



Arkansas Education Association
An NEA State Affiliate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2010

Contact: Lori Dimond
(501) 375-4611, Ext. 117

NEA President Van Roekel to Speak during AEA Representative Assembly

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association (NEA), will be the keynote speaker during the Arkansas Education Association's Representative Assembly. He will speak at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, on "Engaging Leaders from the Local to the National." The event will be held at the Little Rock Hilton Metro.

Van Roekel, a 23-year teaching veteran and longtime activist and advocate for children and public education, served two terms as NEA Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, and has held key positions in all levels of the Association.

Van Roekel grew up in Iowa, where parents, teachers, and the community instilled in him a deep sense of the value of education and the understanding that education opens countless doors of opportunity. He realized early in his teaching career that delivering a quality education to all children and serving the collective needs of all school employees go hand-in-hand.

He learned that the role of an educator and Association work are one and the same. And the only way to ensure that students and school employees have access to great public schools across the nation is to organize, mobilize, build relationships, and influence policymakers.

Van Roekel is committed to improving student learning and enhancing the professionalism of education employees. And he is guided by his belief in the NEA mission and vision. Consistent with the mission, he is inspired to “fulfill the promise of public education” and ensure that every child in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, receives a quality education.

Van Roekel earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City and a master's degree in math education from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

He and his wife, Julie, have two married adult sons and are now proud grandparents.

###