

Great River Gazette



The Voice of the Great River UniServ Unit of the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA)

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August/September 2020

ISEA FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST GOVERNOR REYNOLDS

The following press release by the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) was sent to Iowa press outlets on Wednesday, August 19, 2020:

“The Iowa State Education Association filed a lawsuit today, along with the Iowa City Community School District, asking for an emergency declaration recognizing the authority of local school districts to determine the conditions under which they will resume in-person instruction.



We believe the responsibility to plan the safe return to school buildings, including the use of online instruction, rests solely with the elected school boards of each school district in Iowa, not the Iowa governor.

We are not trying to keep schools closed. We are not trying to keep schools open.

We are saying Gov. Kim Reynolds violated the mandate of her office as outlined in the Iowa Constitution under which she has an obligation to protect the health and welfare of all residents of the State of Iowa.

We believe Gov. Reynolds exceeded her authority under Senate File 2310, and, in fact, she does not have the authority to obstruct a school district from using online learning when conditions are unsafe, or set the standards and criteria to prevent a school closure when conditions in an Iowa school district and greater community warrant it. Senate File 2310 reserved those decisions for local school boards to determine what is needed for the health and safety of their students, school employees and community.”

Update on the ISEA lawsuit: *The ISEA's request for an expedited hearing on the lawsuit filed by the ISEA and the Iowa City CSD against Gov. Kim Reynolds on August 20 in Johnson County was granted. The hearing is set for 1:30 p.m. on September 3 in front of the Honorable Mary Chiccelly.*

THOUSANDS OPPOSE GOVERNOR'S RETURN 2 LEARN PROCLAMATION!

On Friday, July 17, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a proclamation on schools reopening in the Hawkeye State in the fall of 2020 where a 20% positivity rate for COVID-19 would be the threshold where she would consider approving Return to Learn plans for school districts to teach 100% online. This proclamation flies in the face of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which recommends a positivity rate of 5% upon which schools should consider returning 100% online.



Governor Reynolds' reckless and dangerous proclamation has been widely criticized by ISEA members and others across the state. Shortly after the governor's proclamation, 38,067 people signed an ISEA-sponsored online petition in opposition to the proclamation, including 454 members of the Great River UniServ and 2,691 people in Scott County, Iowa alone! The breakdown of the ISEA Great River local members who signed the petition are as follows:

• Bettendorf Education Association (BEA):	127
• Davenport Education Association (DEA):	283
• EICC Higher Education Association (EICCHEA):	8
• Professional Staff Organization (MBAEA9):	25
• Retired	<u>11</u>
TOTAL	454

Special thanks to ALL ISEA members and their families for participating in this petition! Your voice is not only appreciated but is heard throughout our organization and throughout Iowa!

GREAT RIVER UNISERV SUPPORTS DERECHO VICTIMS!



The Great River UniServ and its local associations held a "Fill the Truck and Trailer" drive on August 20 and 21 to support victims of the derecho storm in the Cedar Rapids area, particularly in the Hoover Elementary attendance area which was hard hit by the derecho. Two full trailer and truck loads of food, clothing and consumables were delivered to the Cedar Rapids area and the following funds were raised and given to the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) which is coordinating efforts in the Cedar Rapids area:

• Great River UniServ:	\$2,000
• Davenport Education Association:	\$1,500
• Bettendorf Education Association:	\$1,000
• Professional Staff Organization:	\$150
• Cash donations:	<u>\$350</u>
TOTAL	\$5,000

Special thanks to Great River UniServ members **Lori Dodds, Charlotte McDonald, Katie McDonald, Ardie Miller, Mike Reinholdt, Arron Rietz and Maggie Rietz** for their help and support in loading and delivering the goods and materials to Cedar Rapids. A special "Shout Out" to **AJ and Emerson Rietz** who worked extra hard in helping load and unload for the victims. We loved their great dance moves and wonderful attitude! We especially want to thank all those who donated materials to support derecho victims.

If you'd like to contribute to the derecho victims who were directly affected by the storm, consider the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program at <https://www.hacap.org/>. Thank you all very much!

ISEA HOLDS 'VIRTUAL' SUMMER CONFERENCE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ISEA held its annual Summer Leadership Conference virtually via Zoom on July 30 and 31. The conference theme was Building Strong Local Associations and included workshops on Organizing 101, Elections 2020 and training for local officers and building representatives. The following local area ISEA members attended the Conference and we thank them for their advocacy on behalf of our members and their students!

