

# AEL Leadership Forum

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22, 2020  
AEL Executive  
Board Meeting  
5 pm  
Via Zoom

May 20, 2020  
AEL Executive  
Board Meeting  
5 pm  
TBA

June 17, 2020  
AEL Executive  
Board Meeting  
5 pm  
TBA

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## Who Would Have Thought?

*By Will Myers, AEL President*

No one could have predicted the unprecedented turn of events we are facing this year. All levels have faced multiple challenges. Many of us have been forced to acquire new skills. Most disturbing is the perception we are available on a 24/7 timetable. Missives come early in the morning and late at night.

Getting ready to launch an e-learning platform has been a massive undertaking. As hectic as it has been, I would have to give kudos to our Central Office friends who have done their best to help us make the transition to e-learning as smooth as possible. There are many questions and

issues which remain to be resolved. Hopefully, some sense of routine will return to our “New Normal.”

During the current lockdown, negotiations, salary scale revisions and AEL elections have been on hold. We are ready to continue where we left off. I can tell you the negotiations were promising, and the revised salary scale would be beneficial to our membership.

In light of the short falls on revenues which already totals \$63 million, we cannot forecast what the final funding for

education will be. This may be a year where we

## COVID-19

have to “tighten our belts” and be thankful we have a full-time job. Be assured AEL will broker the best contract possible which protects the interests of our membership.

Without knowing what the future holds, we can only do our best to adapt to the situation at hand. We are survivors. This is just one more story to tell the folks who follow in our footsteps.

Be safe and be well.

# The Dickens

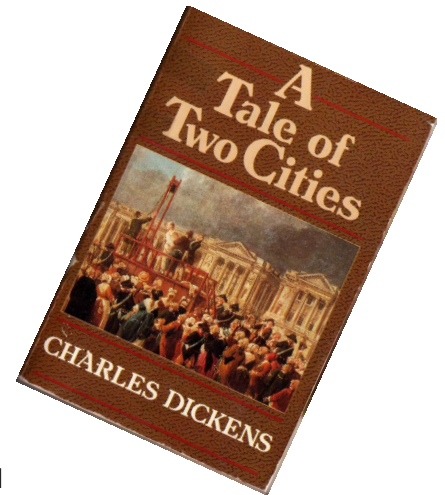
*By Rick Kovelant, AEL Executive Director and General Counsel*

**Education...  
has evolved  
into the  
challenge to  
create a new  
educational  
delivery system  
based on  
remote  
learning  
models.**

Charles Dickens once wrote, “It was the best of times and it was the worst of times.” How profound for that historical period! Given the current situation, I sincerely hope we can avoid this sentiment by turning the phrase around to declare, “We need to make the best of what appears to be the worst of times.” Now, before I begin, let me clearly disclose that I am not, by nature, an optimist. I also have no Pollyanna inclinations. I try to think of myself as a realist, but in this case, I am finding myself unwittingly moving in those directions. Perhaps staying at home, like everyone else, has begun to change my psyche.

Your profession as administrators (really, still a valuable part of the teaching experience) during this health care crisis has produced ( I hate the term ) “teachable moments or opportunities.” Education, which traditionally involved personal, direct and live classroom instruction over a required period of time, has evolved into the challenge to create a new educational delivery system based on remote learning models. This may be more difficult for some rather than others, as it involves unique computer skills that are sometimes more in abundance in those

that are being taught rather than those who are doing the teaching. You may consider using your



children or students as a potential “IT Help Desk.” As educators, these skills can be learned, or if known, enhanced by your intelligence and dedication to the task. My daughter, who is in her 17<sup>th</sup> year of

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## Dickens ...

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teaching kindergarten, has worked with her colleagues to develop and implement a home curriculum in reading, math and science for five-year olds who have just begun their school experience. I couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments in what was her physical and now, her virtual classroom.

One may have thought that staying at home, balancing a work schedule with a personal life, would be somehow easier. After all, late school activities are no longer occurring. Teacher observations are not in progress. Meetings with staff and parents are no longer happening in the

same manner or frequency as before. Free time? I really don't think so. Redirected time would be more accurate. Getting reacquainted with your family, sitting down to dinner at a reasonable hour, and frankly, taking the time to enjoy each other's company and still carry out your educational responsibilities is not all that bad and may be more productive.

