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June 2015 Issue

The Washoe Education Association Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 3rd

Rep Council Kickoff
1:00 p.m. - WEA Office

September 12th

Wild Island Picnic
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**The WEA Office will be
open from 8:30a.m. to
4:30p.m. Monday through
Friday all summer long.**

Legislative Session Ends on Time

(Carson City, NV) – The 78th Legislative Session ended Tuesday, June 2, at midnight. In the coming days and weeks, NSEA will provide an analysis of passed legislation and how it could impact education, local affiliates, members, and students. This article from NSEA's *Powerline* is a quick look at key bills the Lobby Team tracked during the session.

NSEA and its local affiliates followed, testified, and lobbied many bills this session. At the peak, there were 210 bills on the Lobby Team radar. The final report will list if the bill was ultimately signed by the governor, a process that can take up to 15 days. Passed means it was out of both houses, and in some cases passed out of both houses and signed by the governor. A comprehensive summary of the session will be provided in the upcoming copy of NSEA's membership magazine, *Perspectives*.

Education Funding • Passed

The Governor's plan to fund education passed. SB 483 is the final version of the tax package that raises revenue; SB 515 is the bill that commits a portion of that revenue to education programs.

Collective Bargaining • Protected

AB 190, a bill all public employee unions and the retirement board opposed, would have had a major, negative impact on the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), and it failed to pass. SB 406, supported by NSEA, its local affiliates, and public employee unions, did pass.

Professional Development (PD) • Passed

NSEA and its local affiliates were in support of SB 474, and it passed. SB 474 dedicates state grant revenue for teacher and education support professional PD.

Evaluations • Passed

NSEA and its local affiliates were in support of AB 447, and it passed. A key provision to AB 447, the weight applied to teacher evaluations from testing, was decreased to 40% with a stair step implementation of 0% for next year, 20% for the 2016-17 school year, and 40% for the 2017-18 school year.

Funding Capital Projects • Passed

SB411 allows the imposition of certain taxes in a county to fund capital projects in school districts based on the recommendations of a Public Schools Overcrowding and Repair Needs committee and voter approval.

Looking Back . . . Looking Ahead

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

Looking back . . .

When we started the 2014 school year, WEA and its affiliates had great hopes for electing friends of education to the legislature and state government. As we all know, that did not work out in most races. The legislation that was passed is in the lead article of the WEA Today. It could have been much worse than it was – we kept our collective bargaining in most cases, we kept the right to organize with automatic dues deduction, no damage was done to our PERS, and money was put in to education programs, although unfortunately not in to the distributive school account, which will hamper our negotiation efforts. WEA sent your legislative advocates and WEA board members to Carson every month to lobby on your behalf. Dana Galvin, WEA President, was in Carson every day. We held an informative rally over spring break, which included members statewide.

WEA worked with district HR folks to eliminate the “lanes” to which people with specialized licenses had been rel-

egated for many years. Regardless of license, every certified employee is now able to participate in the exclusive voluntary transfer period.

The WCSD Calendar Committee met for the last time. We finalized 2016-17, and that format will be maintained for the future.

WEA offered a 1 credit in-service class covering a range of topics where we had a full house - 50 participants.

Our two community functions, the Run for Education and Moms on the Run were huge successes - over 300 members and their families participated.

Looking ahead . . .

Clearly, our biggest effort will be negotiating a new contract. We began on June 16th and will work through the summer/fall. Your team members are Al Bellister-Chief Negotiator, Fran McGregor-Depoali MS, Ben Tucker-Sparks HS, Sue Vaughan-McQueen, Rachel Gates-Spec Ed, Dana Galvin-

WEA President, Elaine Lancaster/Chuck Fletcher-WEA Staff. The entire contract is up for negotiation.

WEA received a \$5,000 grant from the National Council of Urban Education Associations. We will, once again, be having our new teacher breakfast, in conjunction with the WCSD, on the first Monday in August. In the fall we will be having a fashion show for first and second year teachers.

WEA has been a part of the West Ed focus groups, dealing with an audit of the GATE program and Special Ed. We were asked for names of educators to be a part of the groups. They will continue to meet through the year.

We have many opportunities to work with the district on various committees, and are always looking for folks to serve.

We'll keep you updated on all our projects through your WEA building reps, e-mails, and the WEA Today.

Welcome, New Members!

