

M.E.S.P. Courier

Marana Education Support Professionals

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2008

Letter from the Editor



This is the first newsletter for the 08-09 school year. I will put another out in the spring. Next year I plan to publish 3-4 for the year. I hope that you have had a great first semester!

I would like to quickly introduce myself. I am Heather Johnson and I work as a Lab Tech/ Library Aide at Tortolita

Middle School. I am also your Treasurer and webmaster for our newly designed MESP site.

If you have not done so please go have a look at our new site. I have changed things around a little and would like to hear your ideas. I have installed several new features on our site including a feedback feature. So please feel free to contact me using this.

I also have some ideas for our newsletter and would love you to help me with it. I want to include what I am calling the East and West side stories.

I would like these articles to introduce a outstanding MESP member from both the east and west side of I-10. If you

know a MESP member who works beyond the call of duty, has an interesting story to tell. If you would like to be featured in our East and West side story just tell us where you work, how long you have worked for MUSD and any other information you would like to share even a picture.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let me know what you would like to see in our newsletter, I am open to suggestions. Send article suggestions and Biographies to hjohnson@maranaesp.org

I look forward to meeting all of you at our next General Meeting, which will be held on ESP Day, November 19 @ 6pm.

Our New Association Representatives have been elected

As you all know all of our members received with their welcome letters nomination forms for Association Representatives, formerly known as building reps or area representatives. We also needed to hold elections at a few of the schools. Well the numbers have been tallied and here are the results!

Admin/ Technology/ Mcat
Tiffany Montes

Desert Winds
Rulynn Rohler

Estes
John Farmer

Marana High
Mike Ellis
Terry Pickell

Marana Middle
Peggy Ellis

Roadrunner
Kelly Banales

Transportation / Maintenance
Robin Abrams-Ryans
Robert Banales
Karen Figueroa
Sheryl Gobrecht
Mary Heintz
Marguerite Shannon
Phyllis Yancey

As you can see from the list not all schools have a representative, this is because no one ran for the position at your site. If you would like to be a representative or if you would like more information on becoming a AR please contact one of our current ARs or one of the following:

President
Debbie Montes 256-8127
Vice President
Larry Trimble 820-3892
Treasurer
Heather Johnson 294-6763

Membership Chair
Tiffany Montes 419-2851

Inside this issue:

Criteria for AEA Recommended Candidates	2
Winter Social Being Planned	2
Getting Involved	2
Real Help for Working Moms	3
School Board Elections	3
Getting Your Free Credit Report	3
Calendar of Events	4

Highlights:

- A CANDIDATE NEEDS TO MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA BEFORE AEA WILL RECOMMEND THEM
- GET READY FOR A WINTER SOCIAL
- VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION
- WORKING MOTHERS CAN GET SCHOOLING ONLINE
- SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS
- GET A COPY OF YOUR CREDIT REPORT FREE
- SEE WHEN OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED



Criteria for AEA Recommended Candidates

NEA and AEA recommend pro-education candidates for state and national office based on their positions and actions regarding children and education—not on their party affiliation.

Strengthening Public Education Increasing funding for schools and colleges, opposing vouchers and privatization, and modernizing school facilities.

Ensuring Children's Health & Safety Supporting safe schools

programs, continuing Head Start, and increasing health and nutrition programs

Maximizing Student Learning

Smaller class sizes, early childhood education, programs for disadvantaged children, vocational education, college scholarships, school-to-work, and updating technology.

Respecting School Employees

Higher salaries to keep the best employees, inclusion in

decision making, and increased funding for professional development and professional growth.

Legislative action is vital for the survival of public education."

Linda Somo

Winter Social being planned

As a member of the Executive Board I speak for everyone when I say, "I want to meet each and every member of MESP." You are the whole reason for the organization and we want to celebrate with a Winter Social.

This event will be a time of fun, food and friendship. A place where we can socialize

and meet each and every member. We also encourage any ESP to join us. We can answer any questions you have about our organization.

If you bring a guest and he/she signs up you will have your name entered into a drawing for great prizes. There will also be hourly door prizes during the whole evening.

We will post flyers at your sites and on the website. So keep an eye out for a purple flyer! You can also keep in contact with your site's AR about the time/date.

We hope to see everyone there with a guest or two. We can't wait to meet you!!!

