



Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Office Hours

The WEA office is open year-round 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Drop in for movie and Wild Island tickets any day!

July 1st - 6th

NEA Representative Assembly
New Orleans, Louisiana

September 11th

WEA Wild Island Picnic

WEA Elects New Officers

The ballots were counted on May 3rd and the new officers were announced on May 5th:

President: Dana Galvin

Vice President:

Jane Bantz

Treasurer:

Natha Anderson

Secretary:

Bobee-Kay Clark

These new officers will begin their work for the association on July 15th.

42nd NSEA Delegate Assembly Wrap-Up

Ken Buhrmann / WEA President

On April 24th and 25th, the 42nd annual NSEA Delegate Assembly convened at the Reno Peppermill. The theme of the Assembly this year was "COURAGE AND LEADERSHIP: That's What Our Kids Need." Our current economic crisis, education funding, and the upcoming primary and general elections took center stage. The agenda also included the nomination and election of state officers.

At 11:45 A.M., President Warne called the Assembly to order. The first major speaker for the day was Senator Harry Reid. Senator Reid spoke about the concerns of reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (NCLB). A number of areas need to be reviewed and AYP needs to either be revised or go away. Senator Reid also suggested using Federal Funding for revitalization and construction of schools, thereby freeing up state and local funds for use in the classroom.

The rest of the afternoon was spent discussing bylaws and the 2010-2011 NSEA budget. A motion was made and passed by the assembly that froze NSEA dues for one year.

The final speaker of the afternoon session was Rory Reid, the NSEA endorsed candidate for Nevada governor. Candidate Reid spoke about his EDGE plan (Economic Development through Great Education) which will place more money into education, recognizing that the economic recovery of the state lies in an educated workforce. Reid stated many times, very forcefully, "I will NOT compromise on education."

That evening, NSEA conducted its annual Awards Banquet, a wonderful

evening of fine food and conversation with friends from all across the state. Mr. Jesse Gutierrez was the honored guest for the evening and received the NSEA 2010 Human and Civil Rights Award. Ms. Christena Fox of Clark County was presented with the Isaac Perez Outstanding Education Award for her work with the local youth of her community. Ms. Bo Yealy, President of ESEA in Clark County, received the Outstanding Achievement Award for her tireless work advocating for NSEA members. Ms. Sue Strand was the recipient of the Retired Achievement Award for her work on behalf of the retired membership of NESA-R. And finally, the Dedicated Educator Award was presented to Mr. Ken Buhrmann, President of WEA in recognition of his 43 years of service in public education.

On Sunday morning elections of NSEA officers were held. Lynn Warne ran unopposed and was elected to a second term of office by acclamation, Doug Bache was re-elected Vice President, and Natha Anderson was elected for a first term as the new NEA Director succeeding the outgoing Director, Ken Buhrmann.

Later Sunday morning, guest speaker Dennis Van Roekel, President of the National Education Association (NEA), 3.2 million members strong, the largest labor union in the US, spoke to the assembly. His very inspiring speech was well received by the assembly. "You can lay-off adults/teachers/ESP but that does not reduce the number of children/students in the classroom!" he stated.

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Contract Corner: End of the Year Odds and...well...Ends

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

Assignments for 2010-11

Before the end of the school year, employees who are not “newly employed or transferred” are expected to be notified of their assignments for the next school year. This includes programs, grades/subjects, and any special or unusual classes. The article in the Negotiated Agreement (Contract) is Article 26.1.1.

Overage Schedule

June 1st: Overage at the school sites are to be identified, and the Needs List out to teachers so volunteers for overage can declare.

June 2nd: Teachers who will appear on the overage lists will be notified of the openings. [Principals can visit overage teachers for a possible match.]

June 7th: Teachers on Overage List must have their preference forms to Human Resources, and the Principals

also must notify HR of their teacher preferences.

June 9th: Last day of school.

June 14th: Principals must submit their preference forms to HR.

June 15th: Meeting to place Overage Teachers will be held at District Office. If a teacher and a principal are a “match” as indicated by their preference forms, this is approved. Other overage teachers will be assigned.

Looking for a Specific Job?

Changing “lanes” (e.g. special ed. to regular ed.) is not possible until after the Overage Teachers have been placed. This policy assures that there will be jobs for people and no one will get shut out because they were the licensed “odd man out.”

