

Indiana State Teachers Association

ADVOCATE

Volume 43, Issue 2

Fall 2013



**Teresa Meredith
and Glenda Ritz
share messages
for educators**

NEA RA Delegate Election Petition included



ista-in.org

We can't wait for you to visit our recently launched, redesigned and updated ISTA website to find resources, ideas and information that will help you in your daily work to create great learning experiences for your students.



Bookmark the ISTA website at: www.ista-in.org as a reliable resource for ideas and information related to public education for you and your colleagues.

On the cover

ISTA President Teresa Meredith and Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz both have important messages for Hoosier educators. If you haven't seen Teresa's welcome-back message and Glenda's short video, check them out: <https://ista-in.org/welcome-back-from-president-teresa-meredith>

ISTA website

There's a great way parents and teachers can work together to keep classrooms stocked all year long. Reward A+ classroom. In addition to the 5 percent back in rewards all members earn, parents can now earn extra rewards for the teacher of their choice with the Reward A Classroom program.

Here's what teachers get when parents shop:

- 2 percent back in rewards on everything, excluding postage, phone/gift cards and savings passes.
- 5 percent back in rewards on every Copy & Print purchase.

Learn more at: <https://ista-in.org/staples-a-classroom>

On page 6

It's that time again. If you are planning to be a delegate to the 2014 and 2015 NEA RAs, see page 6.

ISTA ADVOCATE

Volume 43, Issue 2, Fall 2013

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follow ISTA on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/ISTAmembers>



Join the conversation —

"Like" ISTA on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/indianastateteachers



See ISTA photos —

visit www.flickr.com/photos/indianastate



Get the ISTA mobile app—

download the new ISTA mobile app to your smart device to get the latest ISTA information.



Let's keep an eye on state government

My first official day as ISTA president was the same day that Dr. Tony Bennett's A-F school grading emails became public. And although some of that day has become a blur of phone calls and interviews from reporters seeking comments from ISTA, I now realize that the day set a direction for our Association. Not necessarily a new tone but it clarified for me the importance of the role that this Association serves as a useful, dare I say, necessary, watchdog over the actions of state government.

When the fast and furious shake-up broke, reporters from around the state and country filled my email inbox and my voicemail with requests for comments about Bennett's actions and how those decisions affected Indiana schools.

Even in the bustle of activity, I was glad to know that when members of the media want reliable and honest feedback from educators, they contact ISTA immediately. I am proud that ISTA remains the fearless voice of public school educators in our state.

Before the day ended, ISTA had responded to a barrage of media requests, created and distributed two news statements to the media and emailed reaction to you and your colleagues. I believe it's important that the clear and reasoned reactions of the Association and our educators are shared swiftly and widely during crucial times.

I hope that you agree that your professional organization is responding when important education news breaks. ISTA remains committed to ensuring that both individuals and institutions that serve the public remain transparent and are held accountable. A vigilant Association remains key to good state government and real accountability for policymakers and officeholders.

It's not over yet. Your Association is still keeping a close eye on the actions of Bennett and other policymakers. Plus other issues are commanding ISTA's attention, too. The Common Core standards and how to move beyond them, the changes in teacher retirement and the actions of the State Board of Education are all high on my radar list.

And we're still months away from the start of the next legislative session.

Rest assured that I have a long list of issues to look after and know that ISTA will continue to serve its important role as both a watchdog and as a participant in these conversations and decision-making. While you're busy working with the students at our public schools, ISTA leaders and staff will continue—tirelessly—to look out for the best interests of students, teachers and education professionals. After all, that watchdog role is only possible because of your membership and the membership of thousands just like you.

Please know that I am always willing to listen to your concerns. Don't hesitate to email me at: tmeredith@ista-in.org.

Thanks for all you do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Meredith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Teresa Meredith

ISTA President

Make sure you join the right retirement association!

