Membership: The Value of a Lifetime

Rodney Rowe, Secretary – Treasurer Education Minnesota
Michael Roehl, CFO, Education Minnesota
COMPETENCY: BUSINESS

• The Competency Progression Levels:
  – Level 1: Foundational and Level 2: Mobilizing & Power Building

• The following themes will be addressed in this presentation:
  – Understand dues structure
  – Communicate the value provided in return for dues
  – Member benefit resources available at the Local, State and National level for members
Agenda

• Introduction
• How does my Membership benefit me?
• Beginning Years (1-5)
• Career Building Years (6-?)
• Preparing for Retirement (Last 10 years)
• Wrap-up
How your dues benefit you

Being an association member supports you as an education professional in numerous ways. Today we are going to touch on just a few ways that being an association member adds value annually over your lifetime.
How do I benefit by being a member?
WHERE YOUR DUES DOLLAR GOES

Commitment to the Members/Profession/Learners
- Education Minnesota Fall Professional Conference
- Collective Bargaining Conference/Resources
- Lobby Days
- Member Mobilization Program (Grassroots Advocates)
- Statewide Health Initiative (HiCA)
- Minnesota Educator
- Education Minnesota Website
- ESP TEAM Newsletter
- ESP of the Year
- Minnesota Teacher of the Year
- Legal Resources/Outside Legal/Liability Insurance
- Archdiocese
- Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D/TALL)
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE)
- Education Issues Advocacy
- AFTPS (Q) Corp
- Release Time Presidents
- ESP Leadership Development
- Educational Issues Leader training
- Federal PAC fundraising/Political Activities
- Field Offices and Field Department Staff
- Education Issues Department Staff
- Legal Department Staff
- Negotiations Department Staff
- Public Affairs Department Staff
- Member Benefits (FSI) Department Staff

Commitment to the Organization
- Annual Membership Materials
- Summer Seminar
- Presidents Appreciation Weekend
- Representative Convention
- AFT Convention/NEA TEACH
- NEA Convention
- Governing Board
- Permanent and Standing Committees
- Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee
- Task Forces
- Staff Trainings/Professional Development
- Executive Department and Staff
- Finance Department Staff
- Membership Department Staff
- Information Technology Department Staff
- Human Resources Department Staff
- Print Shop Department Staff
- Equipment, Insurance, Facilities and Utilities

Commitment to the Labor Movement
- ESP Membership Organizing
- Student Program Outreach
- Local Capacity Building
- Minnesota State College Faculty Department Staff

Commitment to Public Education and Community
- State Fair Booth
- Community Engagement/Organizing
- Media Relations Outreach
How do I benefit by being a member?

Education Minnesota: The voice for professional educators and students

Education Minnesota develops professional educators who are passionate, well trained and well supported. Joining means belonging to an organization dedicated to preparing students for successful lives. Our union is you and your colleagues coming together in a united effort. Here’s why belonging matters:

A VOICE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
Education policy is often about finding the right mix of resources and programs to help students prepare for the next stage of their lives. No one knows the needs of those students better than the educators who teach and support them.

Education Minnesota amplifies the voices of actual educators and gives them a seat at the table in debates about teaching and learning.

AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CAREER
Education Minnesota is committed to giving educators the economic security they need to focus on their students. A fair wage, good health care and retirement benefits matter. Your union is fighting powerful interests that want to transform a respectable career into just another job.

A lot of people think they don’t need the union’s protection until the moment they do need it—when they hold students to high standards, speak out when the district isn’t meeting a student’s needs or when teaching a controversial subject. The union is there when we expect it least and need it most.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
Educators are lifelong learners and constantly improving their practice. Creating and supporting quality development opportunities for members stands at the core of the union’s work.

Member trainers, union staff and experts on policy and practice design and deliver trainings at the local, intermediate organization, state and national levels. Hundreds of trainings are offered through locals and IOEs. Education Minnesota offers 12 major professional development programs, such as our MEA conference and Summer Seminar, across the state.

AN ALLY FOR OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES
Our responsibility for preparing students for successful lives doesn’t stop at graduation. For more than 150 years, Minnesota educators have fought for the rights of all Minnesotans. We approach every social justice issue through the lens of what’s best for students and families.

WHERE DO MY DUES GO?
A dues dollar—including the costs of staffing and facilities—goes to three key areas of work.

- 65 CENTS COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS
  Free and low-cost professional development; support in bargaining for fair wages and benefits; and a voice in policymaking at the local, state and national level

- 27 CENTS COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION
  Training and support for members to participate in the work of the union

- 7 CENTS COMMITMENT TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT
  Increasing the capacity of our locals and other unions in the labor movement

- 1 CENT COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE COMMUNITY
  Establishing positive relationships with our allies and the community
Value over a Lifetime

Beginning Years (Years 1-5)

Career Building Years (6-?)

