LOCAL PRESIDENTS ACADEMY

Application for 2015-16

A yearlong experience designed to help you strengthen your local association— ALL EXPENSES PAID!
Dear Local President,

Times are tough, and strong, active local associations are more important than ever. The key to these locals is having well-trained presidents who have the training, resources and time necessary to do the jobs for which they were elected.

To that end, we are seeking local association presidents to be a part of the MEA Local Presidents Academy (LPA), Class of 2017.

The goal of the LPA is to develop proactive, well-trained, confident, and strong local association presidents who have the time and resources they need to do their jobs, as well as the skills necessary to identify and mentor up-and-coming leaders in their locals. When you finish the local self-assessment, you will know what strengths and weaknesses there are in your local.

Dedicate this year to developing your skills and strengthening your local association.

As part of the LPA, participants will spend two years attending trainings and conferences as well as participating in experiences focused on leadership development. All academy-related expenses will be paid for the participants. This includes overnights and mileage, conference fees and the cost of substitutes. In addition, the LPA will also fund five days of release time during the course of the year for each participant to use to do association work back home.

In these difficult times, well-trained presidents are critically important.

Apply today!

Nancy Strachan
Vice President
Michigan Education Association

Applications must be received by Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

Eligibility
In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be a member in good standing (dues paying member); this applies to your local too.
- Be a duly-elected local association president.
- Be willing and able to commit to attend and participate in all required academy trainings, conferences and activities. (Events and dates on following pages.) Please check your contract or with your employer regarding release days.
- Have access to and actively use email for communication purposes, and use your personal email for LPA communications or set up a mymea.org email account.
Release Days

Every LPA participant will need to be out of his/her district for 5 days (9 if you work during the months of July and August) for training and conferences during the 2015-16 school year. The MEA will reimburse the participant’s district for the cost of a substitute or his/her hourly wage up to a maximum of $125 per day for each day that he/she takes part in required LPA-related activities.

So that local association days do not have to be used, it is suggested that participants speak with district officials to be released for these days. Your UniServ director is an excellent resource for assistance with these conversations.

In addition to the above, you should be able to schedule FIVE days (or 10 half days) of release time during the school year to work on association business back home and be reimbursed up to $125 per day for substitutes or hourly wage.

Required training and activities

Among other opportunities, academy participants will be expected to attend the following events. All expenses, including the cost of substitutes or daily wages up to a maximum of $125 per day, will be covered for all required training and activities.

Please check your calendar BEFORE applying for the LPA to ensure your availability.

June 23, 2015  Local Presidents Academy (LPA) Ready. Set. Go!, MEA HQ
July 28-30, 2015  MEA Summer Leadership Conference, LSSU (Sault Ste. Marie)  LPA Meetings at 8:15 a.m., July 28 and 29
August 20, 2015  Money Matters—training for local treasurers and presidents, MEA HQ
September 18-19, 2015  Statewide Presidents Summit, MEA HQ  LPA Meeting 8-9:30 a.m.
October 3, 2015  Higher Education Bargaining Conference  All HE LPA are required to attend.
November 7, 2015  Advocacy Academy training, MEA HQ
February 4-5, 2016  MEA Bargaining, Public Policy and Professional Development Conference, Detroit at COBO Hall.  LPA meeting at 8:45 p.m.
March 11-12, 2016  ESP Conference, MEA HQ  All ESP LPA are required to attend.
April 16, 2016  Advocacy Academy training—including your officers, MEA HQ
One of these:  BFCL Regional training, TBD (if in your region)
One of these:  October 3, 2015  Fall Representative Assembly, Lansing Center  May 6-7, 2016  Spring Representative Assembly, Lansing Center
One of these:  October 10, 2015  Parliamentary Procedures (6½ hours), MEA HQ  May 20, 2016  Parliamentary Procedures (6½ hours), Traverse City
Additional Training and Activities
You will be required to select at least THREE of the following to do on your OWN time and at your OWN expense. Dates to be determined.

Minority Involvement Program
BFCL Regional training
Region meeting
Coordinating Council meeting
MEA Board of Directors meeting
Statewide Presidents Caucus meeting
Zone/Local Lobby Day
Zone Roundtable Meeting

To Apply
Please fully complete the application that follows, along with the Local Self-Assessment.
Please note that no application will be considered if eligibility requirements are not met or if any part of the application is incomplete. If you have any questions regarding the application or the Local Self-Assessment, contact Donna Wickham at dwickham@mea.org or call 800-292-1934, ext. 2941.
All applications must be received NO LATER than Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

Mail to: Nancy Strachan, Vice President
Michigan Education Association
1350 Kendale Blvd., PO Box 2573
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573
Fax to: 517-337-5587
E-mail: nstrachan@mea.org

Contact Donna Wickham to receive your copies of the booklets “Local Self-Assessment” and “Presidents Planning Calendar” or go to www.mea.org/bfcl
BFCL Local Presidents Academy Application

BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE ACADEMY, YOU MUST FIRST COMPLETE AND RETURN (WITH THIS APPLICATION) THE LOCAL SELF-ASSESSMENT. YOU CAN ACCESS THIS AT WWW.MEA.ORG/BFCL

