

CREA/CROTA Association Representative Assembly Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 (4:30 – 6:00 P.M.)

Linn Area Credit Union

Minutes**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:39 PM**WELCOME – Happy Teacher/Para Appreciation Week!**

Lori Vana, Linn Area Credit Union: LACU sponsored 5/3 event, also running a contest on Facebook thru weekend "Tell us why you LOVE teaching" for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Granite City - Teacher store is available as a space for tutoring in the summer

HOT TOPICS

1. **CREA Election Results -**
 - a. **Welcome Exec Board members**
 - i. Matt Brems, Eriec Colbert, Roxanne Dittmer, and Laura Wheeler
 - ii. Sara Yedlik, Vice-President; Carla Riley, Treasurer; Jenifer Phelan, Secretary
 - iii. President - Election result: Tania Johnson 279 and Pete Clancy 237 (over 400 members did not vote in this contested election) Pete and Tania as co-presidents would bring complimentary strengths in the interest of uniting our association. Tania has multiple responsibilities with lane change processing, communication, Resolution Team AND TQ. Tania, as President, can appoint Pete as co-president and the two will work together with Kim to serve members. Currently exploring options, including seeking NEA funding.
2. **Educator of the Year reception** – Tomorrow, at Kirkwood Hotel – Educator of the Year, Judy Schenkelberg; Honorable mention, Dr. Michael Ayers; begins at 4:30 – program at 5
3. **PAC** – Molly Donahue is running for House District 68 (seat currently occupied by Ken Rizer) and endorsed by ISEA. Absentee ballot requests have been prepared for members who reside in that district. ISEA legislative recommendations will be forthcoming for other candidates after the June 7 primary.

EVENTS/FLYERS/HANDOUTS

1. **Agenda**
2. **MIIP FAQ document**
3. **Changes in Course Approval Process**

PRESSING ISSUES

1. **MIIP insurance increases** – enrollment ends May 13 – FAQ sheet developed to address concerns – CRCSD is now the heaviest user of the six entities, and was assessed a 15% increase on top of the 11% across the board, minus a 6% differential – OPEN ENROLLMENT period is the time to make any necessary changes (ends May 13)
2. **Course Approvals/Level Changes information** - expense of lane changes have resulted in tightening of procedures for approval – Executive Director of Human Resources will not grant full credit for some online courses, citing lack of rigor – an approved list of courses is being developed – CR is one of few districts that will recognize recertification credits on the salary schedule – ISEA courses have proven rigor and are considered acceptable, but still need to follow course approval process – Principals will approve courses that align with teaching assignment – Approval will be emailed – If a course is not approved, teachers can request a meeting with Jill Cirivello, HR director

3. **Staffing** - is mostly finished, with most requests honored – 2.7 RIF notices were issued – our contract DOES NOT have voluntary surplus unless there is a significant change of assignment of program (ie: magnet school or alternative calendar)
4. **CROTA** – bargaining still in process – increased health insurance premiums are a hardship for many paras

ADJOURN: 5:45 PM

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **June 2nd** – Last Student Day – Early Dismissal
- **June 3rd** – PD ... June 4th or June 6th – Last Teacher Day

LINKS

- **CREA Blog** – <https://creacrota.wordpress.com>
- **CREA Twitter** – CedarRapidsEA
- **CREA Facebook** – Cedar Rapids Education Association
- **Teacher Store Website** – <https://www.linnareacu.org/about-us/community-involvement/theteacherstore/>

SUBMITTED BY: Jenifer Phelan

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