Eastern Iowa Community College HEA

Tamara Vesselovskala

Retired

Linda Puls

Davenport EA

Jennifer Bergert (Buchanan Elementary)
Cynthia Blinkinsop (Garfield Elementary)
Sophia Farooqui (Madison Elementary)
Monike Hill (Adams Elementary)
JoAnn Hosch (Wilson Elementary School)
Carissa Johnson (Central High School)
John Kealey (West High School)
Heather Newton (Williams Intermediate)
Lori Palmgren (Central High School)
Patrick Query (Mid City High School)
Michael Reinholdt (ASC)

Amanda Reuther (Monroe Elementary)
Maggie Rietz (West High School)
Kelly Roehm (Williams Intermediate)
Stephanie Schmid (North High School)
Janice Telsrow (Wilson Elementary)
Janeen Wakeland (Buchanan Elementary)
Jamie Walker-Sallis (ASC)

Bettendorf EA

Perry Bentsen (Bettendorf Middle School)
Emily Cullison (Herbert Hoover Elementary)
Mary Heeringa (Bettendorf High School)
Paulla Houston (Mark Twain Elementary)
Megan Kannenberg (Herbert Hoover)
Mark Kuntz (Bettendorf Middle School)



NEA MEMBER BENEFITS FOR 2020-2021 CAN SAVE YOU BIG \$\$\$!

NEA Member Benefits has several new programs where members can save money on items purchased every day! For example if you join Costco through NEA Member Benefits, you will receive a \$30 Costco Shop Card! Go to www.neamb.com/costco for further information.

Interested in winning a new Jeep Compass? Join California Casualty's efforts to stop distracted driving and enter its contest at www.WinAJeepCompass.com/NEA and make a promise to drive undistracted!

The NEA Student Debt Navigator can help you understand the student loan repayment or forgiveness programs you may qualify for. Log in at no cost for one year and try it today: www.neamb.com/GetNav.

As an NEA member, you are also eligible for the following introductory life insurance benefits during your first year of membership with no proof of insurability required:

- \$15,000 of complimentary life insurance during the first 12 months of NEA membership
- Option to continue coverage after the no-cost period without answering any health questions

After your first year of NEA membership, your free life insurance benefits change to:

- \$1,000 of term life insurance
- Up to \$5,000 of accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage
- \$50,000 of AD&D insurance for any covered accident on the job or serving as an Association leader
- \$150,000 of life insurance for unlawful homicide while on the job

Log in to learn more or to change your beneficiary: www.neamb.com/GetProtected. Do it today!!!

SUMMERTIME SETTLEMENTS!

BETTENDORF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Highlights include:

- \$700 on base salary
- Rolling over five total sick leave days annually (up from four)
- Add 'son-in-law' and 'daughter-in-law' to non-critical leave
- Changed "child" to "child/minor living in the home" for non-critical and bereavement leave
- Prep time will not count unless it is for more than 15 minutes
- Proof of medical illness (i.e., doctor's note) not required for AESOP
- Five-year contract (2020-2025) with base salary and other items mutually agreed upon as reopens annually

Congratulations to **Scott Berg**, **Mary Heeringa** and **Loralee Cole** who served on the BEA's Negotiations Team!

DAVENPORT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Highlights include:

- Maintenance of all Permissive Contract Language
- \$100 on base salary; Reopeners on salary and two additional items annually
- Joint Committees on (1) Labor-Management, (2) Evaluation and Peer Review, (3) Faculty Transfers and Reductions, (4) Insurance Benefits including Early Retirement; (5) Teacher Leadership and Compensation Oversight and (6) Absenteeism. The DEA will appoint teachers to each of these committees
- Three-year contract from 2020-2023

Special thanks to **Carl Johnson** (Chair), **Dan Flaherty**, **Michael Reinholdt**, **Becky Vincent** and **Rich Adams** from the DEA on serving on the DEA's Negotiations Team! Happy retirement, Rich!

WE ARE PLANNING CUBS GAMES IN THE SPRING 2021!

COVID 19 pretty much wrecked our plans for our annual trips to the Chicago Cubs (and Chicago Bears) games but we are already planning two Cubs' games for 2021! Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 25, 2021** when the Chicago Cubs take on the Milwaukee Brewers at beautiful Wrigley Field! Additionally, mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 28, 2021** when the Chicago Cubs take on their cross-town rivals the Chicago White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field (formerly known as Comiskey Park).

The Great River UniServ purchases 50 tickets and a coach bus for round-trip transportation per game and sells these tickets at cost to our members and their families and friends. These tickets sell out fast so keep an eye on future editions of the Great River Gazette for your chance to purchase tickets for these fun events!

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The Great River Gazette is the periodic newsletter of the Great River UniServ of the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA).

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