



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

March 2012

Members In The News

It is always a pleasure to feature individuals who are on the move or have received an outstanding award. We have two for this issue who we are proud for you to meet. Diane Homan has been a long-time PEI member. She has been a volunteer on the PEI scholarship committee for a number of years and also serves on the leadership team for the Indianola PEI chapter. Jim Robidoux is a more recent member, but sincerely interested in being active in what happens in education and other issues in the state. He recently filed to speak at the education hearings and is becoming a more familiar face at the capitol.

Diane Homan Named Indianola Educator of the Year

Indianola's Irving Elementary 5th Grade teacher, Diane Homan, was recognized as Indianola's Educator of the Year earlier this month at the Indianola Chamber's Annual Recognition Dinner. Homan has been a teacher for more than 35



years in the district. The nomination was submitted by the parents and students of her 5th grade class and she was praised for always finding a way to give each student individual attention - making each student feel

Jim Robidoux Running for House of Representatives

Jim Robidoux is running for the Iowa House of Representatives in the open legislative seat for north Ankeny and northern Polk County in the Republican primary on June 5, 2012. The general election is November 5, 2012.

"In October 2011, I finalized my decision to run for the Iowa House," reports Robidoux. "We decided to not issue any press releases until after the Christmas season and the Iowa Caucus. Now our campaign is in



valued, special and unique.

Her nomination letter states, "Kids are often fixated on heroes. Mrs. Homan is the kind of modern day hero who seeks no recognition for her dedication to children's needs. She exemplifies what good, solid teaching is about, and she holds herself to the same standards that she expects from her students. Sharp is her knowledge, kind is her spirit, and loyal is her love. Combine that with a witty sense of humor and you have a teacher who not only captures a child's attention, but often catches their heart in the process."

In addition to helping her students excel in the traditional subjects, Homan allows for creativity, artistic ability and imagination to stimulate intellectual growth in other areas. She also encourages and models for her students the importance of community involvement and promotes character in and out of the classroom. Homan has been intimately involved as a PEI leader in Indianola, spreading the word about PEI with her fellow teachers and colleagues. We congratulate Diane on this well-deserved award and thank her for her dedication to teaching and to her students.

THE PEI POLICY ON POLITICS

PEI does not do candidate endorsements. PEI does not do political endorsements. PEI is not a partisan organization. PEI is very concerned and involved with political issues concerning our rights of employment and legislation that affects our public and private schools. The announcement of a PEI member running for a political office is considered news. We do not screen for political affiliations, but merely report about member's activities in the public arena. PEI invites members to inform us of any awards, honors, and other newsworthy events.

April 1 is Sunday

No kidding! Since the scholarship deadline says April 1, we will allow applications that are POSTMARKED APRIL 2. Any mailings with a postmark later than April 2 will not be considered in the scholarship competition. See the scholarships at: [Scholarships](#)

full swing to win the June primary."

Robidoux has taught Spanish at Northview Middle School in Ankeny since 1996. He also has taught driver education and English and has coached a variety of sports since he started his teaching career in 1991. Prior to teaching, Robidoux worked at United Parcel Service as an industrial engineer creating and delivering airport operating systems in Cedar Rapids and Des Moines. He started working for UPS in 1984 as a part-time college student, and he was promoted to management upon graduating *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Coe College with degrees in literature and English. If elected, Ankeny Community Schools will allow Robidoux to serve in the spring legislative term after teaching the first semester because this arrangement benefits the students and citizens of Ankeny.

"My experience with logistics at UPS taught me to compile and analyze data to look at several options to find an efficient solution. My training as an English teacher taught me to read deeply and research all aspects of any situation. As a teacher and coach, I am accustomed to hard work and I know that there is always a solution and an opportunity to improve. Over the past two decades, I have worked on a variety of committees at different levels with my teaching colleagues to improve our schools."

In 2009 during the recession, Robidoux and his wife Emily created and opened Robidoux Country Kennels, a dog-boarding facility, on their farmstead just north of Ankeny near Alleman. They renovated a corn crib built in 1930 into a facility complete with the newest geothermal and insulation technology. They have been active at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church since 1998. They have two adult children and two boys still at home.

"My experience as a planner, manager, teacher, coach, and small business owner will bring value to the Iowa Legislature. Emily and I committed to this community in 1996, and we have benefitted from the hundreds of friends and acquaintances who have enriched our lives. Now it's time for me to give back to this community as their legislator. I have enjoyed a variety of contact and experience with the constituents in Ankeny and northern Polk County, and they know that I will

Member Login Now Available!

Have you been to the newest portion of our website? A Discussion and Blog section have been added along with member informational and fact sheets. If you have questions concerning how to access your login and password, contact us at info@peiowa.org.

About PEI

Professional Educators of Iowa (PEI) is a professional organization focused on students and advancing the professionalism of educators. PEI is a non-profit, non-partisan, professional organization serving current, retired, and future educators including teachers, administrators, and school support personnel, as well as those in higher education, all of whom are valuable and contributing members of the school community. PEI promotes teachers as professionals who perform a valued public service. PEI does not engage in non-education political activity that may violate members' personal beliefs. PEI takes positions on political issues in accordance with our code of ethics and principles as well as after surveying members and receiving a majority vote in support or opposition.

serve them vigorously in the legislature."

"I am listing five priorities for my campaign that I hear from the citizens: honor the constitution, revive education to number one in the nation, restore efficiency to state government, prevent new taxation as a fiscal conservative, and promote new jobs. And along with those five priorities, I promise to refuse PAC money because a legislator should answer to the local citizens, not wealthy special interest groups."

"Our campaign is gaining momentum with the active support of at-home moms and elected officials, teachers and business owners, high school seniors and senior citizens, farmers and urban office workers, blue-collar Republicans and CEO's. Check out our website, read our platform, and join our campaign at www.jimrobidoux.org."

Contact Us

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