in education. Thanks to the Kramer-Brown board members for their hard work to make this event a success.

Something new this year, are the Kramer-Brown scholarships. Read more about them in this issue!

The Kramer Brown-Board will have its last meeting of the year in early June. This meeting, "the summer planning meeting," sketches out all of our events for the coming year--including the Fall Drive-In, coming to you at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo school Warren on October 5. (SAVE THE DATE!) As always, you can suggest plans or ideas to your your Kramer-Brown representative. We consider all feedback and use it to guide our decisions throughout the year.

Now is a great time to consider joining the Kramer-Brown governing board. We currently have vacancies from Red Lake Falls, Badger, Lancaster and Warroad. Thank you to our officers, Secretary Marcy Helling from Thief River Falls, Vice-President Heidi Hanson from Tri-County, and Treasurer Amber Schoepp from Warren for their extra work this year.

I hope this summer you can take some much deserved rest and re-charge after a demanding year. Thank you for all you do for your students and each other.

The Kramer Brown Capsule is the official publication of the

Kramer-Brown Intermediate Organization

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### KRAMER BROWN GOVERNING BOARD:

Chairperson ..... Mara Gust, Greenbush-Middle River

Vice Chair .....Heidi Hanson, Tri-County

Treasurer .....Amber Schoepp, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Secretary.....Marcy Helling, Thief River Falls

### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Goodridge .....Alexis Hruby

Greenbush-Middle River.....Debra Koebernick

Grygla-Gatzke.....Robin Johnson

Kittson Central.....Mark Christenson

Lake of the Woods.....Nicole Fiala

Marshall County Central.....Lisa Donarski

NWRIC.....Kathleen Kallis

Red Lake County Central.....Andrea Eskeli

Roseau.....Teresa Hulst

Roseau.....Maranda Peterson

Stephen-Argyle.....Shawna Peterson

Thief River Falls.....Denice Nelson

Thief River Falls.....Stacey Leake

Warroad.....Rose McDonald

Education Minnesota Field Staff.....Kevin Young

Education Minnesota Support Staff.....Andrea Johnson







Kramer Brown Governing Board Minutes  
January 5, 2022  
American Legion @ 5:30pm

Vice Chairperson Heidi Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Members Present: Heidi Hanson, Deb Koebernick, Alexis Hruby, Denice Nelson, Stacey Leake, Marcy Helling, Amber Schoepp, Robin Johnson, Mark Christenson, Andrea Eskeli, Reid Froiland (guest/audit) and Kevin Young, EM Staff.

- A. Adopt agenda with flexibility/Communications
- B. Secretary's Report - Marcy Helling
  - a. Deb. Koebernick made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report, second by Amber Schoepp. Motion carried.
- C. Treasurer's Report - Amber Schoepp
  - a. Robin Johnson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Andrea Eskeli. Motion carried.
  - b. Audit Report - Reid Froiland (Committee: Stacey Leake and Marcy Helling)

A motion was made by Marcy Helling to approve the 2021 KB audit presented by Reid Froiland, second by Mark Christenson. Motion carried.

NOTE: A huge "thank you" to Amber Schoepp for her hard work in being the KB treasurer. Reid Froiland has again offered his assistance as needed, particularly with the use of Quicken.

- D. Old Business:
  - 1. KB/NU Overnighter/March 25-26, 2022/Bemidji, Hampton Inn
    - a. Registration Table - Marcy, Robin, Mark (Help at 4pm or so) Amber
    - b. Meal Stipend for KB members (\$20)
    - c. Door Prizes - Kevin will check to see what Northland United is doing. Possible ideas are gas cards, Target, or Walmart.
    - d. Pizza and Politics: 1-2:30pm on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Members will register for this. Andrea will reach out to invite legislators.
    - e. Friday Evening Activities: Mark Christenson will check with a DJ from Hallock to possibly run the Friday evening activity. He will let Kevin know by Monday. Kevin will keep us posted.
  - 2. Local Leaders Meeting/February 16<sup>th</sup>/Nordhem, Karlstad
    - a. Sessions: Mental Health for School Staff/Unsession
    - b. Andrea will confirm the meal, etc.



E. Action Items:

1. Audit Stipend

a. A motion was made by Amber Schoepp to pay Reid Froiland \$400, plus mileage for the 2020-2021 KB audit and assistance as requested with the KB financial records, second by Stacey Leake. Motion carried.

b. NOTE: Audit on file.