Please answer every question. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Full name of local association: ___________________________________________ EA / ESP / Higher Ed
Mailing address: _______________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Home phone number: ___________________________________________________
Cell phone number: _____________________________________________________
Personal email address: ________________________________________________
(No mailings will be sent to your school address.)
Name of UniServ director: ______________________________________________
Number of members in your local: _______ Region: __________________________
Number of years you have served as president: ____________________________
Number of years left to serve in your current term: _________________________
Do you currently have any release time or association days in your contract? YES  NO
If yes, how much time/how many days? _________________________________
If your current term expires in 2015, do you plan to run for re-election? __________
Are you term limited? YES  NO  If yes, what is the limit? _______________________
What other offices or positions have you held in your local? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________
How often do you meet with your officers (Executive Committee)? _______________
What, if any, standing committees does your local have? _______________________
How often do you hold meetings of your local representative council (Board of Directors)? __________
How often do you hold general membership meetings? _________________________
As a local president, what is the biggest obstacle you face in doing your job? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Have you attended any MEA trainings or conferences since you’ve been president? YES  NO
If yes, please list: _______________________________________________________
Are you familiar with MEA’s Building Full Capacity Locals Initiative (BFCL)? YES  NO
If yes, please describe how you are familiar with BFCL: ____________________________
How do you think your members feel about their local association? ____________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

How involved are your members in their local association? _________________________________________

What kinds of things have you done during your term to encourage more member involvement? (Or, if you’re a new president, what do you plan to do?)

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like training to help with this?  YES  NO

Describe your relationship with your district (from a union standpoint):

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like training on improving your relationships with your district?  YES  NO

Describe your relationship with the other employee unions in your district: ___________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like training on improving your relationships with your union members?  YES  NO

Describe one thing you have accomplished as a local president of which you are most proud: (If you are a new president, you may skip this step.)

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

What training do you need from the Local Presidents Academy? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

What training do your officers need from the Local Presidents Academy?

Vice President __________________________________________

Treasurer/Secretary ______________________________________

Association Representatives ________________________________

Grievance Chair __________________________________________

Bargaining Chair __________________________________________

Required signatures

My signature indicates that I meet the LPA’s eligibility criteria and am willing and able to attend and participate in ALL trainings and activities listed on pages 3 and 4 of this application packet.

Applicant ________________________________  Date __________________

I am aware that the above person is submitting an application to become a member of the 2015-16 LPA and to the best of my knowledge meets the LPA eligibility criteria.

UniServ Director ____________________________  Date __________________

Your application must be received ON or BEFORE Tuesday, May 5, 2015.
TESTIMONIES ABOUT THE LPA:

I know personally, it’s been a great experience! I’ve had the opportunity to meet many people and network with them. There is always someone there to bounce things off of, compare notes, etc. I feel like I am not alone. Great group of people and resources! Wonderful experience! I would encourage anyone to go through this program.

Cathy Siedlik, 2nd Year LPA
Livonia ESP President

This is my second year in the LPA. The LPA has provided me with a variety of leadership trainings to help me be a successful President in my local. I’ve attended conferences about creating a budget, how to engage members, creating newsletters, how has Right to Work affected teachers, what is the Mackinac Center all about, how to transition to E-Dues, the history of the union, updating your bylaws/constitution, what does the MEA do for me personally, the problems with social media in the workplace, FMLA, state laws regarding teacher protection from lawsuit, Robert’s Rules, how to create an efficient board, professional development updates, staying current on your certification, and many, many more beneficial seminars throughout the two year program. I would not be as strong of a leader without the LPA. Thank you for all the pertinent training.

Stephanie Molter, 2nd Year LPA
Edwardsburg Education Association Co-President

The LPA was most helpful in the first two years because it gave me concrete topics to focus on in the first year or two of EA leadership. The LPA, above all, helped me to prioritize what’s really needed as a new president. Also, a timely calendar of meetings through the year was reassuring. If you had questions—you were going to be somewhere soon where those questions would be answered.

Laura Mikesell, 1st Year LPA
Grosse Pointe EA President

Also I cannot imagine being a newly elected President and not going thru LPA. I would highly recommend it! It should almost be a requirement for every President.

Kim Trgina, 1st Year LPA
Lakewood EA President

I would be lost without there being a LPA!

Mitzi Thornton, 1st Year LPA
Linden ESP President

I love the LPA and have been able to get answers and ideas from other Presidents. I have a support network that I would not have had otherwise. I have also been able to network with the MEA Executive Board members who have been extremely welcoming and helpful in this transition into my new role.

Amanda Miller, 1st Year LPA
KEA President

I would not know how to improve the LPA. It has just provided me with so many great opportunities to network and advocate for my profession.

Jason Ostrander, 1st Year LPA
Ithaca EA President

The training that I received as a result of participating in the Local President’s Academy was invaluable! As a first year president, I really needed that training to accurately perform my job duties. I also made many connections (new friends) as the presidents networked together to problem solve. I couldn’t imagine trying to do all of this on my own!

David Watkins, 1st Year LPA
Avondale EA President
The mission of the MEA is to ensure that the education of our students and the working environments of our members are of the highest quality.