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMAIN ACTIVE in the education profession even after you retire but don't be confused about which retirement association to join. Make sure you join ISTA Retired—the only retirement group associated with the Indiana State Teachers Association.



Pre-retired subscribers can join now and will not have to pay future retired dues increases. It's also a way to guarantee no lapse in your NEA Member Benefits.

You can join online or by contacting Becky Koerner at bkoerner@ista-in.org or 800-382-4037. Other benefits of retired membership include opportunities to serve in governance positions, participate in local chapter activities and continue your involvement and commitment to public education.

Lilly Teacher Creativity Grant proposals due November 1



For the 27th year the Lilly Endowment has announced the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program that will honor and

recognize Indiana teachers, principals, assistant principals, guidance counselors and librarians/media specialists for 2014.

The Endowment will offer up to 100 fellowships at \$10,000 each for educators to embark on summertime periods of personal renewal. More than 2,500 Indiana educators have participated in this competitive program and have returned with tales of adventure, personal discovery and a renewed sense of purpose. For a full program description, go to:

<http://www.teachercreativity.org>.

3 REASONS TO JOIN

ISTA MEMBERSHIP gives you a combined voice with more than 35,000 teachers and Education Support Professionals in Indiana. United members have a far greater impact on local issues, school conditions and legislation.

ISTA MEMBERSHIP works for you locally through collective bargaining for better teacher and ESP contracts and working conditions.

ISTA MEMBERSHIP gives every member \$1 million in liability insurance plus legal protection against harassment by parents, intimidation, defamation, allegations of child abuse and unsafe working conditions.

It's not too late to join. You can join as a new member or renew your membership online by going to: www.ista-in.org or by calling 800-252-6510.

Delegates to elect treasurer at ISTA RA

WHAT: ISTA Representative Assembly

WHEN: Saturday, April 26, 2014

WHERE: Watch the ISTA website at www.ista-in.org under Representative Assembly for time and location details.

WHAT: Delegates will hold elections for ISTA Treasurer. If you are interested in running for this position, notify the Office of the ISTA Executive Director no later than November 15, 2014,

in order for your campaign statement to appear in the Winter 2014 issue of the *ISTA Advocate*. Candidates must notify the ISTA Executive Director no later than March 1, 2014, in order to declare candidacy but campaign statements will not appear in the *ISTA Advocate* but only on the ISTA website. Check the website at www.ista-in.org for additional information. RA delegates will also conduct Association business, hold district elections, pass the 2014 ISTA Legislative Program and are expected to approve the ISTA budget.

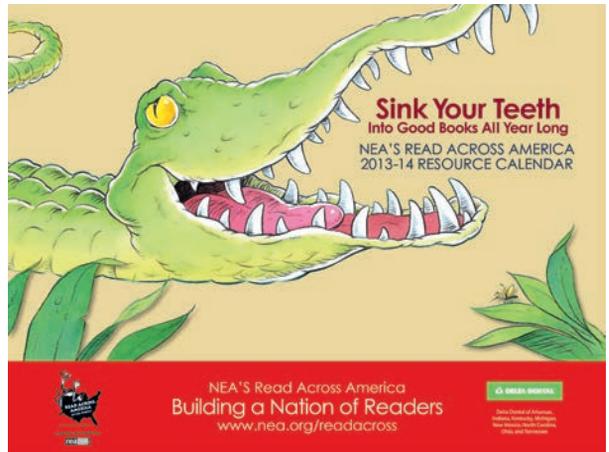


READ ACROSS AMERICA 2014 Grab your hat, read with the Cat and get a FREE packet!

Thanks to major support by Delta Dental, a national dental insurance provider, NEA's Read Across America has been able to produce a resource calendar and supplementary materials for reading and good oral health for the 2014 celebration.

Read Across America Day for 2014 will be celebrated on Monday, March 3, but your school can hold festivities on a day that works best for you.