2. 2022 Fall Drive-In Sessions (12 total sessions)

Blurred Lines

Past Practice: How the past can hurt or help

Student Mental Health

Reading

Digital Learning. Strategies

Understanding challenges with student of homelessness, mental health, and adverse childhood

How to find balance in work and life

Mental health issues for adults

When can I afford to retire (2 sessions)

Two sessions presented by KB locals/staff (TBD at Summer Planning)

F. New Business:

1. KB Representative Assembly/March 9/Nordhem, Karlstad

a. Andrea will plan meal with the Nordhem staff

b. Review delegate allocation

c. Changes to constitution - Need to be approved at KB RA

2. Teacher Appreciation Dinner/May 3/Quality Inn, TRF

a. Marcy will contact Marlys at Quality Inn and get a contract organized for meal, location, etc. More info. at March meeting.

b. Marcy will talk to Danielle Schantz, Challenger teacher, to provide Candy Bouquets as table decorations and retirement gifts.

c. Music (optional)

G. Field Office Report - Kevin

1. Audits:

• Check with your Treasurer's to make sure audits are getting done and copies are sent to the Field Office

• Include list of non-chargeable items and keep a copy for future use.

• File 990 e-post card with IRS; take 5 mins each yr.; if not completed for 3 consecutive years, the local will lose tax exempt status which then requires filling out 23 pages of information and paying \$800-\$1000 to regain tax exempt status

Fiscal Period:

Due Date:





July 1 - June 30	due by Dec 31
Aug 1 - July 31	due by Jan 31
Sept 1 - Aug 31	due by Feb 28
Jan 1 - Dec 31	due by June 30

- Reminder of KB Audit to be completed and approved at January KB Gov. Board Mtg.
2. Membership:
    - Watch for requests for roster updates. Send in changes at any time during the year.
    - Please make sure to notify membership when someone is no longer an active, dues paying member (mid-year retirement, leave of absence, termination, etc.....).
    - When new teachers are hired mid-year, locals need to approach each person about membership.
    - Outstanding rosters from November request - MCC, Thief River Falls
  3. Updated Leadership Rosters:

Please turn in updated leadership rosters for the 2021-22 school year to Andrea at [andrea.johnson@edmn.org](mailto:andrea.johnson@edmn.org). Several are missing. Lake of the Woods, MCC, Red Lake Falls, Tri County

Remember, if no changes, please also report this to Andrea.
  4. Local dues amount: Local dues amounts are needed from the following locals: Badger, Grygla-Gatzke, LOW, Lancaster, MCC, NWRIC, RLCC, Roseau, Thief River Falls, Warroad
  - Budgets - make sure you are considering adjustments with the membership drops and a reminder to set budget and dues in April or May. EdMN will be asking for local dues amounts so membership applications can be filled out electronically using JOIN NOW - plan to get this to us in the spring
  5. Political Conference January 29, 2022: see handout
  6. Fall Drive-In: October 5, 2022 at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
    - Need to pick sessions
  7. Local Leaders Meeting: Feb 16, Nordhem, Karlstad - See handout
    - Mental Health Issues for School Staff and Unsession
  8. KB/NU Overnighter/Virtual event: still working on finding activity for Friday evening.
  9. Lobby Days: All lobby days for the 2022 session will be virtual, and in an effort to accommodate our members' schedules and still create as many opportunities to engage members around issues and connect them with legislators, we will be planning for three different lobby day formats. The two types of lobby days planned at this time are:



- Issue-themed Lobby Days: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays throughout session - all members will be invited to these, and each day will focus on a different topic. The plan is to start these in mid-January, and a schedule will be sent out soon.
  - Local Lobby Days: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - members of the local or maybe IO only. These are the same as our past lobby days, except they will be held virtually. The format will be like last year, and we had incredible engagement, with over 700 members participating.
10. Summer Seminar: Aug 2-4, 2021 (Save the dates. Please talk with your District Admin. to keep dates open)
  11. Visibility in locals: Please send calendar/notification of general membership meetings, events the local is taking part in, school calendars, etc..... I will do my best to attend.
  12. **Please make sure the information I share with you at Governing Board meetings is passed on to those in your locals who need the information. Thank You!!!**
  13. Other - Social Studies Standards  
After some lengthy discussion with social studies standards, the GOP passed that no standards will be changed at this time. This will now affect the Science Standards. It is possible. That. Standardized test will change, but the classes won't be supported due to lack of standards changing. More information to come.