On June 22nd, unfilled positions will become available. Preference for these positions is to go to “one-year-only” teachers, and when accepted their

jobs will be “standard contract” positions. This will also be the time when a teacher could change “lanes.” For these positions, make the principal aware that you are interested in a particular position, and check back occasionally. The principals are under no obligation during the summer if you don’t contact them.

Beginning of 2010-11

For “traditional” schedule employees, the Professional Development day will be Wednesday, August 25th. The Tuesday of that week and Voting day (Nov. 2, 2011) will be the furlough days. The modified schedule for MTYR and Green Track is still being worked out.

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President Van Roekel also spoke about the Blueprint for Education plan and the reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB. NEA is in continuous talks with the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, working to iron-out many of the details and flaws that are found in ESEA.

The day ended with the introduction of seven New Business Items (NBI's) to the assembly. NBI # 1, looking into “pod-casting” Delegate Assembly, and NBI#2, addressing awareness training on bullying in the workplace/classroom, were both passed. The rest of the NBI's did not pass. Legislative NBI #1, addressing kindergarten readiness, and LNBI #2, editorial word change, were both passed as well.

So ended the 42nd NSEA Delegate Assembly. As you know, many important issues face educators in our state. The upcoming year is going to be very active and very important to all people working in education. Everyone needs to become involved, to be a voice for Nevada students and education in general. No one can afford to be silent and depend upon others to speak out for them. Be involved, be strong, be an advocate for your students and for yourself! Education needs you NOW!

Nevada's Race to the Bottom

Phil Kaiser / GR Committee Chair

Nevada is already at the bottom of the nation in per pupil spending, graduation rates, and adults with college degrees, and now we face additional cuts from kindergarten through college. Class sizes will go up. There is no way to keep cuts from affecting classroom instruction. And next year is likely to be worse. Many folks are asking what can be done. One thing is that we need to commit to electing pro-education candidates at every level, and this commitment needs to include campaign contributions.

None of our dues are donated to political campaigns. Campaign donations come from voluntary contributions to

TIP (Together In Politics). Right now, very few members donate to TIP. If we are serious about influencing who gets elected, we all need to do more than we have done. We have almost 3,000 members in WEA. If only half of our members gave \$3.00 per month that would be \$4,500 per month. And the next few months are critical. First the primaries in June, then the general election in November will select a governor, state legislators, and school board members. Let's each donate \$3 per month to TIP. If each of us does a little, as an organization, we can do a lot. Contact your WEA building rep or the WEA office for a TIP form.

Budgets and Legislatures: What Do They Have in Common?

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

By now every school has had the budget presentation from the school district - if not you will soon. It is perfectly clear that if MAJOR changes are not made in the 2011 Legislature to reform our tax structure, not only education, but all services in Nevada will either cease to exist, or be severely impacted. Nevada has paid for at least four tax reform studies, which all pretty much say the same thing, so it isn't that they don't know what needs to be done. What they need is the will to do it!

That's where we come in! We need to, as a collective body, along with parents, elect friends of education who will have the where-with-all to go to Carson City and fix the problem. The NSEA, along with the WEA, has interviewed candidates and made their endorsement selections. It is essential that we work to get these people elected to represent us in Carson. The primary is June 8th.

The WEA GR committee will be organizing activities to get folks elected. Please be willing to give your time and energy to this important endeavor. This may well be our last chance.

Welcome, New Members!

The WEA welcomes **Joan Ackley** of Sun Valley Elementary, **Thomas Bell** of Incline High, **Georgia Coulombe** of Edison Way, **Kristie Falls** of Alice Smith Elementary, **Romelia Frediani** of Duncan Elementary, **Tiffany Johnson** of Sun Valley Elementary, **Jacqueline Kersch** of Gomes Elementary, **Monica Ramirez** of Taylor Elementary, **Stephanie Rank** of Anderson Elementary, **Lorna Rocha** of Pine Middle, **Marleen Rocha** of Palmer Elementary, **Risa Scolari** of Traner Middle, **Kristy Smith** of Spanish Springs High, **Donald Speth** of Mendive Middle, **Katharine Torry** of Moss Elementary, and **Nerissa Zink** of Alice Smith Elementary.

