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1. Change at Skyline:

In an effort to keep cost and dues under control we have changed telephone companies. We no longer offer a toll free number. Our telephone numbers are 540-868-2401 and 540-868-2402 and our fax number is 540-868-2403. We also have a new administrative assistant his name is Joe Deck. Joe is a JMU graduate.

2. Membership Recruitment:

I would ask everyone to help your local recruit members. This will not only help control dues increases but give your local association more power when speaking. This is your professional association run by other professional educators. I would hope that you would help your building rep by talking to a non-member about joining us. We need a loud and proud voice to save your retirement system and protect your continuing contract status. Both of these issues will be before the Virginia General Assembly.

3. A Half Dozen Ways to Protect Yourself From Liability:

A) Set classroom behavior standards and enforce them consistently and fairly. Especially at the beginning of the year and with younger children, post standards where you can refer to them, as needed. Do not tolerate behaviors that pose safety risks to your students or yourself.

B) Keep your “personal space.” Do not permit students to hang on to you, stroke your hair, touch you to gain your attention, etc, This sets the tone that you will respect their personal space as well.

C) Develop a repertoire of methods for reinforcing student behavior, giving praise, honoring achievements, etc., which do not require you to touch students.

D) Avoid comments with double entendre, cute or suggestive overtones. Students may report your remarks in ways that distort your meaning. Avoid comments about students’ appearance that could be unwelcomed.

E) Avoid being alone with one student in an enclosed space where you cannot be observed by another adult. After school detention, keeping a student in from recess, make-up tests, tutoring, etc, all pose risks. Arrange to have the activity where you are in the line of sight of another adult. Ask him or her to be observant of your work with the student.

4. NEA Member Benefits:

If you have not checked out the NEA member benefits website I would encourage you to do so. There are two ways to get there. First one is www.neamb.com. The second is visit the VEA website at www.veanea.org and look for members save money. This site offers deals from major companies like Lands End, Target and many others. If you eat out check the restaurant deals. You can purchase \$25 gift certificates for \$5.00 and \$10.00 sometimes lower. If you use this site you can save money that helps pay for your dues. Please take the time to check this out and see the other savings you get through your membership.

5. VEA SPARKS Weekend:

If you have five years or fewer years of experience you are eligible. This is totally free, fun and rewarding weekend at Wintergreen Resort. The date is February 24-26 2012. You can preview this by going to www.veanea.org click on upcoming events. The deadline for this fun weekend is December 9, 2011. You can let the UniServ Office know if you would like a brochure or ask your local president for one.

Skyline UniServ/District 21 – Office Staffing and VP's

UniServ Director: Jay Deck jaydeck@comcast.net

Office Administrator: Joe Deck skylineuniserv@comcast.net

District President: Alison MacArthur, Frederick County Education Association

District Vice President: Vacant

7714 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645

Local 1: 540-868-2401

Local 2: 540-868-2402

Fax: 540-868-2403