

UPDATE

Executive Director,
Rick Herrig
President,
Jeff Schumacher
President-Elect,
to be determined
Past President,
vacant
Treasurer,
Brad Buck
Secretary,
Steve Triplett
Membership,
Betty Smith
Newsletter Editor,
Wendy Parker
Directors-At-Large,
Megan Balong
Marc McCoy
Directors:
Central Regional,
Mary Decker
Northwest Region,
Pauline Zapka
Southeast Region,
Tim Wernentin
Southwest Region,
Bev Morann
Northeast Region,
Sharon Hauser

A Message From the President:

Being that we are an all volunteer organization, I it never ceases to amaze me how the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education has grown. It is reassuring to see the expertise and dedication of membership committed to the ideals of middle level education. Leveraging that expertise and dedication to action is the primary force behind the tremendous growth we have witnessed in membership and services.

I can remember years past when the IAMLE board of directors, committed to promoting middle level best practices, produced outstanding midwest regional and state sectional conferences. They supported school districts efforts to try new things through mini-grants and honored exemplary middle level educators annually through the R. Paul Brimm award.

Keeping in touch with membership was important, so quarterly newsletters and annual journals were produced and distributed. IAMLE became a strong voice in the state advocating for middle level initiatives.

Today, we are still an all volunteer organization. However, our membership now exceeds 1800 teachers, administrators, area education staff, para-professionals, and school consultants. Thanks to the loyalty of our membership and foresight of leadership on the IAMLE board (both past and present!), services and benefits to Iowa members have changed to meet increasing demands.

IAMLE is now wired. www.iamle.org, revised with a new look and members only area, is a one stop shopping mall for information, links, calendar of event, news, and middle level contacts around the state and nation.

IAMLE, in addition to the Midwest regional and sectional conferences, conducts summer camps for educators interested in working on local initiatives and developing interdisciplinary teams and curriculum.



IAMLE now has volunteer support from over 90 individuals from 100 school districts across Iowa acting as building representatives. These individuals play a key role in communicating timely information from the state organization to their school building colleagues.

They also provide valuable input in the development of member services.

IAMLE consults with local staffs, communities, and school boards interested in exploring or refining middle school practices.

IAMLE co sponsors staff development with the Iowa Council of Educators.

IAMLE, through corporate sponsorships and giving programs, increased its commitment to exemplary projects via mini-grants this year to \$3000.00. Next year's goal focuses on allocating between \$5000.00 - \$7000.00.

IAMLE's annual journal is now on line and in the process of producing "off the shelf" teaching strategies that staff can use in their classrooms to support such academic instructional practices as reading comprehension in all content areas, math literacy, and exploratory programs.

The lifeblood of any successful organization comes from the talents and time given from membership. Please consider actively supporting your professional organization. Attend regional or sectional conferences. Participate in the summer camp experience. Volunteer to be a building representative. Consider running for a seat on the board of directors. Think about all of the ways in which you touch the lives of young adolescents and share your enthusiasm and experience with others.

