

# Region 64 Update

Volume I, Issue I

January 2009

## *Special points of interest:*

- RA Delegates
- Budget Questions
- New FMLA Rules
- TRS under attack

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## **2009 IEA Representative Assembly March 12-14 2009**

Some 1,200 delegates representing IEA K-12 teachers, higher education personnel, educational support professionals, retirees and student members will attend the 154th meeting of the IEA Representative Assembly (IEA RA) in March. The RA, the highest policy-making body of the Association, will bring together representatives from your IEA regions and local associations to act on resolutions, reports and recommendations of the Board of Directors and motions by fellow delegates. The meeting is the culmination of a year long effort to ensure that member needs and interests are integrated

into the daily workings of the organization.

Region 64 is proud to be sending delegates to the RA to act on your behalf. This years Delegates include:

**LZEA:** Sandie Edwards, Rocky Kleinschmidt, Candice Glicken, Carolyn Wagner.

**BEA:** Ted DeBruin, Melissa Hanson, Erica Kraus, Patricia Meloy, Margret Sundstrom.

**BSEO:** Harold Lawrence, Louis Passau, Marsha Williksen.

Alicia Sandoval—Ethnic Minority delegate,  
Corina Robles— Region Vice Chair,

Scott Moore— Region Chair.

The IEA Representative Assembly is **your** assembly. Contact your delegates now and make sure they carry your concerns to this policy-making body. Your involvement gives life to our democratic traditions and continues to ensure that IEA remains committed to all members.

## **IEA Budget sure to draw questions at RA**

As Delegates converge on the Hyatt for this year's IEA Representative Assembly, The passage of this years budget is sure

to bring questions in this time of economic uncertainty. IEA took a hard approach and made cuts. However, many questions

will be raised. Make sure your views are expressed. Come to the open hearing at the Palatine IEA office on Jan. 28th

## Ken Swanson's Thoughts on Obama's Arne Duncan Pick

"The appointment of Arne Duncan to lead the Department of Education is an immediate upgrade for an agency that, during the last eight years, has seldom acted in the best interests of school children and education employees.

"In May, 2007, Arne Duncan participated in the IEA-organized



CARE rally, which brought more than 8,000 people to Springfield to demand school funding reform. That day, Duncan told the crowd that adequate education funding is '...THE civil rights issue of our generation,' then led the throng in the chant, 'Fund our schools! Fund our schools!'

"Appointing someone who truly believes those words as Secretary of Education, represents a major step forward for public schools in the United States."

## New FMLA rules go into effect

January 16, 2009, several new FMLA rules became effective.

The rules focus on 2 primary issues: 1) implementing the new military leave statutory amendments passed in January 2008, expanding FMLA protections for family members caring for a seriously injured or ill service members; and 2) resolving inconsistencies in varying court

and administrative agency interpretations of the FMLA over the past 15 years. The rules also include new provisions allowing employers to require "fitness-for-duty" evaluations and new medical certifications from employee

health care providers every 12 months, instructions for employers as to how certain leave time is to be calculated, and an expansion of employees' obligations to give advance notice of FMLA leave absent unusual circumstances.

*To get the entire story, please go to [www.ieanea.org/region/64](http://www.ieanea.org/region/64)*

## Charity Bash Sets New Fund Raising Record

Even in a struggling economy, the students, staff and families of Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) and District 95 have shown their willingness to help others by raising **\$43,866** in this year's Charity

Bash, another new record for the annual fund raiser. The proceeds

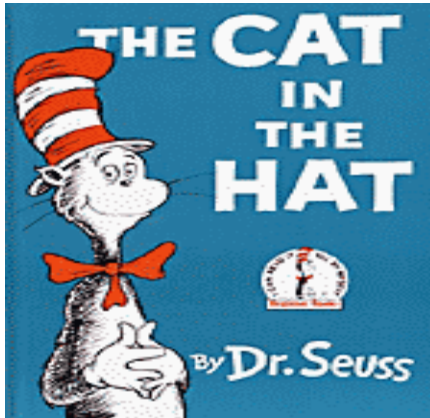
from this year's fund raiser go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). With such activities as a penny war, talent show, auction, dodge ball, school versus school staff volleyball game, badminton tournament, and new hairstyles for the high school deans, raising money for a good

cause was never so fun. "The success of this year's Charity Bash would not be possible without the involvement of Lake Zurich area businesses, who donated to our auction and many events, and the many District 95 students,

