March brings many opportunities for members to participate in Rhode Island School Committee Association (RIASC) events. All sessions are from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and are free of charge. Attendees will receive three professional development credits towards their six hours for 2015.

RIASC's Leadership Academy. The RIASC Board met and approved a policy for its voluntary professional development program for school committee members. The 2014 Leadership Academy consisted of 18 sessions and was well attended. Further information of the Leadership Academy and the criteria can be found on the RIASC website at www.riasc.org and linking to the "Professional Development" page.

External Training Credit. External training sessions are sessions that have been approved by the RIASC Board for external credit, a voluntary professional development program for school committee members. In order to qualify for external training credit, an attendee is responsible for completing the Request for Approval form in advance of the training. The form must be completed at least two weeks prior to the training session.

For further information, or to get your district started in teacher contract negotiations, contact tduffy@riasc.org.

According to State law, Rhode Island school committee members from 2009 to 2013 are required to attend at least 12 hours of professional development annually. To assist school committee members in meeting this requirement, RIASC is seeking nominations for the Howard Kay Award.

The Howard Kay Award. Each year RIASC seeks nominations for the Howard Kay Award. This award is named in honor of the late Howard Kay, a former Treasurer of RIASC and a former Newport school committee member.

Deadline for nominations is April 10, 2015. For further information, or to get your district started, contact tduffy@riasc.org.

The RIASC Board of Directors is accepting applications for the Howard Kay Award in a letter to the Executive Director. Applications should be submitted no later than the March 1 nomination deadline.

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The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative is a national online purchasing cooperative formed between state school boards associations to streamline the buying process for schools, municipalities and other public entities. BuyBoard gives public entities the ability to obtain bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online, web based tools that aligns with public sector and non-profit purchasing. The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative is a public benefit, non-profit entity. BuyBoard's mission is to promote the efficient and effective purchasing of supplies and services for public entities.

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