



## Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**April 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Break  
WEA Office Closed

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Scholarship Applications **DUE!**  
Awards Nominations **DUE!**

**April 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>**

NSEA Delegate Assembly  
Peppermill Hotel & Casino

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**LAST DAY** to return ski tickets  
for a full refund.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

National Teacher Appreciation  
Day

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Rep Council  
WEA Office  
4:30pm

### DEADLINES!

**April 19th**

Scholarship  
Applications & Awards  
Nominations DUE in  
the WEA Office

**April 30th**

**LAST DAY** to get a full  
refund for your unused  
lift tickets.

# 2010 Pacific Regional Leadership Conference

*Ken Buhmann / WEA President*

Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, the eight states of the Pacific Regional Conference, sent delegates to the Reno Peppermill March 17th through 21st for the Pacific Regional Leadership Conference (PRLC). This annual conference is always important, but it was even more so this year than in the past. This conference was designed to discuss and take on the challenges facing education in 2010 and beyond. The issues debated ranged from the "blueprint" of the reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Act), to transforming "troubled" schools, to creating jobs in a struggling economy. The theme of this year's PRLC was "TODAY'S NEA: Hope, Innovation, Transformation." There were over 600 delegates attending with approximately 300 delegates being first-time attendees! WEA sent 15 members to represent our local association. Our own Dana Galvin, Vice President of WEA, was the Host Committee Chairwoman. Her host committee, made up of current active members, WESP members, and WEA-Retired members, did an excellent job!

All affiliates were encouraged to send younger members to this conference to encourage their interest and involvement in association leadership roles. Generation NEA was set up to involve these younger members and mentor them in becoming leaders within their local, state, and national associations.

There were two pre-conference seminars held March 17th through 19th. Minority Leadership Training and

Women's Leadership Training focused on enhancing leadership skills and familiarizing participants with critical educational issues facing minorities and women.

WEA member Dorreen Borja stated: "Three days were well spent with professional colleagues and national organizational leaders on current educational issues."

Bobee-Kay Clark felt that the Women's Conference was "phenomenal." "I especially appreciated the focus on micro and macro steps of organizing positive action for our members," she said.

Other WEA members were just as enthusiastic about being able to connect with professionals from all regions in the West. "I came away from this conference with a refreshed attitude about the future of education and what it means to be a teacher. The conference left me with determination and proof that one person can make a difference," said Patrick Rossi.

Melinda Maulucci was moved and touched by every individual that she met. "It fired me up to become even more active in my union, school, and community," she reported.

And finally, Catherine Langrill summed it up with this statement: "I learned from one of the most interesting keynote speakers there that every child is a rose: 'It does not matter whether the petals are damaged...the child is still a rose.' Thank you, WEA, for providing me the opportunity to increase my leadership skills!"

# Nurse's Notes: Vaccinations, Beverage Regulations, and Meningitis

Sharon G. Freier / R.N.

## CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommends Universal Annual Influenza Vaccination

A panel of immunization experts voted February 24, 2010 to expand the recommendation for annual influenza vaccination to include all people aged 6 months and older. The expanded recommendation is to take effect in the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. The new recommendation seeks to remove barriers to influenza immunization and signals the importance of preventing influenza across the entire population.

## Regulatory Fee for Beverages and Beverage Manufacturers?

As nutrition advocates and policymakers look for ways to curb rising obesity rates and fund public health programs, two new tools from Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP) detail how and why imposing a fee on the beverage industry could help. Mounting evidence points to a link between rising obesity rates and the growing consumption of soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages. Several states have proposed legislation in recent years to impose taxes on beverages and beverage manufacturers.

But a regulatory fee may have a significant public health advantage over a tax in your state. Either strategy could discourage sales by raising prices for the consumer. But the revenue raised by a regulatory fee – unlike a tax – must be used for programs (such as obesity prevention and treatment programs) that mitigate the harm caused by the product. You can read more about this in the “Example of a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Regulatory Fee Justification Study in California” which details the criteria for levying this type of fee in California, statewide or at the city/county level.

## April 24, 2010, is World Meningitis Day

World Meningitis Day seeks to raise awareness about meningitis and the importance of being vaccinated. World Meningitis Day is organized by The Confederation of Meningitis Organizations (CoMO), which was formed in 2004 and whose members include organizations and individuals in 19 countries across Europe, North and South America, Australia, the Philippines and Africa. In addition to encouraging participation in local events, CoMO invites all to log on to their CoMO's Meningitis (<http://www.comoonline.org>) during

April and join hands against meningitis in a global virtual community.

## Give Your Kids a Boost! Whooping Cough Prevention

Did you know... health experts recommend that all preteens and teens get a booster shot to protect them against whooping cough? However, according to a recent CDC survey, only 11 percent of 13-17 year-olds in the U.S. received the recommended booster shot.

Whooping cough is a serious disease that spreads easily in places like schools where students are in close contact. Whooping cough starts off like the common cold. The symptoms of whooping cough may include a runny nose, sneezing and mild fever, as well as severe coughing fits that can make it hard to eat, drink, or breathe. The whooping sound, which is generally heard in infected babies and children, is not common in preteens and teens.

## How to Prevent Whooping Cough?

Whooping cough shots can help prevent the disease. The whooping cough shot is recommended for infants and children, and a booster shot is recommended for preteens the ages of 11-12 years old for continued protection against whooping cough.

## Welcome, New Members!

Kristina Allen  
Greenbrae Elementary

Joseph Garton  
Hug High

Marie Meugniot  
Greenbrae Elementary

Frederick Altenburg  
Hug High

Dana Gish  
Anderson Elementary

Tanna Murdock  
Child Find/Mill St.