The RAA literacy calendar identifies wonderful book titles for your classroom, lists themed reading events and is a great daily reminder of the RAA resources that abound online. A free RAA calendar and resource kit will be mailed to the first



200 to complete the form at: <http://bit.ly/16NjwDu> or call Kathleen Berry Graham at: 800-382-4037.

For more information about 2014 RAA, go to: www.readacrossamerica.org or follow @NEAReadAcross on Twitter.

ISTA scholarships and awards

ISTA's awards range from scholarships for future educators to the Horace Mann Hoosier Educator of the Year Award to our Outstanding Minority Educator along with awards for Education Support Professionals and the prestigious Pacesetter Award. Visit our website for details on each of the awards, plus guidelines and applications at www.ista-in.org and click on ISTA Awards.

Dates to remember

October 25, 2013

ISEA Fall Conference,
Indianapolis

November 11-15, 2013

American Education Week

November 13, 2013

Education Support
Professionals Day

February 21, 2014

ISEA Representative
Assembly,
Indianapolis

April 12, 2014

Outreach to Teach,
Indianapolis

April 26, 2014

ISTA Representative
Assembly,
Indianapolis

May 5-9, 2014

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6, 2014

National Teacher Day

Two easy ways to get your ISTA membership card!

Don't leave home
without your updated
membership card!

You now have two easy
ways to access your
personalized ISTA
membership card

when you add ISTA's mobile app to
your smart phone. Search now for ISTA's new member-only
app for your iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Android and
Windows mobile device. Visit the Apple app store, Google
Play, Blackberry App World or Windows Store and look for
"ISTA mobile." Then scan the QR code!

Stay up to date. Get important information, real-time action
alerts, Member Benefit offers. Plus be in the know about
ISTA events, link to social media and have access to the
ISTA websites. And you will have an electronic copy of your
membership card at your fingertips.

If you don't have a smart phone or your computer is close at
hand, simply log onto the ISTA public website at:
www.ista-in.org and click on the My Member Info tab
then click on Print My Membership Card.



2014 and 2015 NEA Representative Assembly State Delegate Election

The 2014 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Denver, CO. The 2015 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Orlando, FL

Following are election guidelines for State Delegates to the 2014 and 2015 NEA Representative Assembly meetings as approved by the ISTA Board of Directors at its October meeting.

NOMINATION RULES

1. Between October 17, 2013, and November 18, 2013, there will be a period of open nomination for State Delegates. State Delegates shall be required to participate in Indiana caucus meetings in the city where the Assembly is being held, as well as all sessions of the 2014 and 2015 NEA Representative Assembly meetings (2014 in Denver, CO, July 1-6, and 2015 in Orlando, FL, July 1-6).
2. NEA Active, Life and Education Support members may participate in the nomination and election of State Delegates. Nominations will be accepted for both Category 1 members and Category 2 members as outlined below.
3. A petition for nomination of approximately 42 State Delegates (final number to be determined by NEA membership records on January 15, 2014) will be provided to all members.
4. Nominations must be made in writing and signed by the nominee. **Education position (Category 1 and 2) must be completed.** Candidates may list a maximum of three qualifications. Each statement must be six words or fewer.

Category 1 members: Includes NEA Active members who are not supervisors¹ and NEA Life members who are not supervisors, retired or staff.

Category 2 members: Includes NEA Active members who are supervisors¹, NEA retired Life members², NEA staff Life members, and NEA Active members for life who are past presidents of the Association and who do not meet the requirements for membership set forth in Bylaw 2-1.b.

5. **Completed petitions for nomination must be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Director, ISTA Suite #900, 150 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, postmarked on or before midnight, November 18, 2013, or hand-delivered by 4:30 PM on the same day.**
6. Persons whose nominations are received by the Office of the Executive Director as stipulated shall constitute the properly certified candidates.
7. Beginning October 24 and through November 18 all nominated names will be posted and regularly updated on the ISTA website at www.ista-in.org until the deadline.

