

1216 Kendale Blvd., P.O. Box 2573  
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573  
517/332-6551 800/292-1934  
www.mea.org

April 30, 2004

Dear MEA Members:

All Inclusive Membership (AIM) exemplifies what the MEA family is all about—unified membership, uniting active members and retired members into one family.

The 2003 MEA Representative Assembly adopted the AIM program with a one-year transition period that ends August 31, 2004. Until that time, active members may join MEA-Retired and NEA-Retired for \$150.00. On September 1, 2004, the new program will go into effect, calling for fees of \$1.00 per month (\$10.00 per year) for 20 years (for a total of \$200.00). Payment of either fee in total will entitle you to lifetime membership in both MEA-Retired and NEA-Retired.

We urge you to join MEA-Retired/NEA-Retired through either process, but we recommend that you take advantage of the \$50.00 savings and join *before* June 1, 2004. This allows your membership application to be processed early so that you will not be double-billed. We make this recommendation because of the many advantages of membership.


You may retire from your job, but you never retire from your profession. It only makes sense that you stay involved in all those activities that MEA and MEA-Retired offer. Also, we would call to your attention that all benefits lost by current retirees are also lost by actives who have not yet enjoyed one day of retirement.

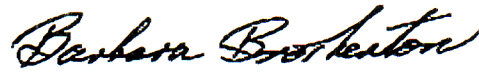
Our goal is that 100% of the MEA members join MEA-Retired. However, some members have called to ask how they can avoid participation in AIM. There is a relatively easy procedure: write an individual letter by June 1, 2004, to your membership chair who will forward the letter to MEA's membership division. But why would you want to do that?

Who will speak and fight for you in retirement about your concerns if we don't know who you are? If you are not on the membership rolls, legally your officers cannot contact you about political issues. Membership automatically entitles you to this service. Remember—all decisions affecting public school employees and public education are political decisions.

Again, we urge to you to take advantage of AIM. It is a program whose time has come. We will be a much stronger organization when we are all working together for our mutual benefit.

Sincerely,

  
Lu Battaglieri  
MEA President

  
Barbara Brotherton  
MEA-Retired President