Scott Barclay  
Hug High

Catherine Keaton  
Greenbrae Elementary

Laura-Michelle Russell  
Desert Heights Elementary

Kimberly Carl  
Allen Elementary

Geraldine Lemus-Yip  
Dilworth Middle

Alan Shepard  
Hug High

Catherine Davis  
Mendive Middle

Monique Madrid  
Dodson Elementary

Louis Stein  
Dilworth Middle

Kathy DeFrancesco  
Desert Heights Elementary

Michael McMurray  
McQueen High

Is your child **graduating** from a WCS D High School this year? Don't forget about **scholarships** available only to **children of WEA members!** Applications are due **April 19th** and the forms can be printed from [www.weatoday.org](http://www.weatoday.org).

# Contract Corner: Internet Budget Saves!

*Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director*

It's easy! Just go to the District Website, scroll down to find the bright yellow banner in the box for "Budget Savings," click and type an idea to save the district money. Thirty million plus dollars! So lots of suggestions are needed. A committee was formed to consider the ideas that were offered by both employees and community members. As a committee member representing WEA, I have seen the compiled list (to date), and now the committee's task is to implement these suggestions if possible, and provide information for the website to share the answers to what we can and cannot do.

## Ideas Suggested

The suggestions run the gamut from extremely practical to ... well, misinformed. All ideas are appreciated, but just like a "brainstorming" session open to all of Washoe County, some will fit, some won't, and some just can't be done.

## Can't Be Done

The district can't spend money from

"capital projects" in "general fund" areas. It's prevented by law. So we can't take the money for building or improving schools, buying school buses, etc., and spend it on salaries or paper or health benefits, etc.

Someone suggested that although "paid holidays" were "nice," the situation was dire and we couldn't afford it anymore. Teachers get paid for 180+ school days worked, and that doesn't include holidays.

## Instead of Losing Jobs...

In order to preserve jobs for the greater good, there were many suggestions. Lots of people suggested a four day work week with increased contact hours to save energy and transportation costs. How much money would be saved? It's hard to calculate.

There were many suggestions of programs/people to be cut - remember this is employees and community members - from reducing counselors, deans, vice principals, etc., to eliminating sports (in part or major portion or transportation), SHARE, RPDP, GT, CLS, and many others. Pitting one em-

ployee or group against another is not beneficial; the focus should be getting through the current problem as best we can and making every attempt to influence the Legislature to restructure state support for education.

# Letters of Intent, Transfers and Overages

*Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director*

You will all be receiving your "Letters of Intent," which are your binding contracts for the following school year. You will be receiving them on May 3rd. It will be extremely important in these times of scarce jobs that everyone get the letters back to their administrators as quickly as possible. If you are not returning to the WCSD, you will need to indicate that on your form.

Due to the budget cuts, allocations,

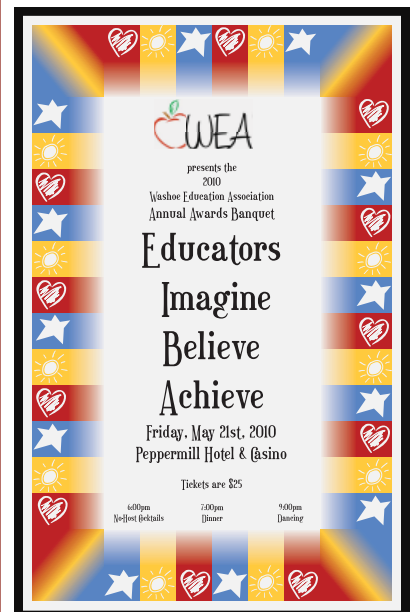
transfers and overages will be happening later than usual. We will keep you informed as to the timeline and process. As always, transfers will be placed first, to hopefully alleviate the need for overages. No one will be hired until all overages are placed.

We realize this is a difficult time for everyone and will do our best to ease some of the stress. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the WEA office with questions or concerns.

## WEA Awards Banquet

Friday, May 21st  
at the Peppermill!

Awards  
Nominations Due  
April 19th!



Time is running out to nominate a fellow educator for one of the WEA Awards! Visit our website, [www.weatoday.org](http://www.weatoday.org), to read more about the awards and to download nomination forms. You can also talk to your building rep or call us at the WEA Office for more information!

## Congratulations to Our Board Certified Educators!



Back row: Robert Andre, Dana Ouart, Tomas Macaluso, Allison Moore, Martin Black, Kitty Gillette, Revae Henry, Jean Zordell, Heidi Skoff, Jennifer Marrujo, Suzette Champagne

Middle Row: Rebecca Cutright, Judy Ashby, Sarah Russell, Ann Clark, Deborah Hildebrand, Tracy Tatebe-Miller

Front Row: Kirsten Conway, Elizabeth Korinek, Nicolette Smith



Recertified Board Educators - Ten Years of Excellence!

Back Row: Barbara Surritte-Barker, Jennifer Morrison

Front Row: Sue Vaughn, Cora Carrigan, Jeanine Vandevordt

### Apply for a \$1,000 NSEA “Good Idea Grant”

The NSEA offers grants of up to \$1,000 to Association members with innovative ideas to help improve education in the state of Nevada. The grants help educators turn good ideas into reality. The money can be spent to develop a special unit or project for use with students in the classroom, present a workshop or class for educators, or to create materials or lesson plans for widespread use. Education reform issues such as standards-based teaching, testing, and other forms of assessment and technology in the classroom would all make ideal proposal topics. Grant proposals are due Friday, April 16th - visit [www.nseanv.org](http://www.nseanv.org) and look for the link on the right-hand side of the page to download the application form!

Nestor Lopez, in Amy Camacho's 5th Grade class at Booth Elementary, designed this bookmark, which won the 2010 WEA Bookmark Contest. Congratulations, Nestor!



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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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.