

MANCHESTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

November 2011 Vol. 3, Issue 3



Our goal is to build confidence in public education and increase support for the Manchester School District.

**Our strength is in standing together to work for positive change
What You Need To Know About Your Health Insurance: Be an Informed Consumer
COMPASS SMARTSHOPPER**

www.compassmartshopper.com

1-800-824-9127

Do your part, call every time you need a medical procedure, including lab work, to help lower our group medical costs!

One question frequently asked of our Compass shopping tools is, "Do your search results yield quality facilities or is it solely based on dollar signs?" Go to www.MEANH.org and click on to Public Relations and then on to the November Newsletter-Extended Version (pgs. 4-5) for a comprehensive response to this question directly from Compass.

NH Food Bank Activities

Please continue to participate in our monthly food drives to benefit the NH Food Bank. Give your donations to your building representatives to drop off at the Brady Sullivan Café each month. Last school year, the MEA donated hundreds and hundreds of lbs of food products to support those in need. **Support Hunger Relief in New Hampshire**

NOVEMBER- Canned Vegetables



DECEMBER- Canned Tomatoes



Where Do Your Dues Dollars Go?

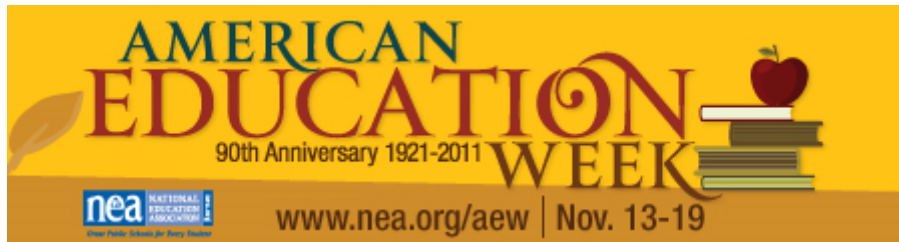
NEA-NH's annual budget includes support and funding for New Hampshire Public Television (NHPTV). We are supporting the following programs during the 2011-2012 budget cycle; PBS Kids Writers Contest, Teacher & Parent Workshops and Family Nights, NHPTV & The Knowledge Network website, and MESY (Math & Engineering & Science & You).

On-line Silent Auction to benefit the NHFTL Children's Fund

The on-line auction started October 28th and is revving up. With your help we will raise much needed money for the Children's Fund. And... your high bid could win you a fabulous prize donated by one of NHFTL's supporters. NHFTL is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, so your contribution in excess of the value of the item you bid on is deductible to the extent of the law.

Some of the auction items include hand crafted items: baskets, gorgeous jewelry, a large platter, a set of all-occasion cards, a wooden bowl and vase, as well as other donations such as a home décor consultation, one hour massage, a two night stay at the Highland Lake Inn and a weekend in Martha's Vineyard. Detailed descriptions, photos and minimum bids are available on line. Think of this as a great way to begin your holiday shopping! Credit cards are accepted.

Your friends, neighbors and colleagues are all eligible to bid on these wonderful items, so please spread the word. Go to www.neanh.org and click on the Auction link to enter. The silent auction will be continuing until November 27th, with bidding updates posted at frequent intervals. Winning bidders will be notified by email and can pay by cash or check as well as by credit card. If you have ever requested funding for clothing, glasses, medicine or other help for a needy student, you will appreciate the availability of the Children's Fund. If you are concerned that disadvantaged public school students not fall through the cracks, you should know that your financial support of NHFTL can make an important difference. Please go to www.neanh.org to bid now and support the Children's Fund. Check back before the auction closes at 5pm on Thursday, November 27th. Your bid may win you a fabulous prize and help the Children's Fund at the same time!



Did you know that the NEA was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week. Distressed that 25% of the country's WW I draftees were illiterate and 9% were physically unfit, representative of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa called for the designation of one week each year to spotlight education. The first observance occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and the American Legion as co-sponsors. A year later, the then U. S. Office of Education joined as a co-sponsor and in 1938, the PTA followed. Today there are many co-sponsors that recognize the importance of public school education in America.

Thank you for all that you do each and every day for your students and your communities.

**GREAT TEACHERS MAKE GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The NH State's Retirement System**

Chris Ruggiero from Horace Mann Teachers Insurance Company recently met with McLaughlin Middle School teachers to update them about the changes to the retirement system and how these changes will impact teachers, especially new educators. This is a **FREE** service available to all Manchester teachers and administrators. There is **NO** push to purchase any services through Horace Mann during this presentation. Interested? Call Chris at 627-1550, 627-1800 or email him at chris.ruggiero@horacemann.org You can meet with Chris individually or schedule him to present at a group meeting.