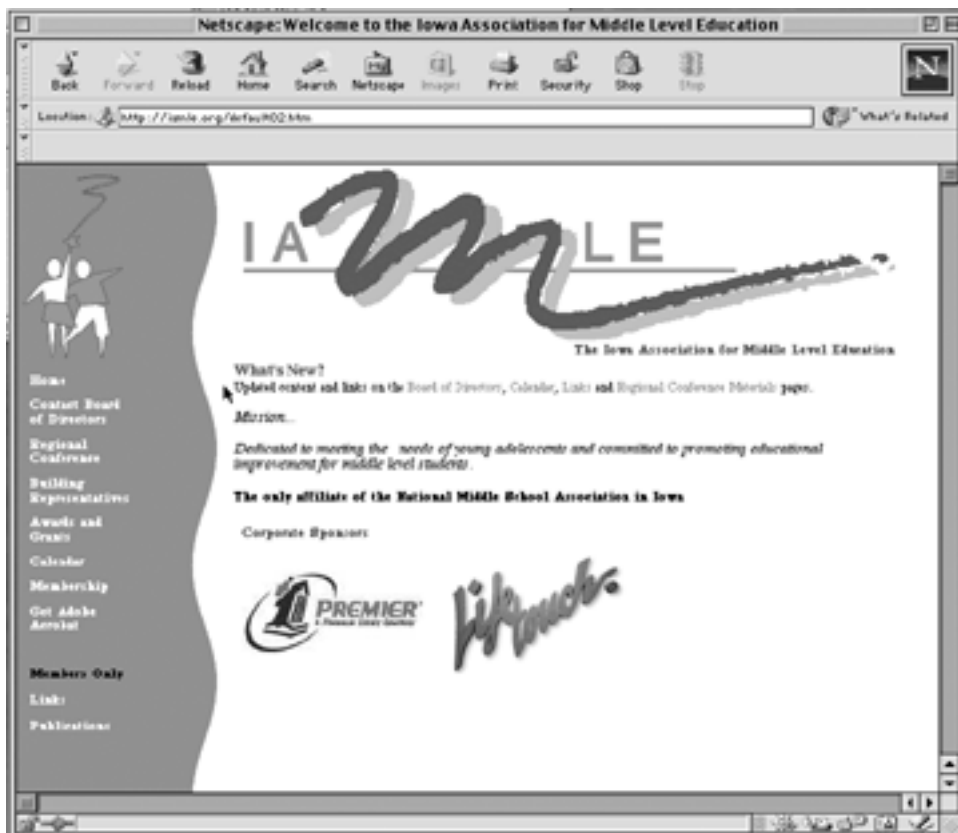
Jeff Schumacher

Highlights of this issue:

IAMLE Board Action page 2
Director's Comments pages 3-5
President Elect Information page 5

Next Issue of UPDATE...

Regional Conference Review
Community Service Ideas
More Summer Camp 2002 Information



IAMLE Members ...

Have you seen the member services area on our Web site? Check it out soon. The log in information is case sensitive.

The User ID is: teach
The password is: MLevel



**Surf the web at
www.iamle.org.**

Check out our services: outstanding teacher links by content area, detailed information about our Regional 2000 conference in Des Moines, access to our publications. All of this AND MORE are just a mouse click away. Place us on your "list of favorites". Coming soon, you will be able to access the Journal, in real time, on the web.

IAMLE Board Action

The IAMLE Board of Directors met on July 31, 2001, in Ankeny, Iowa and took the following actions:

- Established June 16 - 19, 2002, as dates to hold summer camp; site to be determined at November board meeting,
- Reviewed the 2001-02 IAMLE budget,
- Selected Sandra Smit, Vocal Music Director, Berg Middle School, Newton, Iowa as the 2001 recipient of the R. Paul Brimm Award. Ms. Smit will receive her award during The Midwest Regional Middle Level Conference in Omaha in October, 2001,
- Awarded four mini-grants totaling \$3,400,
- Named Rick Herrig, Bettendorf Middle School, Executive Director replacing Steve Kwikkel, Spencer Middle School, who accepted an administrative position in North Carolina, and
- As per constitution, authorized a special election for the position of President-Elect to be completed by October 31, 2001. Vacancy created when President-Elect, Jeff Schumacher, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny, Iowa, assumed the Presidency vacated due to the Executive Director appointment.

IAMLE Board Goals

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education has organized work around three goals for the 2000-2001 school year. These goals are focused on serving the needs and expectations of the membership, designed to reinforce quality programming for middle level students. First, the Board is looking at collaborating with Regents institutions to create summer workshops on middle level educational opportunities. In addition, the Board is investigating opportunities to provide support and assistance to school districts wishing to transition to middle level education and districts taking their middle level programs to higher levels. The Board is preparing to increase membership benefits and communication. Third, the Board is actively supporting sectional conferences and statewide ICN presentations. Finally, the Board is developing building level representative networks as a function of promoting active participation in IAMLE.



A Message from the Executive Director

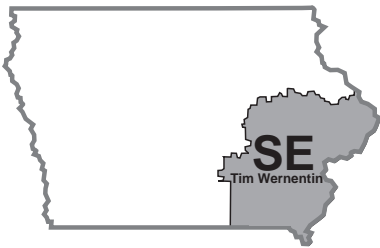
Shadow Day Offers Opportunity for Middle Level Education

October is Month of the Young Adolescent (MOYA) and with this celebration, NMSA and its affiliates focus on activities that promote a positive message about middle level education. A new event related to MOYA this year is the Shadow Day for Middle Level Education set for Wednesday, October 17, 2001. This day could take the form of a Principal for a Day, Teacher for a Day, or Student for a Day format. By inviting key opinion leaders in communities to spend a day in their middle schools, you have the opportunity to show those who could shape reform first hand what is happening in your schools. Although NMSA is suggesting October 17th so we can draw as much public attention to the importance of middle level education nationwide, the idea of a Shadow Day can be utilized any time throughout the year.