H. Other:

1. Andrea Eskeli made a motion to have the KB treasurer reissue/replace two checks (#5783 for the amount of \$56 and #5784 for the amount of \$28.56) written to Heidi Hanson, second by Mark Christenson. Motion carried.
2. Next meeting (Rep. Assembly) is March 9th @ 5:30pm at Nordhem, Karlstad.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36pm  
KB Secretary, Marcy Helling

March Meeting:

- \*KB/NU Overnighter Update/Review
- \*Teacher Appreciation Dinner Update
- \*KB Scholarships
- \*Capsule Reminder: Rose M., Denice N., Deb K., Robin J. (April 15<sup>th</sup>)





Kramer Brown Governing Board Rep. Assembly Minutes

March 9, 2022

Nordhem, Karlstad @ 5:30pm

Chairperson Mara Gust called the meeting to order at 5:50pm.

Introduction of Governing Board and Guests

Delegate Roll Call: Mara Gust, KB Chairperson/GMR delegate; Heidi Hanson, Tri-County delegate; Deb Koebernick, GMR alternate; Alexis Hruby, Goodridge delegate; Denice Nelson, TRF delegate; Marcy Helling, KB Secretary; Amber Schoepp, KB Treasurer; Mark Christenson, KCC delegate; Andrea Eskeli, RLCC delegate; Rose McDonald, Warroad delegate; Nicole Fiala LOW delegate; Maranda Peterson, Roseau delegate; Kathleen Kallis, NWRIC delegate; Lisa Donarski, MCC delegate; and Kevin Young, EM Staff.

- A. Adopt agenda with flexibility/Communications
- B. Secretary's Report - Marcy Helling
  - a. Andrea Eskeli made a motion to accept the KB January minutes, second by Heidi Hanson. Motion carried.
  - b. Kathleen Kallis made a motion to accept the KB Rep. Assembly 2021 minutes, second by Lisa Donarski. Motion carried.
- C. Treasurer's Report - Amber Schoepp
  - a. Deb Koebernick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Alexis Hruby. Motion carried.
  - b. The KB Treasurer position will be open for the upcoming 2022-23 year.
- D. Old Business:
  1. KB Appreciation Dinner/May 3/Quality Inn, TRF
    - a. Marcy and Marlys will make a decision on the dinner, dessert, drinks, etc.
    - b. The decorations will be blue/white tableware, candy bouquets (about 12) for tables, and possibly entertainment. Pictures will be taken.
    - c. Certificate, Amazon \$25 gift cards, and a card will be given to the retirees. A certificate will be also given to Teacher of the Year and Friends of Education. Mara will talk to Robin to see if she is willing to write on the retiree cards again.
    - d. A contract will be sent to Andrea at the EM Office when finalized.
  2. KB /Northland Overnighter/March 25-26/Bemidji
    - a. Marcy will get 10 (\$15) gas cards for door prizes on Friday evening.
    - b. Set-up about 3:45pm (Some volunteered to help)



- c. Amber will get cash for 45 (\$20) evening meal vouchers.
- d. Marcy will bring the banner for the event.
- e. About 90 people will be in attendance.

E. Action Items:

1. Award Scholarships

a. The \$500 Education Scholarship was given to a current college student. Heidi Hanson made a motion to nominate the KB \$500 Education Major scholarship to Sarah Stanelle (GMR), second by Maranda Peterson. Motion carried.

b. Two \$250 scholarships were given to two high school students.

Andrea Eskeli made a motion to nominate two high school students to each receive a \$250 scholarship. These will be given to Madison Verbout (Roseau) and Hannah Wilebski (Goodridge), with a second by Kathleen Kallis. Motion carried.

NOTE: They will be given out at the local scholarship banquet. Photos will be published in the KB Capsule.

F. New Business:

1. EM Rep. Assembly/April 22-23/St. Paul River Center

- a. One hotel room for one night per local.
- b. One round-trip mileage reimbursement per delegate
- c. KB reimburses up to \$175 vouchered expenses: \$125 for a sub and up to \$50 for expenses of food, etc.
- d. Discussion of Amendments found on [educationminnesota.org](http://educationminnesota.org)

G. Field Office Report - Kevin

1. Representative Convention -

- April 22/23 - St. Paul River Center
- local must have at least 55% of dues remitted to EdMN to have a rep. from your local seated
- Would be great to have a representative from every KB local
- Please register asap - see handout

2. Legislative Agenda: [https://educationminnesota.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2022\\_LegislativeAgenda.pdf](https://educationminnesota.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2022_LegislativeAgenda.pdf)

3. 2022 Election Campaign - [edmnvotes.org](http://edmnvotes.org) for more information; **each local needs to have a local GOTV plan**

4. Audits:

- Check with your Treasurer's to make sure audits are getting done and copies are sent to the Field Office
- Include list of non-chargeable items and keep a copy for future use.