Make Sure You Have All the Pieces

1. In a defined benefit retirement plan, the monthly payment is based on the total amount of contributions made by the employer and employee.
 - True
 - False
2. If you are vested in your retirement system, it means you are guaranteed to receive a benefit once you meet the age and/or service requirements.
 - True
 - False
3. A person who was age 45 in 2009 will qualify for full Social Security benefits at what age?
 - a. 59 ½
 - b. 62
 - c. 65
 - d. 66
 - e. 67
4. In a defined benefit retirement plan, the monthly payment is guaranteed to continue for the retiree's lifetime.
 - True
 - False
5. A person can get a reduced Social Security retirement benefit as early as age 62.
 - True
 - False

Professional Development Opportunities and Partnership News

MEA Contact Information:

Maxine Mosley (MEA-PR) 628-6247 ext. 17 mmosley@mansd.org or mmosley929@comcast.net
MEA Website www.MEANH.org

Please go to the MEA website monthly...Extended Public Relations section...for professional development opportunities, community partnership news, education tips, money saving suggestions, and additional

On Thursday, November 10th, all are invited to walk as a community to commemorate the events of **Kristallnacht**, the “**Night of Broken Glass**”. Seventy-three years ago, on November 9 and 10, 1938, a wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms took place throughout Germany, Austria and areas of occupied Czechoslovakia. Over those two days, rioters destroyed 267 synagogues and shattered the windows of an estimated 7,500 Jewish owned businesses. Jewish cemeteries were desecrated, Jews were attacked in their homes, and up to 30,000 Jewish men were arrested.

The candlelight walk starts from the Jewish Federation of NH (Manchester) at 7:15 PM. This ½ half mile walk will end at Temple Israel

where Dr. Henry “Hank” Knight, Director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene College will speak about

“Why This Night? A Civilization Crossroad on the Road to the Holocaust.”

Participants should wear comfortable shoes for the candlelight walk. You can also join the program at Temple Israel to hear Dr. Knight speak. **Though a sensitive subject for young children, families with children in grades 6 and above are encouraged to attend.**

Please contact Davida Rubin-Baker, event chairperson, at 472-2290 with any questions. RSVP at 627-7679 or office@jewishnh.org

WE WALK: To show we remember

WE WALK: To show that we are strong

WE WALK: To symbolically pick up the pieces of the shattered lives of the past

WE WALK: To demonstrate that we are committed to extinguishing the sparks of hatred before they become the flames of genocide

Soldiers Helpers

This group is collecting old cell phones that will be recycled. The monies go to the purchase of phone cards for our military personnel to use. ANY condition will be accepted. You only need to donate the phone and battery, take the sim card out prior to any donation. Please give your old cell phones to any of your building representatives to bring to the monthly MEA representative meetings.

NEA Click & Save

- Free access to great deals in travel, electronics, apparel, restaurants, theme parks, movie tickets, and more
- Receive advance notice of upcoming sales from your favorite stores
- Invite up to four family members to join at no charge

VISIT neamb.com to start saving now

NH FOOD BANK: Internship opportunities are now available for high school and college students and those working towards credits.

Do you know of a student that likes to meet new people and wants to make a difference in our community? They need to have a

valid driver's license. Have them contact Sara Beaudry at sbeaudry@nhfoodbank.org

Horace Mann Teachers Insurance Company

www.horacemann.com

Once again, Agent Chris Ruggeiro is offering \$5.00 to the MEA Scholarship Fund for every auto requested by a Manchester employee. If you would like a FREE auto quote (see if you can save money by changing to Horace Mann), go to our web site (meanh.org) and click on to the PARTNERSHIP tab to access the quote form.

The NHHEAF Network: NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation

www.nhheaf.org

The Governor has declared November as "I'm Going to College Month". To promote this month, 5th graders from Kingston's Bakie Elementary School and the College Planning Bear developed a two-minute video...go to www.nhcollegeclub.com to view.

During November, and throughout the year, the "Get on the Bus" program for fifth graders is available. An hour-long presentation travels the state to work with fifth graders. Go to www.nhheaf.org/events.asp for expanded information.

NHHEAF offers evening workshops for elementary and middle school parents called "Early College Planning for Parents K-8".

Would you like to schedule a parent event? Go to nhheaf.org to get more information and to schedule.

NH Connections

www.nhconnections.org

Brochures and other information related to connecting families with organizations and groups.

The Cinderella Project

JoAnn at 472-4425

The Cinderella Project is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting confidence and self-esteem in financially challenged young women. The project provides with free quality formal and semi-formal attire and accessories. "Boutiques" are set up on specific days during the weeks prior to special events so that girls may try on and pick out the dress of their dreams.

If you have any gently worn or new formal dresses and accessories, please contact JoAnn to arrange to make a donation.

