Greetings from Your President...

A wise man once said: “The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited”

First and foremost, welcome to the 2011-12 school year! I am Dr. Linda Burruss and I am delighted to represent you once again as your HEA President. Additionally, I am honored to serve such a wonderful and caring group of educators. This past year was an extremely wonderful learning experience for me. It made me a stronger, more knowledgeable leader. As many of you are aware, I will not hold the position as release time President as in past years. Instead, I will be actively serving you in a part-time capacity. Please be assured that I will continue to work diligently for you as I did in the previous year. Many changes have occurred in education and because change is inevitable, others will also occur. It is up to us to embrace changes and remain positive for the students we serve. We must do everything within our power to prepare the students of Huntsville City Schools to be the best and brightest in the world.

I leave you with this inspirational quote by Benjamin Franklin:

“Tell me and I forget....Teach me and I remember....Involve me and I learn”

As educators, this is our charge, task, and responsibility for the students we so compassionately serve....Thank you & Have a Terrific School Year!!!

Catastrophic Leave
Donations Are Needed

The following HCS employees have been approved for catastrophic leave donations. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

- Tina Ailor
- Rebecca Barnes
- Linda Gaines
- Frances Hambrick
- Tonya Johnson
- Kenneth Langford
- Jamie Martin
- Priscilla Moore
- Elia Rodriguez
- Cynthia Allen
- Collett Carnes
- Alfred Grubbs
- Sandra Jenkins
- Darlena Lane
- Pamela Mandrell
- Abraham Moore
- Ashley Quattlebaum
- Stacy Walters

Anyone who is a member of the Sick Leave Bank wishing to donate sick days may do so by completing the necessary forms. Catastrophic Leave transfer forms are available on the Huntsville City Schools website—hsv.k12.al.us. Completed forms should be sent to the HCS Payroll Dept.

Reminder!

If you are considering the possibility that you would like to run for a 2012 NEA delegate position or 2012 AEA Delegate position, your meeting attendance began counting following the last election and will end when you fill out your nomination form at election time. The number of meetings that you have already attended prior to that time is what will determine your eligibility for funding for the 2012 year. If you have attended meetings PRIOR to your qualification for election, then your funding for any position in which you are elected to serve will be based on that number. You will no longer be able to log in meetings after the fact (that you have been elected) in order to receive 100% of the available funding. To receive 100% funding you must have attended 5 association meetings prior to the current election.
40 reasons why YOU should join a Professional Association

1. **AEA** determines your working conditions and salary through negotiations.
2. **AEA** needs membership support for political power.
3. **AEA** is the professional association for the members in Alabama.
4. **AEA** is recognized by the school board and the community as the voice of the members in the local education association.
5. **AEA** represents members with grievances.
6. **AEA** provides members with comprehensive legal assistance in employment related issues.
7. **AEA** members are protected with $1,000,000 professional liability insurance.
8. **AEA** provides an Attorney Referral Program for personal legal problems.
9. **AEA** members can take advantage of the Member Benefits provided through AEA and NEA.
10. **AEA** members can borrow money under easy credit plans set up especially for members.
11. **AEA** members are entitled to special rates on VISA and MasterCard.
12. **AEA** offers insurance coverage at special rates geared specifically for members' needs: life, hospitalization, income protection, mortgage protection, etc.
13. **AEA** members can participate in a tax-sheltered annuity program.
14. **AEA** members receive special discount rates on car rentals.
15. **AEA** members are entitled to travel discounts.
16. **AEA** provides retirement workshops for members.
17. **AEA** staff is readily available throughout the year to assist members with problems and concerns whenever they arise.
18. **AEA** sponsors conferences and workshops to address professional issues such as discipline and member rights.
19. **AEA** provides regular publications to keep members informed of educational developments and association activities.
20. **AEA** lobbies for pro-education legislation in Montgomery and in Washington.
21. **AEA** monitors implementation of education legislation.
22. **AEA** members are assured that their professional concerns are heard by the administration.

23. **AEA** offers members protection from arbitrary, unjust, or capricious treatment.
24. **AEA** brings members' professional concerns to the attention of the legislature.
25. **AEA** provides research and training for local efforts.
26. **AEA** promotes professional excellence for members and high quality instruction for students.
27. **AEA** provides a discount vision program for all members.
28. **AEA** provides in-depth information on current legislation and educational issues.
29. **AEA** supports pro-education candidates for office, through our political action committee.
30. **AEA** provides members with an assault protection program.
31. **AEA** promotes human and civil rights in education and in society.
32. **AEA** monitors local compliance with state and federal legislation.
33. **AEA** is an organization which promotes members' input through a network of Faculty Reps/Building Reps/Association Reps in each school and area directors who serve on the board of directors.
34. **AEA** can assist members in organizing around issues of concern to them.
35. **AEA** members are affiliated with the largest education organization in Alabama.
36. **AEA** members are affiliated with the NEA, the largest and most highly respected educational organization in the country.
37. **AEA** works to improve the economic and professional status of members and of education.
38. **AEA** is the only effective advocate for members in Alabama.
39. **AEA** packs CLOUT!
40. **You are AEA!**

Membership is doing for yourself what you cannot do by yourself. It is an investment in your future.