Preparing for Retirement (Last 10 Years)
Beginning Years: Local

- Contract Negotiations/Working Conditions
- Professional Development Opportunities
- New Teacher Meetings/Mentoring
Beginning Years: State Affiliate

• Degrees Not Debt
• ESI Member Benefits
  – Securus Identity Theft Protection
  – perksconnect
• TDE – Teacher Development & Evaluation
• 15% Savings on Verizon Wireless Bill
Beginning Years: National

- Click and Save Program at Best Buy/Macy’s/Home Depot/Toy’s R Us
- Works4Me E-Newsletter
- Teachers-Teachers.com
- NEA Cash Back Credit Card
- 15% Savings on AT&T Wireless Service
Networking Time

Using the worksheet that was provided at your table please discuss the following:

1. Discuss the things that you know your own local currently does and list them.

2. Discuss if you were a new member just coming into the profession are there things you would be looking for.
Career Building Years: Local

- Local Officers
- Funding to attend State and National Conventions
- Local Contract Action Team
- Political Actions: Local Levy/School Board
Career Building Years: State Affiliate

- Licensure Renewal Workshops
- ED MN Foundation Grants
- Summer Seminar
- Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)
- Crisis Assistance and Organizing for Settlement Fund
Career Building Years: National

- Home Financing Program
- Home Insurance with skip summer payment options
- Dental/Vision Group Insurance
- NEA Click and Save Travel Program
- Member Advocate Help Line 800-637-4636
Networking Time

1. Discuss the things that you know your own state affiliate currently does and list them.

2. Discuss if you were a new member just coming into the profession are there things you would be looking for.
Preparing for Retirement: Local

- Retirement Recognition
- Retirement Incentives
  - Heath Savings Account
  - Cash Payouts
  - 403b Employer match
Preparing for Retirement: State Affiliate

- Financial Planner Consultations
- Financial Planner Workshops
- Continuous Membership State/National
- Medicare Workshops
Preparing for Retirement: National

- Income Calculators connected to your own state retirement system
- Online Retirement Planning Center
- Retiree Health Program
- Group Part D Program for Prescriptions
Networking Time

1. Discuss and list any other benefits that you can think of that you have used at the National level.
2. Discuss if you were a new member just coming into the profession are there things not listed that you might be looking for.
Association membership is like a gym membership. Dues are paid to be a part of the larger group with similar interests and goals. But, like a gym membership – I only become stronger and more knowledgeable when I show up and participate. There are a vast amount of tools to help strengthen me in the gym, just like there are a vast amount of valuable benefits that come from my association membership. As long as I am a dues paying member I have access to all the benefits throughout my career and should use them as often as possible.
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# The Value of Membership

## Beginning Years (Years 1-5)

**Local:**
- Contract Negotiations
- Professional Development
- Discipline/Grievance Representation
- New Teacher Welcome
- Mentorship Programs
- Building Reps

**State:**
- Degrees Not Debts
- Legal Assistance
- Member Benefits
- Education Minnesota Website (Members Only)
- Field Staff Assistance
- EPR Research papers, participation
- ConnectED Learning Communities
- Teacher Development and Evaluation
- Secure Identity Theft Protection
- Save 15% on Verizon Wireless Bill
- Educator
- Our Shared Legacy
- ED MN Next Gen

**National:**
- Discounts on Car/Electronics/Insurance
- NEA Cash Back Credit Card
- Additional Discounts at Costco
- Click and Save Program (Best Buy, Home Depot, Macy’s, Toys R Us)
- Save 15% on AT&T Wireless Service
- TeachersTeachers.com (job site)
- WorkSmile E-Newsletter
- 21% Discount on Learning Bridges site for Online Classes
- NEA Academy Degree & Continuing
- Education Programs Online
- Educators Employment Liability Program
- Attorney Referral Program (Discounts for Personal legal matters)
- NEA Today

## Career Building Years (Years 6 - ?)

**Local:**
- Local Officer
- Member Rights Advocate
- Reps to the State Representative Convention

**State:**
- Licensure Renewal Workshops
- Foundation Grants
- Emerging Leaders Training
- Lobbying
- Community Outreach
- Road Map To Resolution
- Crisis Fund and Organizing for Settlement
- Public Affairs Department for messaging around issues
- Educator Health Care Initiative
- Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference
- Summer Seminar (Professional Development)
- Minnesotan Teacher of the Year

**National:**
- NEA Savings Programs
- CD/IRA Certificate of Deposits/Money Market
- Home Insurance with skip payment options
- Personal Loans
- Home Financing Program
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Dental or Vision Insurance
- Income Protection Plan
- H&R Block Tax Prep Savings

## Preparing for Retirement (Last 10 Years)

**Local:**
- Retirement Recognition
- Contact Benefits office: Health Savings Accounts, 403b, Cash Payouts

**State:**
- Financial Workshops for Retirement
- Free Financial Planner Consultations
- Continuous Membership into ED MN Retired
- Lifesyle - Senior Care Needs
- Medicare Workshops

**National:**
- Online Retirement Planning Center
- Income Calculators connected to your state retirement system
- Kiplinger’s Retirement Report Monthly
- Retiree Health Program
- Group Part D Program for Prescription Drugs
Session Outcomes

The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
– To be able to communicate with new and existing members the Value of Membership.
– Awareness and examples of the benefits of being a lifelong association member.
– Provides contact information for how to access benefits
Contact Information

Rodney Rowe
Education Minnesota
rodney.rowe@edmn.org
651-292-4857

Mike Roehl
Education Minnesota
mike.roehl@edmn.org
651-292-4810
Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session!