

MEPA Messenger

MESQUITE EDUCATIONAL PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
Mesquite ISD-405 E. Davis-Mesquite, Texas 75149



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Editor - Tina Scott

President's Message

It's hard to believe it is already time to install new officers. It has been an honor to serve as MEPA's 2008-2009 President. This has been one of the most memorable years in my life. Many years ago, when I first joined MEPA, I knew that one day I would like to be President. I have been very fortunate to have, I believe, the best officers that have ever served in MEPA. The Committee Members have worked very hard and were always willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Each officer and committee member has been an "Essential Piece" in helping make MEPA the great organization it is today.

Let's take a look back on this year.

We sold pecans with a new Texas company, Durham-Ellis Pecans. You were all excellent sales people. We made a profit of \$1,649.27! I want to thank Debbie Faires, Parliamentarian, for organizing the fund raiser.

Paula Hutchinson, 2nd Vice President-Membership, has sent padfolios to 473 members. I can't think of one time Paula couldn't tell me, off the top of her head, exactly how many members we had at any given time. Thank you, Paula, for doing an excellent job. I am thrilled to know you will be serving with us again.

Jennifer Lamb, 1st Vice President-Programs, arranged the great breakout sessions we attended at our October 27 meeting. Our breakout session evaluations were excellent. Many have asked if we could have 2 meetings as breakouts instead of just one. This is something we will look at for the coming year.

The Hospitality Committee consisted of Sylvia Martinez, Tina Scott, Ady Reyna and Debbie Wright. I appreciate each of them and their hard work

Debbie Wright has been sending your liaison appreciation gifts. You received several gifts to show how much we appreciate you and what you do. I am so proud to say Debbie received thank you cards showing her she is also appreciated.. How special you made her feel!!

We had over 100+ vendors at our Holiday Bazaar! Vendor evaluations were very positive and several said we had really outdone ourselves. KEOM was there doing a remote for Mesquite Social Services. Not only was it good advertisement for us, it brought in many donations for needy families. MEPA would like to thank both of our Santas for helping make our Holiday Bazaar so festive! Pictures with Santa brought in \$285. We had the honor of having the very talented Merry Miller as our entertainment at the bazaar. Merry is a 1988 North Mesquite HS graduate and a professional harpist. Her heavenly music set the perfect stage for the holidays. Thanks to all paras for making the Theme Baskets a huge success! The baskets brought in \$2,387. Hodges Elem. won the luncheon for most tickets sold for a basket. Way to go, Hodges! A big thank you to our Food Service Dept. for having their Lincoln Pans & Rada Knives available for purchase at the bazaar. They also sold boxed lunches to vendors and shoppers.

How can I thank so many volunteers who gave their time to help sell Theme Basket tickets, help with Santa Pictures and sell pecans. Not to mention setting up tables, moving chairs and hanging signs after working a full day! Some volunteers helped clean up after the bazaar, taking down signs, taking tape up from the floor and they had worked at the bazaar for hours.

Treasurer, Diane Hogg, has kept a watchful eye on our finances! She's a very detailed person and that's what that position takes. Thank you, Diane, for a job well done.

Sherry McCulloch, Secretary, took the minutes of each and every meeting. I appreciate your dedication and always being there for me.

Historian, Nancy Beene, has many pictures and mementos for my scrapbook! I can't wait to receive it.

All year I had a shadow that was with me every step of this magical journey as your MEPA President. Dianne Lemons, you are an angel on earth, thank you for your patience, leadership, guidance, but most important...your friendship. I accepted this position with the promise you would be with me when I needed you. You fulfilled your promise ten times over. You are a godsend.

One of my proudest moments this year was the decision to give paras a one-time \$500 stipend for completing your STEM certification. Thank you, Dr. Linda Henrie and administrators.

Dr. Karen Nix, your professionalism and guidance has been appreciated more than you know. Thank you for agreeing to serve as our Administrative Liaison.

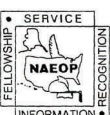
I would like to thank all of our members for your support. Remember, it takes each of us to make our organization successful. Thank you for being an "Essential Piece."

Paula Lambright

MEPA President 2008-09



In affiliation with Texas Educational Support-Staff Association and National Association of Educational Office Professionals



Thanks to everyone who sold pecans! We had a great fund-raiser; we were able to put \$1649.27 profit into our operating account.

Debbie Faires



Thank you so much for the *wonderful* cards and emails I've received through-out the year from our liaisons. Each note truly brightens my day and keeps me going!! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Debbie Wright
MEPA Booster Liaison

MEPA Regular Acct. - Jan. 15, 2009

Balance Oct. 21, 2008	\$8,574.99
Income	<u>\$5,167.75</u>
Balance	\$13,742.74
Expenses	<u>\$2,809.55</u>
Balance Jan. 15, 2009	\$10,933.19

MEPA Scholarship Account - Jan. 15, 2009

Balance Oct. 21, 2008	\$13,576.05
Income-Booth Rental	<u>\$3,335.00</u>
Balance	\$16,911.05
Expenses	<u>\$1,163.73</u>
Balance Jan. 15, 2009	\$15,747.32

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/29/2009

Dialogue of Diversity

PDC Rm. 211

2/6/2009

Banquet and Installation of Officers

WMHS

2/7/2009

Managing Change

SSC Rm. B104

2/21/2009

Effective Office Practices

SSC Rm. B104

3/28/2009

Basic Communication

SSC Rm. B104

4/2/2009

Rules for Spelling

PDC Rm. 211

4/4/2009

Interpersonal Communication

SSC Rm. B104

4/18/2009

Agenda for Personal and Organizational Improvement 4/18/2009

SSC Rm. B104

Visit MEPA Website @

www.mesquiteisd.org/MEPA

Two types of scholarships are available through MEPA.

High school seniors interested in a MEPA scholarship must make application through the MEPA website located at:

<http://www.mesquiteisd.org/mepa/documents/MEAScholarship.pdf>. Download, complete and place the application in an envelope labeled **MEPA Scholarship**. Submit completed information to the appropriate counselor's office no later than **March 2, 2009**.

MISD paraprofessionals, who are members of MEPA and attending college, are eligible to apply for the MEPA Paraprofessional Scholarship. Applications can be located on the MEPA website at http://www.mesquiteisd.org/mepa/documents/MEPAMISDParaprofessionalScholarshipApplication_001.pdf. Paraprofessional applications should be returned to **Linda Williams – Communications – Administration Building**. The deadline for applications is **March 2, 2009**.

DOOR PRIZES for FEBRUARY 6, 2009

Berry MS * Black * Floyd * Gray * Kimball * Kimbrough MS * McKenzie * Mesquite HS * Motley * Price * Rutherford * Shaw * Terry MS * Tisinger * Vanston MS *

West Mesquite HS