Take a moment to view MOYA activities found on NMSA's website at www.nmsa.org and consider publicizing the successes that occur in your school. You will find complete information regarding Shadow Day activities, press kits, and tips schools may use to initiate MOYA in their communities. Become an advocate for the young adolescent...if not you, who?

By Rick Herrig

Greetings From the Southeast Region



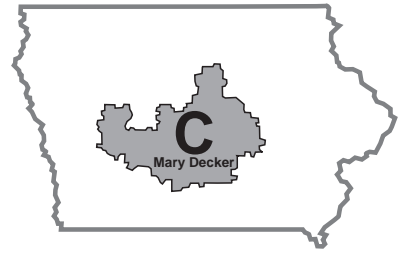
Hello IAMLE contingency! I'm Tim Wernentin, new Southeast Region Director for IAMLE. It is my pleasure to serve as your representative to continue pursuing and refining middle level initiatives throughout the state. I am

in my second year as principal at Wood Intermediate School in Davenport, Iowa, a 6-8 building with 735 students. At Wood we continue deepening our commitment to middle level education through Advisory, flexible scheduling, teaming, differentiated instruction, and alternative assessment practices. We are fortunate to have a staff that understands we are never "there," and must continue to change to meet the needs of the students.

I'm looking forward to meeting your needs as a representative on the IAMLE board. If I can be of any service to you or your school, don't hesitate to contact me. Always remember the ancient Hebrew proverb, "Do not confine your children to your own learning; for they were born in another time." Have a great 2001-2002 school year!

Central Director

My name is Mary Decker. I have filled the Central Director's position Deb Rose vacated after she accepted the responsibility of convention chairperson for the Midwest Regional.

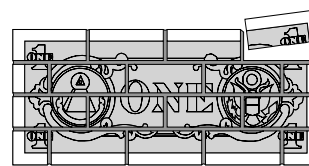
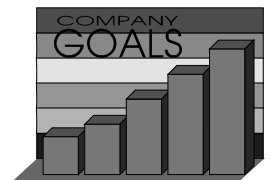


I have been teaching Physical Education at May Goodrell Middle School on the East side of Des Moines for the past 18 years. Having had elementary and high school experience, I have found "home base" with the middle level learner.

My term as Central Director begins the same year my school is granted magnate status as May Goodrell Traditional Plus. The coming year is one I await with the thrill/fear of a beginning teacher.

I am excited to have the opportunity to move into this leadership role and I hope to serve you to the best of my ability.

My number one goal as a board member, is to increase the IAMLE membership base in the Des Moines area. As a rookie myself, I cannot believe the amount of resources available and the experienced educators ready to assist middle level educators. The state of Iowa has many experts in the area of "best middle school practices" and they may be in your own district. These folks are prepared to answer questions, help with strategies, and if they don't have the answers, they know where to go to get them. The energy generated by sharing with other educators and administrators, the strategies used to enhance the middle level experience is phenomenal.



One of the main roadblocks in education is funding. Relying on budgets to bring our students all the opportunities available is an impossible task. The need for financial assistance can cause

many great initiatives to be delayed or "put on hold" for further funding. I hope to be able to help generate income sources for IAMLE so the association can continue to help others with mini-grants for a variety of projects statewide. I might be able to give you additional strategies for fund raising projects. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. My co-teacher, students, community members, and I have raised \$25,000.00 in the last three years for our physical education department.

Well, in closing, I wish you all a great start to your school year. I'm very excited for our new adventure at May Goodrell Traditional Plus and my opportunity to serve the IAMLE Board and membership.



IAMLE Summer Camp

IAMLE and Coe College hosted the first annual Middle School Summer Camp during the last week of July. Over 40 campers and counselors attended with representation from nine different middle schools. "Better Teaching Through Teaming" was the focus of the camp with Jack Berckemeyer from the National Middle School Association as the highlight.



Plans are being made for IAMLE Summer Camp 2002 for the dates of June 16th to June 19th at a yet-to-be-named location. Look at your next IAMLE newsletter for more details.

R. Paul Brimm Award Winner

Sandy Smit, a Vocal Music teacher at Berg Middle School in Newton, Iowa, was named the 2001 R. Paul Brimm Award winner. Sandy will attend the Regional Conference in Omaha, Nebraska in October where she will receive her award.