New Hampshire Humanities Council

For complete statewide listings, go to www.nhhc.org

Acting Together on the World Stage screening & discussion in Manchester: Thursday, November 10th at 6:00 PM - UNH Manchester-3rd floor auditorium located at 400 Commercial Street. Free parking in the lot behind after 5:30 PM. For more information, go to www.manchester.unh.edu

Play and discussion will explore the tragedy behind Franklin Pierce's presidency: Friday, November 18th & 19th at Hillsboro-Deering Middle School- 7:00 PM with discussions beginning at 8:30 PM. Optional donations will be accepted and the discussions are free and open to the public. For more information, contact 568-5102

World Affairs Council fall FREE lecture series

ALL at 6:00 pm at UNH-Manchester (314-7970 for more information)

Tuesday, November 1st China 2020: How Western Business Can and Should Influence Social and Political Change

Tuesday, November 29th
Tuesday, December 6th

in the Coming Decade
Arab Springs: Prospects for Democracy
Debtor Nation: The Global Roots of the First Great Crisis of the 21st Century

ARTICLES AND SITES OF INTEREST

Teaching Tolerance (free materials for educators, magazine available on-line)
www.tolerance.org

[SERESC](http://www.seresc.net) Workshop Offerings www.seresc.net

COMPASS SMARTSHOPPER

All Manchester School District employees can access this service- FOR FREE

Quality. Does it factor in? By: [Nicole Vailas](#) (Compass SmartShopper)

One question frequently asked of our Compass shopping tools is, “Do your search results yield quality facilities or is it solely based on dollar signs?” This isn’t a simple question to answer, but let me show you how we calculate our facility rankings.

Compass clients provide 12 months of prior claims experience for use in analysis and developing cost-rankings. Utilizing the proprietary Compass methodology, the claims information is analyzed to develop the “total average expected cost” for locations across the network. It is important to remember that we work along side insurance carriers for lists of eligible facilities. All of the locations that are yielded in search results are certified facilities that have passed a rigorous screening process by the carrier. In other words, we aren’t going to send you to a “cheap” facility just to save you money. We want to make sure you are still receiving quality care while still considering the overall cost of a procedure

The list provided is based on feedback from leading doctors and physicians as well as reader input. The important piece to note is that under each doctor’s name are the location Compass methodology, all costs associated with procedures or treatments are combined. This would include the physician cost, facility cost, anesthesia cost, lab services, pathology services, technical costs and the “reading” of radiology results. The Compass methodology generates a median amount for each provider location which is then compared against other provider median amounts to generate a cost ranking. It is important to note, all claims tied to a Inpatient Stay, Emergency Room visit or service not tied directly to the specific service are excluded from the analysis.

Compass continues to mine the data from its clients to make sure the rankings reflect the most recent data by following the process mentioned above. All rankings are updated on a quarterly basis, which in turn refreshes the rankings provided to our members.

What this goes to show is that when you “shop” a medical procedure, you aren’t shopping for a doctor or a piece of equipment. In fact, many physicians have permission to perform procedures at multiple facilities – some more cost-effective than others. If you trust your physician, then you should also trust that they are performing these procedures at facilities with staff and equipment that will not minimize the quality of your care.

Since it is difficult to list every doctor and specialty in the state, we encourage our members to ask their doctor where they might be able to perform the procedure so they know whether or not they might have to change physicians in order to have care at a cost-effective location. What some members come to realize is that their physician is already performing these procedures at a cost-effective facility. Once the member shops and has their procedure, now they have also earned an incentive for making a well-informed, cost-effective choice.

Ultimately, it is the member’s decision to have their needs met at a facility that is best for them. Some members may have a long-established relationship with a particular facility for a particular procedure – and that is completely understandable. What we preach is that every patient has the right to question what goes into their medical costs and now we are empowering them to choose where to receive their care.

We encourage members to shop and make informed decisions and to provide feedback about their experience. Compass will maintain an open communication dialog with our carrier partners and provide them with any feedback about their facilities that our members might have. Good or bad.

So to answer the initial question – while we do not directly rank facilities based on quality, we also do not simply give out “cheap” facilities in our lists. Cost-effective in fact does NOT equate to “cheap” or low-quality.

ANNOUNCING...the National Education Association’s 2012 Northeast Regional Leadership Conference

February 3-5, 2012

Hosted by NEA New Hampshire

Boston Marriott Copley Hotel

110 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02116

“NEA Leaders Standing Strong for our students, our schools, and our members”

Keynote speakers:

NEA President, Dennis Van Roekel

NEA Vice President, Lily Eskelsen

NEA Secretary- Treasurer- Becky Pringle

Register online at www.nea.org/nerlc