- File 990 e-post card with IRS; take 5 mins each yr.; if not completed for 3 consecutive years, the local will lose tax exempt status which then requires filling out 23 pages of information and paying \$800-\$1000 to regain tax exempt status

<u>Fiscal Period:</u>	<u>Due Date:</u>
July 1 - June 30	due by Dec 31
Aug 1 - July 31	due by Jan 31
Sept 1 - Aug 31	due by Feb 28
Jan 1 - Dec 31	due by June 30

- **Missing Audits:** Grygla-Gatzke, KC, MCC, NWRIC, RLCC, SAC, Warroad

5. Membership:

- Watch for requests for roster updates. Send in changes at any time during the year.
- Please make sure to notify membership when someone is no longer an active, dues paying member (mid-year retirement, leave of absence, termination, etc....).
- When new teachers are hired mid-year, locals need to approach each person about membership.
- **Outstanding rosters from January request - KC, MCC, TRF, Warroad**

6. Updated Leadership Rosters: Please turn in updated leadership rosters for the 2021-22 school year to Andrea at [andrea.johnson@edmn.org](mailto:andrea.johnson@edmn.org). Missing are: MCC, RLF, Tri County

Remember, if no changes, please also report this to Andrea.

7. Local dues amount: needed from the following locals: Badger, Grygla-Gatzke, LOW, Lancaster, MCC, NWRIC, RLCC, Roseau, Warroad

- **Budgets** - make sure you are considering adjustments with the membership drops and a reminder to set budget and dues in April or May. EdMN will be asking for local dues amounts so membership applications can be filled out electronically using JOIN NOW - plan to get this to us in the spring

8. Fall Drive-In: October 5, 2022 at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Review Sessions - see handout

9. KB/NU Overnighter, March 25/26: see handout

10. Lobby Days: All lobby days for the 2022 session will be virtual, and in an effort to accommodate our members' schedules and still create as many opportunities to engage members around issues and connect them with legislators, we will be planning for three different lobby day formats. The two types of lobby days planned at this time are:

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different topic. The plan is to start these in mid-January, and a schedule will be sent out soon.

- **Local Lobby Days:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - members of the local or maybe IO only. These are the same as our past lobby days, except they will be held virtually. The format will be like last year, and we had incredible engagement, with over 700 members participating.
11. Bargaining - see settlement report handout
    - Lancaster is the last KB IO Local continuing to bargain
    - Missing TA Data: MCC
    - Missing Settlement Report: Goodridge, GMR, G-6, LOW, MCC, Tri-county, WAO
    - Missing 2021-23 Master Agreement: Goodridge, LOW, MCC, NWRIC, WAO
  12. Summer Seminar: Aug 2-4, 2022 (Save the dates. Please talk with your District Admin. to keep dates open)
  13. Visibility in locals: Please send calendar/notification of general membership meetings, events the local is taking part in, school calendars, etc..... I will do my best to attend.
  14. Please make sure the information I share with you at Governing Board meetings is passed on to those in your locals who need the information. Thank You!!!
  15. Other

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm  
KB Secretary, Marcy Helling

\*Capsule Reminder: Rose M., Denice N., Deb K., Robin J. (April 15<sup>th</sup>)



## Summer Seminar is back!

Enhance your personal and professional skills at Education Minnesota's annual Summer Seminar.

In 2022, Summer Seminar is planned on being held in person at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph from Monday, Aug. 1 to Wednesday, Aug. 3.

All active Education Minnesota members are invited to choose from dozens of different course options that will improve professional skills while connecting you with other educators from around Minnesota.

We will offer a multitude of courses that fall into strands such as negotiations, racial and social justice, member engagement and organizing, personal finance and union role training.

We offer a number of member-led courses. This is an excellent opportunity to gain professional development created by educators for educators.

Watch [www.educationminnesota.org/events/annual-events/summer-seminar/](http://www.educationminnesota.org/events/annual-events/summer-seminar/) for registration information soon!

## MEA Online is becoming a part of NEA's online learning portal!

Our MEA Online is teaming up with the National Education Association to provide a multitude of online courses for Education Minnesota members.