Endorsed Candidates

Assembly

AD24: David Bobzien
AD25: Robert Townsend
AD26: Michael Maupin
AD27: Teresa Benitez-Thompson
AD30: Debbie Smith
AD31: Richard "Skip" Daly

Senate

SD1: Sheila Leslie
SD2: Allison Edwards

State Races

Governor: Rory Reid
Lieutenant Governor:
 Brian Krolicki
State Treasurer:
 Kate Marhsall
State Controller: Kim Wallin
State Attorney General:
 Catherine Cortez-Masto
Secretary of State:
 Ross Miller

Federal Races

U.S. Senate: Harry Reid

Nurse's Notes: An Over-The-Counter Hallucinogenic High

Sharon G. Freier / R.N.

It goes by a variety of names in the schoolyard, including Robo, Skittles, Dex and Triple C. In large doses it can produce a hallucinogenic high. And chances are your teenager is familiar with it.

Known technically as dextromethorphan, DXM for short, it's the active cough-suppressant ingredient in cough medicine. According to studies cited by the National Association of School Nurses, 6 percent of high school teens admit to having abused cough medicine in the past year, and 33 percent of high school teens say they know someone who has abused cough medicine.

While parents have become increasingly aware of the risks associated with prescription drug abuse, they are not necessarily aware that over-the-counter products also can be abused. Cough medicine abuse is a real and present danger among high school students. While cough medicine is safe when taken in recommended dosages, kids are taking 25 to 50 times the recom-

mended amount in order to get high. And when cough medicine is taken in high doses, it can produce side effects including delusions, panic attacks, memory problems, blurred vision, stomach pain, vomiting, high blood pressure and rapid heartbeats, numbness in fingers and toes, drowsiness and dizziness, fever and headaches, rashes, loss of consciousness and even death.

The school nurses association, which has teamed with the Consumer Health Care Product Association on the initiative, encourages parents to visit the Web site stopmedicineabuse.org to find information about DXM, including a downloadable brochure.

"We want parents to know about this problem," Garcia said. "We want people to be willing to learn about it, and talk to their kids about it - talk to their school nurse or school counselor about it."

According to the association, kids who have ongoing conversations with their parents about medicine abuse are 50 percent less likely to abuse.

-Reuters



Sarah Flynn, Spanish Springs Elementary School teacher and WEA Member, & Jody Gertson, her Horace Mann Agent.

Sarah received \$10,000 from the Horace Mann Companies as the grand prize winner in its "Educators run away with \$65k" sweepstakes. Another \$10,000 will be donated to Spanish Springs Elementary & Double Diamond Elementary schools as part of her winnings.

Wild Island Tickets

Pick them up at the WEA Office!

\$18.00 each



WEA/United Federal Credit Union Scholarships

The United Federal Credit Union, formerly Clearstar Credit Union, has joined the WEA in presenting scholarships to current educators that will enable them to continue their education or pursue professional development opportunities. Lynn Lundahl, Vice President of United Federal, presented \$500 checks to:

Kelle Kroeber of Mitchell Elementary
Elizabeth Carter of Maxwell Elementary
Amy Prosser of Booth Elementary
Kristen Conway of Mathews Elementary
John Santoemma of Pine Middle

Congratulations to all the recipients!

WEA Scholarships Presented

The WEA presented its 2010 scholarships for children of WEA members at Recognition Day on May 15th. The Ernie Johnson Memorial Vocational Scholarship was presented to Adam Gray of North Valleys High School. The Marilyn Owen Academic Scholarship was presented to Linden Reid of Reed High School. The Lancaster Family Memorial Scholarship was presented to Aubrey Ramos of Damonte Ranch High School. Also recognized was Alejandro Ramos of Reed High School, who received the Kathy Powell/Thelma Davila Scholarship. Outstanding Graduates and Most Influential Educators were also honored.



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WEA Today is published nine times per year to inform, educate and entertain the members of Washoe Education Association. We urge readers to write letters to the editor on matters of concern. Letters should be mailed to WEA Today Editor at 1890 Donald Street, Reno, NV. 89502. All letters must be signed and include phone number; however, anonymity will be granted if deemed necessary. We reserve the right to edit for length or libelous comments. It would be appreciated if letters were typed, but neatly handwritten copies are accepted.