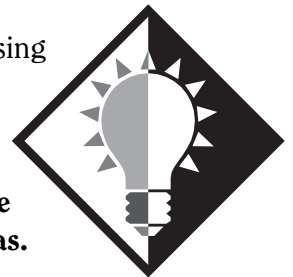
Midwest Regional Middle Level Conference 2001—A Middle Level Odyssey

October 3 - 5, 2001
Omaha, NE

Keynote Speakers —
Judith Baenen, Peter Yarrow, Richard Ramsey
and Jack Berckemeyer

The Idea Corner

In each issue of the UPdate we will be choosing a middle school topic and asking IAMLE members to share effective strategies that they have used in their school to address that particular area. **For the November issue we are looking for Community Service Ideas.** Please send your ideas to Wendy Parker at parker_wendy@mail1.newton.k12.ia.us.



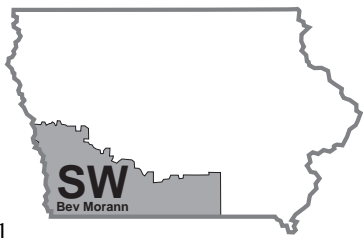
This month's topic was:

How to make team meetings more effective:

1. Have an agenda for each meeting
2. Create and use a team calendar
3. Keep records of team meetings and distribute to extended team members
4. Assign roles and responsibilities that change periodically
5. Give everyone a chance to speak - have a different colored paperclip for each team member and have each member put a paperclip in the center of the table when they speak - try having members not speak until everyone else has spoken at least once
6. Focus on opportunities, not barriers
7. Allow only one day a week to talk about discipline problems
8. At beginning of week, have each member summarize his/her instructional plans for the week
9. Bring students to team meetings periodically for positive acknowledgments
10. Have a set schedule for treats

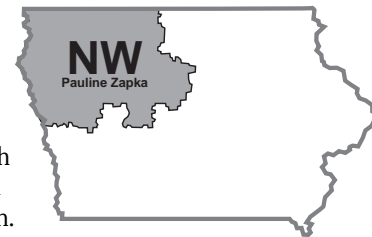
Fantastic News for Southwest Iowa

Good news for Southwest Iowa: two years ago Nebraska joined Iowa and South Dakota in hosting the Midwest Regional Middle Level Conferences. In October, Nebraska will host the 2001 - a Middle Level Odyssey in Omaha. For those of you who couldn't make it to Des Moines last year, this is a great (and maybe closer) opportunity! The keynote speakers that NAMLE has lined up are phenomenal. Wednesday evening Jack Berckemeyer from NMSA will be there and if you have never heard him speak about middle school students and middle level education you are in for a treat! Then, there's Judith Baenen, a former middle level language arts teacher who will have you in stitches with her who will have you in stitches with her perspective about middle level students learn. Richard Ramsey will be there also and Peter Yarrow (Peter of Peter, Paul and Mary) will be there to entertain us. This promises to be an exciting three days in October. Please mark your calendars for October 3-5 and come to the Holiday Inn in Omaha, Nebraska!



NW Iowa IAMLE Director

As your new NW Iowa IAMLE director, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Currently, I am teaching eighth grade reading and K-8 TAG at North Kossuth Community School. This year will be my twenty-fourth year at North Kossuth. Previously, I taught at Lakota, Iowa and Leigh, Nebraska. During my teaching career, I have taught middle and high school math and computer classes and eighth grade English. I also was a library media specialist for twenty years.

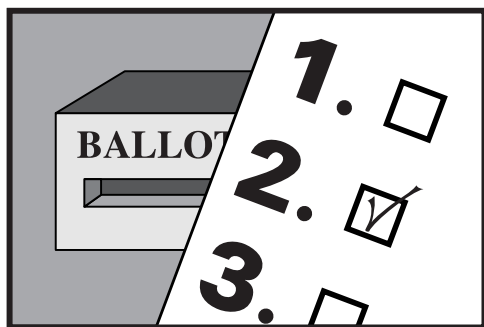


I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1974 with a major in junior high education with math emphasis and a library science minor. In 1995, I received my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with gifted and talented emphasis. Since 1995, I have earned my reading endorsement and received my national certification in Early Adolescence-Generalist in 1999.

My husband Bob and I have been married for twenty-five years. We have two sons. The older son graduated from Minnesota West with a Diesel Technology major and now works with my husband in his farm equipment repair and antique tractor restoration business. Our other son is a sophomore at Buena Vista University. I am very active in our church and am on our community theater board and fitness center board. (This does not mean you will recognize me by my great physique!).

