

Getting to know your IASA Governmental Relations and Advocacy Committee Members

Supt. Lea Damisch, NW Region



Name: Lea Damisch

School district: Marengo Union Elementary CSD # 165

One thing you would like people to know about your school district: There is a very strong connection to the community and a genuine sense of pride in valuing the need for public education.

Years as educator: 17 years

High school: Marian Central Catholic H.S.

Colleges or Universities: BS Business Administration/Mathematics from MacMurray College; MBA from Allstate University; MA from Trinity University; MA in Educational Leadership-Aurora University; CAS from Western Illinois University; IASA School for Advanced Leadership (ISAL).

Family: Married for 30 years. I have seven children, three grandchildren — with the fourth one to arrive in November. My oldest grandson is in first grade in my school district. Three of my children live in Marengo, while my other four live all

over the country (California, Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee). It makes for a challenge to get them all together, but I talk to each of them almost every day with the exception of my son who serves in the military.

Favorite hobby: Running the family farm

Favorite movie: *Anne of Green Gables*

Favorite book: The Bible

Favorite musical artist: Alabama

One thing people probably would be surprised to know about you: I am a bee keeper.

Biggest concern about public education: The constant barrage of government mandates and decisions that have resulted in the public school system to be the "poster child" for what doesn't work.

Most encouraging thing about public education: It is still the great equalizer! Our doors are always open and we educate all who cross the threshold -- and I hope that never changes. I am of the belief that we are charged with the responsibility of raising up the children of today and equipping them with the necessary skills to make them proud and productive citizens of this great nation.