MEA Online will now include online classes provided by Education Minnesota's Minnesota Educator Academy, along with all NEA online classes.

The site will remain the same, except for the addition of NEA classes for members to access.

There are two important changes for members to be aware of as these changes launch in late March/early April:

- The URL is different! Instead of finding MEA Online at [meaonline.educationminnesota.org](http://meaonline.educationminnesota.org), you will log in at [meaonline.learnupon.com](http://meaonline.learnupon.com).
- Password changes! Members who already had MEA Online accounts will be prompted to change their password upon the first log in to the site.

Members who did not previously have an MEA Online account will need to email [meaonline@edmn.org](mailto:meaonline@edmn.org) with their name, local and member number (if possible) to request access to the new online learning site.

All of the instructions will be included on [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org) when the transition is complete.

## Kramer-Brown scholarship recipients

The Kramer-Brown Governing Board implemented 3 scholarships beginning in Spring of 2022. Two awards for high school seniors who demonstrate excellence in academics and community. The third scholarship is awarded to a current college junior or senior majoring in education, and whose parent or guardian is a member of the Kramer-Brown IO.

This year's high school recipients were Madison Verbout of Roseau and Hannah Wilebski of Goodridge. The education scholarship was awarded to Sarah Stanelle, daughter of Deb and Dave Stanelle, of the Greenbush-Middle River local. Sarah currently attends NDSU.



*Madison Verbout, Scholarship Recipient & Maranda Peterson, Roseau Board Rep*



*Hannah Wilebski, Scholarship Recipient & Alexis Hruby, Goodridge Board Rep*

Scholarship applications and info can be found at [educationminnesota.org/union/kramer-brown/resources](https://educationminnesota.org/union/kramer-brown/resources).

## Loan forgiveness training available

Education Minnesota's Degrees, Not Debt program now has an online training available on the expansion of loan forgiveness options and the steps educators have to do in order to take advantage of this program.

Educators can access the training on the free professional development platform, MEA Online. Search the catalog for "Degrees Not Debt."

By taking the training, those wanting support for loan forgiveness questions will have a solid foundation to understand options and from which to ask questions.

In general, an educator's ability to access and/or apply for forgiveness is going to be dependent on a number of factors. There are a few options for loan forgiveness out there, but each come with a different set of eligibility standards, which is why Education Minnesota suggests taking the online training to start the process.

Once the training is complete and you have found your federal loan information on [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), Education Minnesota staff can help guide you throughout the whole process.

Find out more about the union's Degrees, Not Debt program at [www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy/degrees-not-debt](https://www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy/degrees-not-debt)



### NEA Representative Assembly



The National Education Association Representative Assembly, the NEA's major decision-making body, will be July 3, 2022—July 6, 2022 in Chicago, IL

#### **NEA: We Educate America**

Over 9,000 delegates will gather for NEA's 159th annual meeting and 99th Representative Assembly. This is an opportunity to unite as one voice for education, teachers, and students.



### AFT Convention 2022

The 90th convention of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) will be held in Boston, MA  
July 14, 2022 - July 17, 2022

Go to

<https://www.aft.org/convention>

for more information.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

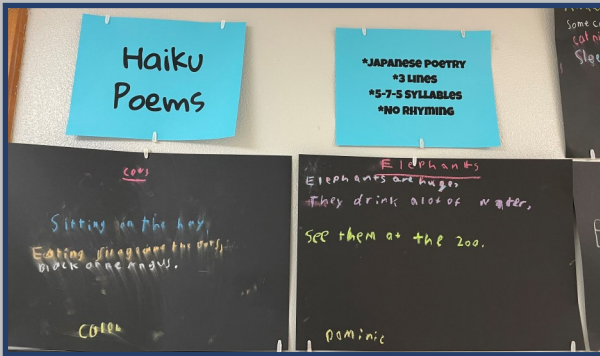
- May 1-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 3 National Teacher Day
- May 3 KB Recognition Dinner, Quality Inn, Thief River Falls
- May 5 School Nurse Day
- June 8 Summer Planning Meeting — Bemidji Field Office, 10:00 a.m.
- July 3-6 NEA National Convention — Dallas TX
- July 14-17 AFT Convention — Boston, MA
- August 1-3 Summer Seminar — St. Bens
- August 31 KB officer term ends (treasurer/secretary annually)



