



The President's Insights

10-28-18

I want to start by saying I hear you. I hear all the time about teachers going above and beyond with parent teacher conferences. I hear about the concerns we have in our buildings in regards to safety and the needs of our students.

The stories I keep hearing over and over again tell me that we are in need of something to help our students, help our teachers, and help our schools. We are in a time when our students have more and more needs. When the state seems to put more and more constraints on our classrooms with greater expectations for our students.

Not a day goes by when I don't hear the frustration about not receiving our step this year. I get asked on a daily basis about when we will be filing a strike vote. What steps are we taking to protect the contract and get our teachers what they deserve. To address these concerns, I am meeting with IEA legal and getting all the information I can about our potential steps outside of bargaining, should it come to that. Let me stress, our goal is to go to the table, bargain a contract that works for all of our members, and avoid actions such as strikes or arbitration. That being said, it is time we address those concerns and at the November RA I will do so. We will present the timelines and processes that will happen if we decide to file a ULP. We will outline what taking a strike vote looks like and what that means for bargaining and our members. We need to educate our members so they can be fully informed of what these things mean to our union.

More than anything, we need our members to know that even with all of this in place, we need to focus our energy toward CIC and bargaining. We need the CIC to make recommendations for our bargaining team now so we can get these issues that we hear about repeatedly to the table and start figuring out solutions. We need time as a bargaining team to go to the table and do the work of the membership.

I know our members are doing great work each and every day against what sometimes seem like impossible odds. We need to keep working, keep talking, and keep fighting for the education our students deserve.

Open Enrollment

Beth Berg came to the RA and gave a presentation on Open Enrollment for 2019. A link to the highlights of Open Enrollment can be found below. If you have questions, reach out to Beth Berg at bethberg@u-46.org.

[Open Enrollment Presentation](#)

Clerical Hours at Elementary

With the new DUSA contract that was just ratified, there have been a number of concerns about the number of hours available for clerical work to be done, especially at our elementary schools. The Elgin Agreement is clear on the number of hours. If you believe that you are not receiving your full clerical time, please email etabarbbettis@gmail.com so we can ensure your schools needs are met.

Those Who Excel

The date for this years Those Who Excel bowling event and scholarship night have been set. The bowling night will be Thursday, April 18 at Streamwood Lanes. The scholarship night will be at Larkin High School on Tuesday, April 23. If you would like to be a part of the team that makes this night a tremendous success in raising money that goes towards student scholarships, email Donna Streit at dstreit1212@gmail.com

ETA Strong Shirt and ETA Store

You can now show your ETA Pride with the ETA Strong Shirt. The shirt comes in a regular and tall variety and in a variety of sizes. You can purchase the shirt through the new ETA Store at the link below. You can pay by credit card or by check. To pay by check, be sure to check out the information when clicking checkout.

[ETA Shop](#)

Membership Events

Our membership committee is working on two upcoming events. The first will be a member rally day on November 8. On November 8, we are asking all members to wear their #ETAStrong shirt. That night, we will gather at Elgin Public House at 4 PM for an ETA Meet and Greet. A link to an invitation will be forthcoming.

We are also in the process of organizing an ETA Night Out to a Windy City Bulls game. This game will be on Saturday, February 9 at the Sears Center in Hoffman Estates. In the coming weeks we will be sending out information on how to buy a ticket to this event. We hope to see everyone at the Public House on November 8.

IEA RA Elections

Nominations are now open for the Illinois Education Association Representative Assembly. The convention will be in Rosemont Illinois April 11-13. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, do so at the following link.

[IEA RA Nominations](#)

The nomination window closes on November 9 at 5:00 PM with the election taking place on Tuesday, December 4 in your building. If you have any questions email Jim Krambeer at krambeers4@sbcglobal.net

GPA

Be sure to check out a letter prepared by our Grassroots Political Action team

explaining the goal of their team on the ETA website. The letter can be found by clicking the link below

[GPA Letter](#)

SIP and SD

In this month's RA Presentation, you will find slides related to the roles and responsibilities of SIP and SD. The list of topics for SIP and SD is not exhaustive but meant to be a guide to help your respective committees. It is important that these committees function at a high level so member voice is heard on academic and building issues. If you have questions about how your school's SIP or SD teams function, please reach out to your section director for more information.

As always, we appreciate everything you do. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Building Representatives, Section Director, or any member of ETA leadership for assistance.

Barb Bettis
ETA President

[October RA Presentation](#)