David Moss – *Billingshurst*

Alyssa Addington – *Booth*

Shannon Garner – *Booth*

Carmen Nolan – *Booth*

Karen Parkins – *Cannan*

Margo Sistek – *Cannan*

Gloria Filicchia – *Clayton*

Martha Taylor – *Clayton*

Sally Vosburg – *Corbett*

Carla Gonzales – *Depoali*

Sonia Pastor Morreale – *Diedrichsen*

Kim Cordero – *Dodson*

Yvonne Irby – *Dodson*

Nati Ordas – *Dodson*

Kristie Belding – *Donner Springs*

Juan Guitron Navarro – *Galena*

Chelsey Womack – *Gomes*

Kathleen Wright – *Gomes*

Lisa Beasley – *Huffaker*

Sandi King – *Incline E.S.*

Richard Lane Johnson – *Loder*

Molly Bunker – *Mendive*

Shawn Williams – *Mendive*

Jessica Keller – *O'Brien*

John Gallagher – *Pine*

Madeleine Garcia – *Pine*

Angie Goss – *Spanish Springs H.S.*

Adelina Montez – *Student Health*

Stephanie Brigham – *Vaughn*

Allie Hughes – *Westergard*

Robert Morgan – *Whitehead*

Millicent Weir – *Wooster*

We're happy to have you with us!

Contract Corner: Above Par

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

Consulting Teachers

At the June 3rd WEA Rep council, the Consulting Teachers (CTs) who work with the 1st year probationary teachers and veteran teachers in the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Program were introduced. WEA felt that these teachers should be recognized and shown our appreciation for all the hours and summaries written on behalf of teachers. Those individuals are: **Kellie Barrett, Tina Clarno, Cathleen Corsun, Adrenne Fisher, John Linton, Traci Loftin, Stephanie Medina, Laura Pincolini, Corrine Weiser, and Jacque Wiebe.**

These teachers serve as the cornerstone that makes the PAR system work. Their work can be very stressful as they translate what the Administrative evaluator is saying should happen in the language of the Standards, to what it should look like in practice in the classroom and steps to achieve this.

PAR isn't New

Just this past week an article from a 1998 Association publication came to my attention. The article mentioned that National trainers were presenting at a Nevada Summer Leadership Conference where the topic was "Peer Evaluation and Review." A problem was that "peers" could not evaluate in Nevada.

Having a defined set of teaching Standards, a system for evaluation, specific training and support for teachers was a major accomplishment, but there will always be instances where the teacher is evaluated and doesn't feel that the evaluation is "fair." The CTs make the Standards the focus of discussions, not the evaluator, and rely on planning, observation (of other teachers' practice) and self-reflection, among other topics, to shift the focus back to what is actually happening in the classroom and whether this meets the Standards and is what each student needs.

Is PAR effective?

This first full year of the PAR process, there were 27 veteran teachers included in PAR – less than 1% of WCSD teaching staff. Of those, 9 (one-third) improved to "effective" by April; 6 resigned, 2 retired, 2 left on a leave of absence, and 2 were "non-renewed" for next year (21/27). Of the remaining six, 5 remain minimally effective, and one was ineffective. Fully one-third improved his/her practice.

It was mentioned that the CTs work with 1st year probationary teachers as well, but the only ones who come to PAR are those who were "ineffective" in November. There were six probationary teachers referred to PAR in November (out of about 240 first year probationary teachers): By April, 1 became "effective," 2 moved to "minimally effective" and were renewed for their 2nd year, 2 resigned from the District and 1 was non-renewed.

Discount Tickets at WEA

Cinemark Theaters: \$8

Coconut Bowl: \$4

Each ticket is good for one of the following:

- 1 game of bowling with shoes
 - High Ballocity
- Pirate Cove Blacklight mini golf
 - 1 Gokart ride
- 18 holes of outdoor mini golf
 - 3 plays at the laser maze

Wild Island Water Park: \$20

Tickets can be purchased Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the WEA Office.

WEA ANNUAL WILD ISLAND PICNIC

Saturday, September 12th, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



250 Wild Island Court, Sparks – Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

We have reserved the whole park for association members and their families to enjoy!

FEATURING:

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet-Style Luncheon: hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, potato salad, fruit salad, cookies, and soda. The buffet will be available from 10:30 – 4:30.

Music by the bluegrass band *HOMEMADE JAM*

Admission: \$10/person

Admission includes entry to all park attractions, tube rental, and the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Cash or check only – paid at the gate.

FREE- 3 years old and younger

Groups of more than 10 people: \$15/person*

Sign up with your Building Rep in August.

American Fidelity, one of our endorsed companies, sponsors this event.

FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Because we subsidize a large portion of this event, one member bringing more than ten people with them pays more to help cover the cost of admission.*

Nurse's Notes: Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis

Sharon G. Freier / RN, BSN

Food Allergy Basics

- Food allergies affect approximately 15 million Americans, including 6 million children.
- A food allergy is an immune system response to a food the body mistakenly believes is harmful.
- When a person with food allergy eats the food, his or her immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, including histamine, that trigger a cascade of symptoms that can affect the respiratory system, the gastrointestinal tract, the skin, and/or the cardiovascular system.
- There is no cure for food allergies.
- The prevalence of food allergies appears to be increasing among children under the age of 18 that is 2 students in every classroom.
- Although food allergy desensitization's are being studied, these are not yet proven treatments, so strict avoidance is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.
- Managing a food allergy on a daily basis involves constant vigilance.
- Trace amounts of an allergen can trigger an allergic reaction in some individuals.
- Unfortunately, food allergy deaths do occur, even among persons with a history of mild reactions in the past.
- 9-1-1 must ALWAYS be called with every anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis

- Is a serious allergic reaction that comes on quickly and has the potential to become life-threatening?
- Symptoms can develop rapidly

after exposure to an allergen, often within minutes and usually within 30 minutes. However, it can take up to 2 hours for symptoms to occur after exposure to a food allergen.

- Sometimes a second round (or "phase") of allergic reactions can occur after the initial anaphylactic reaction. This is called "biphasic anaphylaxis". A second reaction may happen as early as an hour after the first reaction or as long as 72 hours later (the average is 10 hours later) and can be less severe, as severe, or even more severe than the initial reaction.
- Must be treated immediately with epinephrine (adrenaline).
- Prompt administration of epinephrine is crucial to surviving a potentially life-threatening reaction. Epinephrine has very few side effects. It is prescribed as an auto-injector device (Adrenaclick®, Auvi-Q®, and EpiPen®).

A food allergy is NOT:

- A food intolerance (lactose intolerance, gluten intolerance, etc.).
* An intolerance does not involve the immune system – it involves the digestive system because the body lacks an enzyme needed to digest and process a particular food.
* Symptoms of an intolerance include gas, bloating, and abdominal pain.
- A food preference (vegetarian, kosher, etc.).
- Celiac Disease (is a NON-IgE mediated food allergy).

Eight foods account for 90 percent of all food allergy reactions:

- Peanuts
- Tree nuts (cashews, pecans, walnuts, etc.)

- Milk
- Egg
- Wheat
- Soy
- Fish (halibut, salmon, etc.)
- Shellfish (crab, lobster, shrimp, etc.)
- However, almost any food can cause a reaction.
- To learn more about food allergy, the video "[Understanding Food Allergy](#)" by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is recommended.

Avoid high-risk types of restaurants

- Persons with food allergies should generally avoid high-risk types of restaurants, including:
- Buffets and deli stations (risk of cross-contact).
- Asian cuisine (peanuts, tree nuts used in many dishes).
- Bakeries (risk of cross-contact).
- Ethnic (language barrier).

Minimize risk

- There are ways to minimize risk of accidental exposures and feel more secure about eating out.
- Look for allergy information from the restaurant. Some chains are food-allergy aware and may post allergen information on their Web site.
- Establish good relationship with manager, staff, etc.
- Consider using a "chef card" to alert the staff about your food allergy.
- Leave the restaurant or bring your own food if you feel uncomfortable about the restaurant's food preparation.
- Have a fun and health summer! See you in August!

WEA Member Discounts

WEA members receive discounts at several generous local businesses. Just bring your membership card (or have them call us to verify your membership) and you'll be on your way to savings.

ACCOUNTING

- **Michael J. Dobrowski, CPA**
(775) 329-0841

AUTOMOTIVE

- **Reno Auto Sound**
(775) 825-4455
- **Valley Transmissions**
(775) 825-5020

DINING

- **Chili's - Two locations**
5090 Smithridge Dr.
Reno, NV 89502

10340 N. McCarran Blvd.
Reno, 89503
- **Claim Jumper**
4905 So. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89502

• Donut Bistro - Two locations

1550 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431

465 S. Meadows Pkwy
Reno, NV 89521

• Fatburger - Two Locations

2870 Northtowne Ln.
Reno, NV 89502

13963 So. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89511

• Honey Treat Yogurt

5000 Smithridge Dr.
Reno, NV 89502

• Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co.

550 S. Plumb Ln., Ste. E
Reno, NV 89509

• Truckee Bagel Company

18130 Wedge Pkwy.
Reno, NV 89511

HOME & RETAIL

- **Newman's Natural Carpet Care**
(775) 626-5550
- **Jamie Guier, Realtor**
(775) 247-8557
- **Absolute Music**
8175 So. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89511
- **High Sierra Cycling**
1141 Steamboat Pkwy.
Reno, NV 89511
- **Michael & Son's Fine Jewelry & Native American Art**
2001 E. 2nd St.
Reno, NV 89502



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