# May 1-8, 2022

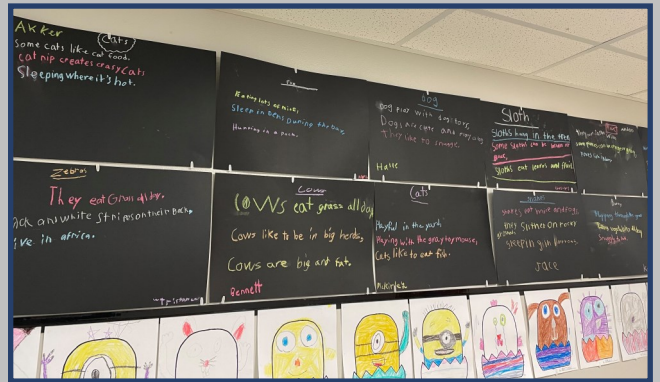
## Haikus Here, Haikus There, Haikus Everywhere!

Submitted by: Debra Koebernick, Greenbush Middle River Board Rep



In early March fifth graders from Mrs. Waage's class were studying and writing Japanese Haiku poetry. These learners then became teachers as they shared what they had learned with other grades and helped other students write their own Haiku poems. We used a common theme of writing about animals. Fifth grade students helped younger students think of lines that described their chosen animal and clap out syllables.

Our halls were filled with wonderful animal haikus and a tremendous amount of learning and sharing happened. Students' work was proudly displayed and enjoyed by all! If you're looking for a wonderful way to have cooperative learning across grade levels, this was a great success at the Greenbush Middle River Elementary.



**Congratulations!!**  
**Kramer Brown IO 2022 Scholarship Recipients**  
 Madison Verbout  
 Hannah Wilebski  
 Sarah Stanelle

## Hats for Helping

Submitted by: Denice Nelson, Thief River Falls Board Rep



Greetings from Thief River Falls. My name is Denice Nelson and I teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Challenger Elementary School. I have been on the KB board for the past 3 years.

This year we started “Hats for Helping” at our school. Each Friday our students were encouraged to wear hats to school for a small donation to go towards a designated project. So far this year our students and their families have helped raise over \$9,000! Some of the groups we have helped are: the Humane Society, one of the local nursing homes, the Area Food Shelf, several families from our school who have lost a parent, and even a few staff members who needed a financial “hug”.



This great idea was supported by a lead teacher, Danielle Schantz and a small group of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who went around collecting the donations (money or suggested items) on a Friday. This project gave our school a great sense of community and awareness to others around us who just needed to know we care!

**BECOME A HUNGER HERO**



Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf

**I'm a HUNGER HERO!**

The next 2 Fridays our “Hats to Help” will be donated to the T.R.F. Area Food Shelf.

Friday, March 25 and Friday, April 1

*Not only does the food shelf strive to eliminate hunger in our community, Director Alecia Hunt, regularly delivers snacks, milk, and supplies personally to Challenger for teachers to give to students. She believes the children in our community come first! This is our chance to give back! All of our donations will be matched through a GMCC sponsored grant!*





## Capsule

### Pay It Forward

Submitted by: Rose McDonald, Warroad Board Rep

In my Pro Com class at Warroad High School, the students are working on a trimester project that correlates with “paying it forward” and simple “random acts of kindness.” The project grew as a result of a TedTalk about a young businessman who decided to write thank yous to the airline pilots while in flight to a business meeting where he would be the presenter. After writing his thank you letters and having the stewardesses deliver them, he never really thought about them again. Soon, however, he received emails from the pilots telling him they had NEVER received a thank you telling them how grateful someone was that they were willing to give up family time during the holidays and more to serve others. This business individual decided to write five thank yous a day for one year as a result of the emails. IT CHANGED HIS LIFE.



Although I modified the idea, I am pleased with the results. My students are writing five thank you letters a month and doing a “Pay it Forward” project in groups. This idea has been so fun; I will only try to make it more fun in the future. The kids are baking for others, reading to little children in elementary, raking for the elderly, throwing concerts during homeroom to raise “cause” money, painting nails at the Senior Living Center, making mini pizzas for the littles in the building, and more. I am so proud of them. To physically show all of these acts of KINDNESS, we are stringing the classroom ceiling with garland depicting names and random acts of kindness. The finished project will have flowers and more! This makes my heart sing, because my kids are showing such love and compassion for others!





President Denise Specht came to welcome the members who attended the Kramer Brown/Northland United Overnighter March 25, 2022 in Bemidji



Local elected legislators came to visit with members at the conclusion of the overnighter as both Kramer Brown & Northland United hosted a Pizza & Politics event.