## NEA's Read Across America

The National Education Association annually sponsors Read Across America. Now in its eleventh year, NEA's Read Across America Focuses the country's attention on how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping them master basic skills.

NEA launched the Read Across America program



in 1997. The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who epitomizes a love of learning. Dr. Seuss's use of rhyme makes his books an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful.

Your read Across

America celebration can be simple or elaborate as time and inclination allow. Whether you choose to scale up or scale down, keep in mind the basic premise and your event is almost certain to be a success:

On March 2, 2009, the National Education Association is calling for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.

## TRS Pension fund under attack by State Treasurer

Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias introduced the blueprint of a proposal that would diminish the ability of Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) members to effectively manage their pension system along with their pension contributions. The proposal could hurt other state-funded systems. This idea is being rejected by the IEA. After

reviewing a draft of the language, we are calling on every IEA member to **TAKE ACTION!**

The Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) reaffirmed its opposition to the scheme to consolidate the investment functions of the state pension systems proposed by

Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias.

To take action to this, contact your legislator **NOW**. Tell them you are strongly opposed to this. For further information, please visit the following link.

<http://www.ieanea.org/page640138.aspx>

## U.S. News & World Report rates BHS

Barrington High School earns an elite Silver Award in the Dec. 8 newsstand issue of U.S. News & World Report magazine's annual rating of the nation's top schools. Only 37 of 782 high schools in the State of Illinois, including Barrington, Stevenson and New Trier, earned this prestigious designation.

Just two Illinois high schools - Northside College Preparatory and Payton College Preparatory, both in Cook County - earned a Gold Award. U.S. News & World Report analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 21,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. These top

schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze or honorable mention categories. The complete report can be viewed at the [U.S. News & World Report Website](#).

**ILLINOIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
REGION 64**

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*Region 64  
Barrington - Lake Zurich*

**We're on the web**

**[WWW.IEANEA.ORG/REGION/64](http://WWW.IEANEA.ORG/REGION/64)**

*Region 64*



The 3 locals that comprise Region 64 are dedicated to delivering the best education possible to the children within our communities.

Region 64 is there to advocate at the state level to ensure our educators have the tools they need to provide the education that every child deserves.

*Join us in advocating for education*

## What can I do to advocate for Education

Advocate, such a powerful word.  
But, what does it mean?

1: one that pleads the cause of another; *specifically*: one that pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court

2: one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal

3: one that supports or promotes the interests of another

IEA advocates for Education through the use of its diverse membership. After all, we are a group of stakeholders who for various reasons felt inclined enough to enter into education and dedicate our lives to help grow the thoughts and minds of our children.

IEA uses many avenues to accomplish their mission to advocate for education. One very important aspect is to lobby for education and gain state funding, laws, and support from the state legislature and the U.S Congress. We ask that our membership join in these efforts by electing education friendly legislators, participate in rallies for education and write to your legislator about issues that you feel are important. Communications are key.

Get involved. Without your support, IEA and your locals would not be able to provide the programs and functions necessary to win our quest of ensuring great public schools for every child.

You know that IEA advocates for employee rights and wages. This is

how most members see IEA. However, IEA is much bigger than that.

We encourage you to get involved and help make education in Illinois top notch. We have the cards in our favor. With Barack Obama and Arne Duncan, we expect changes that will dramatically change the face of education for the better. Not only here in Illinois, but in our nation. Get involved in your local activities and participate in ways to ensure that every child gets a quality education.