

Every Member Option

Delegates at this year's DA passed by a large majority a new business item which establishes an optional dues assessment.

All AEA members will be asked to support public education initiatives.

By remaining in this option we will be providing much needed funding for three very important programs that are working hard to change public education.

All members will be receiving a letter informing them about this program along with a returnable form in which to decline participation. Also, the fall issue of the AEA Advocate will carry the same information for those who might have missed it.

Members will contribute annually by way of the **Every Member Option**. These dues will fund the following three areas:

AEA Foundation for Teaching and Learning

(Educational grants and scholarships); the **AEA Fund for Children and Public Education** (political action funds and campaign contributions); and the **Education Improvement Fund** (to support or oppose ballot propositions which affect public education or employees).

I know that in these times it is hard to ask more of our members but if we want positive change for Arizona's public schools then we need to support the fundraising for political action that will help us elect friends of public education.

There is an "opt out" provision for active members who do not wish to contribute; Active members will be asked to contribute \$12 a year above their dues amount. It will be divided as follows: \$5.00 per year to the AEA Foundation for Teaching and Learning, \$4.00 per year to the AEA Fund for Children and Public Education (PAC), and \$3.00 per year to the Education Improvement Fund to support pro-education ballot initiatives and oppose

Associate Member Category

Another new business item passed by the delegates established a new membership category.

The new Associate Member category will be for those who wish to support AEA and public education, but who do not qualify for any other membership category.

AEA will seek to enroll parents, family members, local boards of education, business owners and many other non-education employees who share AEA's vision of "a great public school for every student".

They will have no voting rights but would receive publications and e-mails, which would keep them up to date on issues around public education.

This will allow us to lawfully send information about candidates for political office and all them to make voluntary contributions to the AEA PAC and EIF Funds. Associate Membership will pay forty-eight (\$48) dollars a year.