

REC Chair Message for March 2017

Dear Region 8 Board Members and Superintendents:

I hope this message finds you well as we enter the busy spring season for our school districts. Just a little over 2 months of school left before summer!

You probably have noticed the main MSBA web site has been down recently due to some serious technical issues beyond MSBA's control. Work is continuing to restore the site as soon as possible.

In the meantime, you can visit [MSBA's Action Center](#) site where you can get excellent information related to advocacy and register for upcoming events.

Speaking of upcoming events, I hope you are planning to attend the **Region 8 Spring Regional Meeting to be held on April 19th at Dixon**. The main program for our meeting will feature a discussion on Bullying led by Kelli Hopkins. You can register by clicking on the date for our [Spring Regional Meeting here](#).

I also hope you are planning to attend the **MSBA Leadership Summit to be held June 3-4 at Tan-Tar-A**. The event features numerous workshops and sessions designed to improve your leadership skills and the governance of your school district. [Click here](#) for more information on the 2017 Leadership Summit.

Be sure your board is represented at the Delegate Assembly held during the Leadership Summit on June 3. This Delegate Assembly will be especially important as **delegates have the opportunity to review and discuss the NEW merged advocacy document for MSBA**. Be sure to discuss this document with your local school board before June 3rd to make sure it is agreeable to your district. The Advocacy Committee has been working on merging MSBA's Legislative Resolutions, Platform Statements, and Vision Project document for the past few months into one advocacy document.

A huge thanks to Leroy Fulmer from the Waynesville School District who participated on the Advocacy committee for many years and his contribution and diligence in working on this significant merger of MSBA advocacy documents.

The Delegate Assembly will also be electing statewide officers for the coming year: *President Jan Mees*, Columbia 93 School District; President Elect *Mike Pratt*, Gasconade Co. R-I; and Vice- President *Rhonda Gilstrap*, Blue Springs R-IV.

We're at the midpoint of the 2017 legislative session. Be sure to keep in contact with your legislators and express your views on pending legislation including the possible expansion of charter schools in some parts of the state and the effort to pass voucher programs such as Education Savings Accounts. MSBA remains strongly opposed to both charter school expansion and Education Savings Accounts.

Visit the [MSBA Action Center](#) for more information on those issues and for resources you can use to contact your legislators.

Keep up with legislative developments through the weekly Legislative Voice newsletter sent to your inbox every Friday during the session.

As always, thank you for the leadership you are providing to your school district and for your commitment to your students. Never hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you. Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Dinner at Dixon.