



Solidarity Report

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
~ Nelson Mandela

Teacher Appreciation Week!



This week, we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. We love our teachers, and we love our support staff.

This has been one of the most challenging years in the history of our union. However, we have overcome each and every challenge with grace and dignity. We continue to recruit new members into our VUE family and we grow stronger every day.

To share our love and to offer an opportunity to come together and celebrate, VUE is hosting a Member Appreciation Celebration this Wednesday. Please plan to attend. It is important to stop and reflect upon all that we have accomplished. Solidarity!



VUE Member Appreciation Celebration!

Mark your Calendar for Wednesday, May 8th!

VUE will host our Member Appreciation Celebration with an Open House at the VUE office in Daytona Beach.

This members-only event is open to all members, including instructional personnel, office specialists and paraprofessionals.

thank you!

We will begin the party at 4:00 pm and we will celebrate until 6:30 pm. You can come and go as your schedule permits.

We will provide the food, drinks (two tickets per member), and sweets.

We will also have door prizes and a gift for each member.

We need to have an accurate count before the event, so please RSVP using the QR code or link below if you plan to attend.

We hope to see you there!



<https://leadernet.aft.org/webform/vue-member-appreciation-celebration-2024>



Military Certification Fee Waivers

The Don Hahnfeldt Veteran and Military Family Opportunity Act provides the opportunity for members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans and their spouses to request a waiver for initial certification fees and certification examination fees.

Fees for the following certification services will be waived for individuals granted MCFWs:

- \$75.00 per subject for an initial certification application
- \$75.00 for an initial application for certification in athletic coaching
- \$75.00 for an application to upgrade from a Temporary to a Professional Certificate
- \$75.00 per subject for addition of a subject or endorsement to a valid certificate

For eligibility requirements and application information, please visit, <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/military/fee-waivers.stml> .

Retiring Soon?

by CJ Allen

Are you retiring soon? Want to Continue your enthusiasm for public education while supporting the teachers who are “left behind”?

Say no more; we can help you continue your good work!

If you are currently a VUE member and are getting ready to retire, or a retired educator/ support staff from any other state, come join us at VUE Retired.

We meet monthly during the school calendar year- so you have lots of time for travel. We share lunch, social time and benefit from informational programs that will keep you brain happily in gear while supporting our fellow educators.

Contact: CJ Allen cj-english@msn.com
386.212.4245 for more information.

**Last
Call**



VUE Steward Elections!

As a reminder, petitions for individuals interested in becoming a VUE Steward are due to the VUE office no later the 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024.** Petitions may not be sent via email or fax. Elections will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2024, if necessary.

If you are interested in becoming a VUE Steward and need additional information, please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.albert@floridaea.org.

Support Staff Displacements, Non-reappointments, & Reassignments

If you are a support staff member and have been displaced, non-reappointed, or reassigned for the 2024-25 school year, we need to hear from YOU!

If you are moving from a 12-month position to an 11 or 10-month position, we MUST SPEAK WITH YOU! Please remember that 12-month OS positions earn annual leave. The contractual language states:

“250 day or more employees shall accrue annual leave at the rates set forth in paragraph A above.

Such employees shall be permitted to accumulate annual leave up to a maximum of 480 hours for the purpose of terminal pay.

For the purpose of determining the annual leave available for use, annual leave may be accumulated to a total of 624 hours. Employees working less than (8) hours per day shall be permitted to accumulate annual leave on a prorated basis. No hours in excess of this amount may be carried forward from September 30 of each year.



Support Staff Displacements, Non-reappointments, & Reassignments cont.

If the scenario above applies to you, please call us at (386) 238-1605. Thank you.

Finishing UNION STRONG!

There are only two school board meetings remaining before the end of the 23-24 school year. This year has been challenging and there does not yet seem to be an end in sight to all of the obstacles that have been placed in our way.

When teachers, paras, and office specialists show up each day, we just want to work. We are not interested in political theatre, gaming the testing system, or creating a false narrative with the public. We simply want to do what is right for kids, and be treated like professionals.

We know that the district is overly sensitive when it comes to their image with the public. At times, it seems that the priority is managing the narrative instead of providing for the needs of the students and adults within the system.

Because of this misalignment of priorities, it is imperative that we continue to speak truth to power and that we continue to point out the lack of respect that this district shows to our students, teachers, staff, parents, and the community.

When the truth is not told, transparency does not exist, and communication is flawed at best, the sustainability of the system is compromised.

In Solidarity,

Elizabeth Albert

We must continue to be the voice of the people. We must continue to tell the truth about what is occurring in our schools and classrooms. We must continue to share the impacts of the decisions made by those who are not connected to our schools and our people.

We are not a business, we are a public school system. Yet our methodologies and processes are quickly becoming aligned with what one would expect in a for profit business. We are in the business of educating humans, not making widgets. We are not numbers on a spreadsheet, and our students educational, social, and emotional needs must be considered when making changes. Currently we believe that the only priority is money.

We have watched the Fund Balance (savings account) steadily increase over the last few years, while the pay and benefits package for the employees stagnates.

The time is now to make your plan to attend a school board meeting. The board will meet on Tuesday, May 14th and 28th. Let's end this year by sending a powerful message to the district leaders and the board. They must do better. We must be respected for the work we do, and they need to reset their priorities.

We will be contacting each member to ask you to commit to attend at least one of these meetings. If you want change; we need you to show up and be visible. We are all in this together, and we can have what we want if we all do our part.
SOLIDARITY!



Membership QR Code
Ask a friend to join today!