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Dear HEA Members:

Welcome to a new year! I am Cheryll McConnell your HEA President this year. If you don't know who I am, this will be my fifteenth year teaching in USD261. I taught special education at the middle school for ten years, and for the past five years I have been teaching social studies for our eighth grade population. I am looking forward to this year and intend to do my best as your president. I hope all of you have had a great summer and are ready for another year.

Did you know there are 3.2 million members of NEA? NEA represents the largest union in America. We can have a say in what goes on in the government if we make the right connections. These members include retirees, educators who serve as teachers for military personnel families stationed around the world, administrators, classified staff (para-support, secretaries, bus drivers, etc...), and people not in education who just want to be friends of education. Isn't that amazing? Remember, that as a member, we have many members behind us and we can have a voice.

I believe that everyone in education wants what is best for the students we teach and or work with. HEA, NEA and the local uni-serve office can help us to achieve that. Keep in contact with your building representatives and let them know if you have something you would like us to talk about or help you out with. Don't forget to use the website where you will find KNEA and NEA links that will take you to lesson plans etc. There are many resources there for you to use.

Locally, HEA (building representatives, officers, and fellow members), and our local uni-serve office in Wichita are some of your primary resources when you need legal assistance for either educational or personal purposes. Ask for help when needed. Don't be afraid to ask for help. If we don't know the answer locally, we'll find someone who does. If you don't know who your building representative is, check out the HEA link, additionally the attached tentative monthly meeting schedule is there too.

Finally ACCESS Cards (KNEA member discount cards) are available. Building representatives and officers will be getting them soon. We hope to get them handed to you within the first few weeks of August, if not sooner.

Once again I hope that everyone has one of the best school years ever. May it be full of good surprises, challenges, and lots of wondrously inquisitive kids who want to learn.

Sincerely,  
Cheryll McConnell