CAMPAIGN RULES

1. Following close of nominations on November 18, 2013, names and qualifications of all candidates will be published and mailed to all Category 1 and Category 2 members residing in Indiana and contiguous states.
2. The official mailing list of ISTA and/or NEA shall not be made available to any candidate for the purpose of campaigning for an NEA state delegateship.
3. Campaign materials may contain references to ethnic heritage.
4. No local, district, state or national dues money may be used to promote the candidacy of an individual or groups of individuals.

¹“Supervisor and administrator shall mean any person who has continuing authority to hire, evaluate, transfer, discipline, dismiss, or otherwise direct employees or to effectively recommend any of the aforesaid actions...”(Bylaw 12-1.f.)

² NEA members who are eligible to hold an NEA Active Life membership and an NEA Retired membership (either Retired Annual or Retired Life) have a choice. For delegate allocation purposes (as well as others), they may choose to be considered as an NEA Active Life member or an NEA Retired member, but not both. In the absence of notification from the member, NEA will assume that these dual members will maintain their Retired membership for governance purposes and the NEA Active Life membership will be placed in a hold status.

ELECTION RULES

1. The election for State Delegates and Successor Delegates to the 2014 and 2015 NEA Representative Assembly meetings is for a two-year term and shall be conducted between February 10 and March 2, 2014.
2. Ballots will be distributed in February 2014, to all Category 1 and Category 2 members residing in Indiana and contiguous states whose membership forms have been processed by NEA.
3. Names will be placed on the ballot in order as drawn from a common receptacle by the Executive Director or agent with appropriate witnesses.
4. Each ballot shall contain a list of the properly certified candidates. No other information about candidates may be included on the ballot.
5. Each eligible member may vote for any number of candidates not to exceed 42 Category 1 and two Category 2 (or final number to be determined by NEA records). Any ballot on which more votes appear than the total allowed in a given category shall not be counted for that category only.

6. Ballots must be returned in the official ballot envelope marked “Delegate Ballot” which has been placed inside another envelope. MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO USE THE ENVELOPE SUPPLIED WITH THEIR RETURN ADDRESS ON THE OUTSIDE ENVELOPE TO MAKE MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION POSSIBLE.
7. Only official ballots meeting these rules which are received by the Office of the Executive Director, ISTA, Suite #900, 150 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, postmarked on or before midnight March 2, 2014, or hand-delivered by 4:30 PM on the same date shall be counted.
8. The ballots shall be separated from outside mailing envelopes, tabulated, and certified by the designated counting agency.
9. Results of the election shall be determined by the above agency in the following manner:

- The top 42 candidates (or final number to be determined by NEA records) in Category 1 receiving in rank order a plurality of votes cast shall be declared State Delegates.
 - The top two candidates (final number to be determined by NEA records) in Category 2 receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared State Delegates, if applicable.
 - Successor Delegates (alternates) shall be all those candidates receiving a plurality in each category in rank order following the certified delegates.
10. All certified State Delegates and Successor Delegates shall be notified of their rank order by email as soon as possible after the results are known.
 11. Notification of Indiana’s certified State Delegates and Successor Delegates shall be sent by ISTA to NEA Membership Records Office by May 15, 2014.
 12. Names of all certified State Delegates shall be published and made available to all local associations.

NEA Delegate Election

13. If a member is elected as both a Local and State Delegate, the member must notify the local affiliate and ISTA in writing of the position accepted and the one refused within five days after being notified by ISTA by email of being elected as a State Delegate. Acceptance of one position relinquishes claim to the refused position. Failure

to comply with this rule results in the State Delegate position declared vacant.

14. Each certified State Delegate shall receive funds for expenses as allocated in the ISTA budget.

15. Ballots shall be impounded by ISTA for two years.

CHALLENGE RULES

Any challenge to these rules or any activity or result governed by them shall be submitted in writing to the Office of the Executive Director, ISTA, Suite #900, 150 West Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, by April 10, 2014.

