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| |  | | --- | | November 21, 2016  **The President's Take**  Esteemed colleagues,  This month's RA was a really important one.  As we move closer to bargaining, we need our membership to think about a few things.  We need to think about what is best for our schools and what is best for our students.  What is it that we want included in our next contract?  Most importantly, what are you willing to do to ensure we get the best contract for all of our members?  What can you do and what can you bring to the bargaining table?  I am going to be asking members to give some of their time, expertise and feedback over the next few months.  We need all of our members to sacrifice for the greater good.  Please consider this when you are asked for your help and feedback.  Please note - The December RA has been moved to Wednesday, December 14 at 4:30pm.  It was originally scheduled for 12/21, but we thought it would be best to allow members to go home on the last day before break.  Representative Assembly  **Bargaining**  The bargaining team is coming together at this time.  I am meeting with those that were nominated for the team and I will have a team together by the first week of December.  The bargaining team will be presented for approval by the RA on December 14th.  **Contract Improvement Committee**  Vice President Gary Lorber presented a powerpoint detailing the plan for the Contract Improvement Committee.  Building reps will be planning voluntary meetings at sites to collect information from members.  Next, the committee will be sending out a survey to all membership looking for feedback.  Finally, there will be contract forums at Larkin High School and Streamwood High School that all members are strongly encouraged to attend on December 5 and 6.  After all this information is collected, the committee will give this information to the bargaining team.  [Here is the link to the powerpoint.](http://theeta.org/about/governance/representative-assembly/)  Committee Reports  **Special Education Committee**  There are two openings on SEC - ELL Gen Ed and Middle School Gen Ed - YOUR VOICE MATTERS! Please submit your intent to Richard Johnson or Sandy Citron.  The department newsletter was shared at all November 8th program forums. Please check the intranet for a copy if you weren't present.  For all news and notes form Program Forums, visit the Intranet.  A Call to Committee is currently being created for a review of and recommendations for Assistive Tech/Augmented Communication in our district.  John Heiderscheidt met with our committee and will be returning in December to engage in conversations about school safety.  The state has approved all Deviation forms that were submitted for going over the 70/30 threshold for class makeup.  The department created a new Annual Review checklist and posted it to eStar docs. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your specialist and building administrator. If you are unable to find an answer, please submit a personal communication, found here: [SEC Personal Communication Form](https://docs.google.com/a/u-46.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD8gYMUrGOYbRsY1dVdE9WJrhuAHTFy6T9O6wpk40XRtpn1w/viewform)  **MTSS**  Survey went out to membership and asked for what different buildings are doing. The goal was to find out what buildings are doing to try to create a flow chart for how interventions work. District has renewed a contract with AIMS Web and we are trying to create a new mechanism that is not so labor intensive.  **IEA Region 24**  IEA Region 24 has a new tab on The ETA website. There is a link in order to get financial support for PD. This is separate from the district’s financial support. [Here is the link to the new tab on the ETA website.](http://theeta.org/iea-region-24/)  The IEA RA will have an election on November 29th. You will have an envelope that contains the ballots and the directions for holding the election.  Student growth is part of ESSA and this is different than the student growth that is part of your teacher evaluation. A  powerpoint will be posted on the Region 24 part of the ETA website that is comprehensive about everything Doreen talked about.  **Grassroots Political Action**  GPA talked about the importance of the upcoming school board elections.  The important thing to remember is that the school board members were voted by a very slim margin.  The difference in votes was approximately 1000 votes.  We need to get out and vote, we need to inform the public on why the school board positions are so important and why we need to elect members that are supportive of what teachers do on an everyday basis.  We cannot afford to stand by idly and allow these elections to ruin what we have all worked so hard for.  If you would like to be part of this crucial work, please email Jeff Horler (High School) [etajeff.gpa@gmail.com](mailto:etajeff.gpa@gmail.com), Joyce Juenger (Middle School) [etajoyce.gpa@gmail.com](mailto:etajoyce.gpa@gmail.com) Jen Bury (Elementary School) [etajen.gpa@gmail.com](mailto:etajen.gpa@gmail.com)  **Homework**  I asked the entire Representative Assembly what they were willing to do to guarantee a contract that is best for our membership.  I gave out "Pledge Cards" to all in attendance.  There were 3 things that I asked if reps could pledge to do in the next month.  They were to circle which of the 3 they could pledge to do.  I am now asking members to look at the Pledge Card and ask them to pledge to do as many of the 3 as they are able to do in the next month.  If you can circle which of the 3 you can do, please do so and give the Pledge Card to your building representative.  [Pledge Card on ETA website](http://theeta.org/about/governance/representative-assembly/). | |

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