There has never be a better time to get involved in your Association and in the Upcoming Election!

From now until November we MESP can make a DIFFERENCE. Elected officials must see that we "Marana is" are a community of active citizens who will not only vote, but encourage others to become informed and vote for candidates who meet the needs of our public schools. If we do not elect a pro-education majority to the legislature the majority will

be advocating for unneeded tax cuts, private school vouchers, and tuition tax credits. It will take all of us to elect pro-public education candidates.

Call Brigitte Spuhler at 742-7045 if you would like to get involved.

Pima County Recorder's Office

740-4350

www.recorder.pima.gov

Visit AEA's Election guide <http://az.nea.capwiz.com/election/home/>

Receive AEA Legislative Updates <http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup>



Real Help for Working Moms

Time, money, and confidence can be terrific stumbling blocks for single working mothers who dream of going back to school. Now a collaborative effort called “Project Working Mom” aims to change that. Developed by eLearners.com with American InterContinental University, DeVry University, and Walden University, the program offers \$2 million worth of full-ride scholarships and a \$15 billion financial aid

database to peruse.

There are approximately 10.4 million single moms in the United States—many who find themselves in a cycle of under-employment and only 16 percent of whom have college degrees. With an online option for pursuing a degree, working moms can attend classes without leaving their homes, and without having to find childcare. What’s more, Project Working Mom offers

articles on topics such as the family/job/school balancing act, being a successful student, and finding a job. And its Web site, at www.eLearners.com/ProjectWorkingMom, provides an online community for single mothers to meet and connect with other women who are going through (or who have been through) the same experience.



School Board Elections

Our public schools face huge challenges and extraordinary opportunities – Marana Unified School District (MUSD) is not immune to these possibilities and potentials that exist. Marana Educational Support Personnel (MESP) is an important segment of the MUSD’s workforce. MUSD should articulate meaningful policies that help attract, support and retain quality ESP employees. The MUSD election is important since the school board sets policy for the district, ap-

prove the budget and hire the superintendent to run the daily work of the districts. Let’s take a closer look at the eight candidates running for the three open seats on the Marana School Board – a closer look at how they answered questions that specifically address the needs of MESP.

I have included full responses to all questions that pertain to MESP members in this issue of the MESP Courier. To view the candidates’ full responses to

all questions please log on to our website at www.maranaesp.org and click on the link to MEA’s Special Edition of the Voice.

Also please note that in the Voice Dean Spencer’s responses are not available. His responses were received too late to print in this edition so I have included them in a separate file titled Dean Spencer located just under the link to the Voice.

“Some people make things happen. Some people wait for things to happen. And then there are those who say-what happened?”

Getting Your Free Credit Report

The federal government requires that each of the three national credit-reporting agencies—Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion—gives you a free credit report every year. You can order them from all three at once, or at different times. But the ONLY authorized online source is at www.annualcreditreport.com,

says the Federal Trade Commission. Consumers should be aware that there are many sites out there that claim to offer “free” credit reports but often charge you for another product if you accept the report. To request your credit report by phone, call 877.322.8228; by mail, write to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Do not contact the individual credit-reporting agencies.



Holding Everything Together



Marana Education Support Professionals

6873 N. Oracle Road
Tucson AZ 85704

President: Debbie Montes: 256-8127
dmontes@maranaesp.org
Vice-President: Larry Trimble: 820-3892
ltrimble@maranaesp.org
Treasurer: Heather Johnson: 294-6763
hjohnson@maranaesp.org



I would like to take the time to explain the new way we are holding business for MESP.

In an effort to keep the General Meetings down to one hour or less we will be holding Executive Board Meetings once a month. The General Meeting will be held Every 3 months.

We hope that this will encourage more members to attend our General Meetings because we want our main focus of these meetings to be about you. This will be a time for you to hold fellowship with your colleagues, express concern over issues that you are having at your sites or share ideas.

All meetings will be held at the Community Schools Building on Lon Adams. A map can be found on our website.

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 AR Training
2	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Vet's Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 E-Board Meeting	19 General Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanks-giving	28 Break	29
30						

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 E-Board Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	W	I	N	T	E	R
28	29	30	31			
B	R	E	A	K		

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Winter	Break	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 E-Board Meeting	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31