If necessary, the ISTA Executive Committee will meet to review and

act upon any submitted challenges. Any Executive Committee member who is a candidate for a position involved in a challenge shall be ineligible to participate as an Executive Committee member in the pertinent deliberations.

The Office of the Executive Director will notify all involved parties of Executive Committee action.

PETITION FOR NOMINATION

FOR CANDIDATES FOR ISTA STATE DELEGATE TO 2014 AND 2015 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

I hereby declare my candidacy as ISTA State Delegate to the 2014 and 2015 NEA Representative Assembly meetings.

Candidate Information

*These fields are required in order for this Registration Form to be processed.

*First Name:

Middle Name/Initial:

*Last Name:

ISTA ID #:

Local Association:

*Home Mailing Address:

*City:

*State:

*Zip:

Preferred Phone: (circle one): Home School Cell

School Email:

Home Email:

Education Position: (must circle one)

Category 1*

Category 2**

* Category 1: Includes NEA Active members who are NOT Supervisors and NEA Life members who are not supervisors, retired or staff.

** Category 2: Includes NEA Active members who are supervisors, NEA retired Life members, NEA staff Life members, and NEA Active members for life who are past presidents of the Association and who do not meet the requirements for membership set forth in Bylaw 2-1.b

You may list three Association activities. Each statement must be six words or fewer.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

SEND TO: Office of the Executive Director
ATTN: CANDIDATE NOMINATION
150 West Market Street, Suite 900
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Signature of Nominee

**Postmarked on or before midnight November 18, 2013, or hand-delivered by 4:30 p.m. on the same date.
PLEASE WRITE "CANDIDATE NOMINATION" ON YOUR ENVELOPE.**

HOT TOPICS: Common Core



Common Core in Indiana

The goal of the Common Core State Standards is to provide a clear, consistent understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help. But Hoosier lawmakers spent nearly seven hours listening to expert and public testimony concerning Indiana's use of Common Core standards in August. Some questions remain.

Indiana made Common Core its state standards in 2010. Then-Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels appointed the State Board of Education members who adopted Common Core for Indiana schools. Republican Tony Bennett, then-superintendent of public instruction, emphatically endorsed Common Core and strongly recommended its adoption.

But the Republican-controlled General Assembly this year paused implementing Common Core, making Indiana the first state to do so and ordered the State Board of Education to reconsider whether Common Core should be Indiana's educational standard.

6 Common Core Facts

WHY DO WE NEED NEW STANDARDS? Not every student in the United States has access to a great public school. Not every school is offering its students the rigorous coursework necessary to transition smoothly to postsecondary educational options without remediation. Graduation rates are improving incrementally, but it is clear that gaps that fall along ethnic and racial lines still persist and that the enduring dropout rates cannot persist if this country is going to be globally competitive in the future.

WHO AND HOW MANY? To date, 45 states plus the District of Columbia have adopted the common core state standards (CCSS).

WHAT'S COVERED AND WHEN? Currently Mathematics and English language arts and literacy (ELA) are covered, with science coming soon. States must implement the mathematics and ELA CCSS by the 2013-14 school year.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THESE STANDARDS? They are fewer in number, clearer, encompass broad academic goals and are designed to prepare students for a variety of postsecondary experiences. The CCSS also are more challenging than most of the current state standards and provide clarity and consistency about what is expected of students.

WILL THESE STANDARDS TELL TEACHERS HOW TO TEACH? No, they will provide teachers flexibility to use professional judgment to design instruction for student success.

WHAT ABOUT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS? The CCSS provide an historic opportunity to improve access to rigorous academic content standards for ALL students. For students with disabilities and English language learners to meet the standards and fully demonstrate their knowledge and skills, their instruction and assessments must incorporate necessary supports and accommodations.