***“One may have thought that staying at home, balancing a work schedule with a personal life, would be somehow easier.”***

**The Spring Social has been postponed**

***We will look to reschedule it at our earliest opportunity***



Look, I am learning to readjust as well. Right now, I must say that I am enjoying my family and the time off from the legal grind. To be honest, I prefer writing and illustrating children's stories and designing children's games as opposed to writing

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## Dickens...

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**“Now that I am becoming an optimist, I would like to see it as Dickens also stated ‘It is the Spring of Hope’.”**

and arguing legal briefs. I can, however, attest that the daytime television, with the exception of Judge Judy, (which my wife believes is an anathema to jurisprudence) leaves nothing to be desired. I have stopped watching “Let’s Make A Deal” because I found myself shouting out to the contestants that they should pick a certain curtain, which unfortunately usually turned out to be a Zonk.

Shopping early during a designated time and day with my elderly colleagues, has become the new normal. I was hoping to be “carded” to prove my seniority, but as of this date, I have been sadly disappointed. I have been stereotyped as a “senior” thus no proof is required. I have finally gotten used to the fact that those entering an establishment wearing a mask are not bad people trying to rob the place. Frankly, it is those individuals without a

mask that I now have to fear.

As I said at the beginning, we have to make the best of the worst of times and hopefully, they can and will return to the best of times! I refuse to believe as Dickens opined, that this is the season of darkness. Now that I am becoming an optimist, I would like to see it as Dickens also stated “It is the Spring of Hope”.

STAY SAFE

### On Facebook?

Join the private AEL Facebook group. It’s a good opportunity to connect with colleagues, get updates and keep an eye on what’s going on.



The Association of Educational Leaders  
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### 2019-20 AEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/BOARD/STAFF

Will Myers (2017-21)	President	(P, South River HS)	(o)956-5600	<a href="mailto:wtmwants@aol.com">wtmwants@aol.com</a>
Nelson Horine (2017-21)	1st VP	(P, Anne Arundel Evening HS BOE)	(o) 222-5384	<a href="mailto:nchorine@gmail.com">nchorine@gmail.com</a>
Becky Blasingame-White (2017-21)	2nd VP	(P, Hebron-Harman Elementary)	(o) 859-4510	<a href="mailto:rblasingame-white@aacps.org">rblasingame-white@aacps.org</a>
Natalie Marston (2016-20)	Secretary	(P, Central Special School)	(o) 956-5885	<a href="mailto:nmarston@aacps.org">nmarston@aacps.org</a>
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Open	Director at Large			
Ryan Sackett	Director at Large	(AP, CAT North)	(o)969-3100	<a href="mailto:rsackett@aacps.org">rsackett@aacps.org</a>
Open	Director at Large			
<b>REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS (14): CLUSTERS/FEEDER SYSTEM</b>				
Open		(Annapolis Cluster)		
Tracey Ahern		(P, Odenton Elementary, Arundel Cluster)		<a href="mailto:tahern@aacps.org">tahern@aacps.org</a>
Open		(Broadneck Cluster)		
Open		(Chesapeake Cluster)		
Open		(Glen Burnie Cluster)		
Dave Kauffman		(AP, Meade HS, Meade Cluster)		<a href="mailto:dkauffman@aacps.org">dkauffman@aacps.org</a>
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Open		(North County Cluster)		
Open		(Northeast Cluster)		
Open		(Old Mill Cluster)		
Open		(Severna Park Cluster)		
Edie Picken		(AP, South River HS, South River Cluster)		<a href="mailto:epicken@aacps.org">epicken@aacps.org</a>
Open		(Southern Cluster)		
Kevin Wajek		(C, Secondary Mathematics HS)		<a href="mailto:kwajek@aacps.org">kwajek@aacps.org</a>
Open		(Special Centers)		

There are several Open Cluster Representative positions, please contact Bob Ferguson for more information.

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