The unique needs of the middle school student and the middle school program have always been a focus of my teaching career. I am very dedicated to doing whatever is needed to promote the middle school concept. That is one reason why I am so excited about being elected to the IAMLE board and representing the middle level educators from Northwest Iowa. I am looking forward to serving on the board as your representative.

Pauline Zapka



Call For Candidacy

The IAMLE Board of Directors seeks qualified candidates for the position of President-Elect. Qualified candidates must be members in good standing of IAMLE, past or current members of the IAMLE Board of Directors, and must complete nomination form.

Responsibilities of President-Elect include: preside in the absence, inability or refusal of the President to act; review the Constitution and By-Laws and other procedural documents and recommended additions, deletions, omissions, or corrections deemed necessary;

and serve as an ex-officio member of any committee or task force of the Association at the direction of the President; attend quarterly Board meetings; assist in the establishment of Board policy; appoint an Executive Director, Newsletter Editor, Midwest Regional Conference Chair, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator; collaborate in goal setting and actively participate in achieving board goals; and do such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Persons interested in nominating themselves or others should access our website for more information OR contact:

Rick Herrig
Bettendorf Middle School
Bettendorf, IA 52722
(W) (563) 359-3686
(H) (563) 332-0015
Email: rherrig@po-1.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

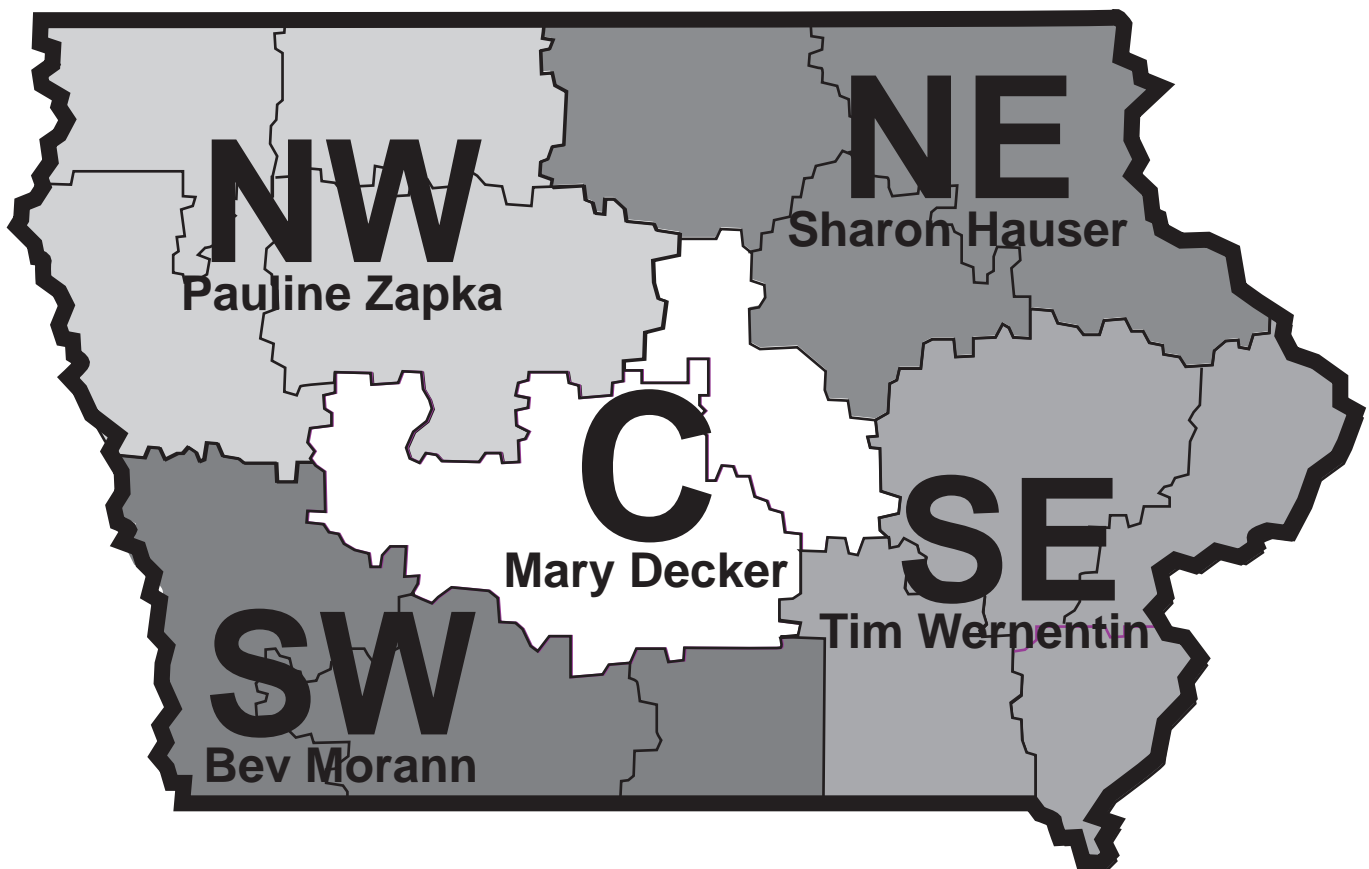
Timeline:

- Call for nominations closes September 15
- Candidate nominations confirmed September 22
- Ballots mailed to membership October 8
- Ballots due back October 22
- Elections certified October 31
- Results posted on website November, 2001



IOWA ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

Northwest Section contains AEA's 3, 4, and 12
 Northeast Section contains AEA's 1, 2, and 7
 Central Section contains AEA's 5, 6, and 11
 Southwest Section contains AEA's 13, 14, and part of 15
 Southeast Section contains AEA's 9, 10, part of 15, and 16



At-Large Director
Dr. Marc McCoy

At-Large Director
Megan Balong

Executive Director
Rick Herrig

President
Jeff Schumacher

President-Elect
to be determined

Past President
vacant

Membership
Betty Smith

Treasurer
Brad Buck

Newsletter Editor
Wendy Parker

Conference Chair
Deb Rose



The Iowa Association for Middle Level Education, the only Iowa affiliate of the National Middle School Association, has, for 25 years, seen steady growth both in memberships and services. Membership dues have stayed constant for many years. In order to continue to provide high quality service for our 1800 members, **membership dues for IAMLE will increase to \$20.00 beginning January 1, 2001.**



Mission...

Dedicated to meeting the needs of young adolescents and committed to promoting educational improvement for middle level students.

IAMLE

Membership Application



Name _____

Date _____

E-Mail Address _____

P.O. Box/Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

School Mailing Address

School District _____

P.O. Box/Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send IAMLE mailings to:

Home School

This membership application is:

Renewal New

IAMLE is interested in knowing more about you (Check all that apply)

Teacher - Grade(s) _____

Subject(s) _____

Counselor Parent

Administrator Other (specify) _____

Membership Fee \$20.00

The membership year extends one year from the month of application. Annually members receive a journal, four newsletters and reduced fees to the Midwest Regional Conference.

Make checks payable to IAMLE & mail to:

Betty Smith
Urbana-Center Point Middle School
Box 296
Center Point, IA 52213

Be a Building Contact

IAMLE invites you to volunteer to be a contact for your building to share with staff:

- Timely information
- News updates
- NMSA publications
- Conference Registrations and materials

Are you interested in getting involved with IAMLE but have only 10-15 minutes per month?

By volunteering your help, you will be the building contact to whom critical and timely information will be mailed for sharing with staff:

- On the bulletin board
- On the table in the faculty lounge
- In a mail box
- Etc

Please return the form below or drop a quick email or fax to:

Jeff Schumacher
909 NE 15th Street
Ankeny, IA 50021
Ph: 515-964-5685
Fax: 515-965-9648
Email: jshoe@ankeny.k12.ia.us



Building Contact Information

Name _____

School District _____

Building _____

County _____

Address _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Phone _____

You can download the application form from the website, www.iamle.org, e-mail, or call Jeff Schumacher at 515-965-9640 or 515-964-5685.





Corporate sponsors of IAMLE.



Moved?

If you have moved please contact Betty Smith at bsmith@cen-pt-urb.k12.ia.us.

Need a Membership Renewal Notice?

If you went to the 1999 Regional Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as an IAMLE member and have not received a membership renewal notice, please contact Betty Smith at bsmith@cen-pt-urb.k12.ia.us.

The Iowa Association for Middle Level Education

- the only affiliate of the National Middle School Association in Iowa - is dedicated to meeting the needs of young adolescents and committed to promoting educational improvement for middle level students.

The **IAMLE UPDATE** is the official newsletter of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education and is published four times each academic year. Subscription to the **IAMLE UPDATE** is included in IAMLE membership dues.



MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION _____

IAMLE UPDATE

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