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Mark Your Calendar

March 7th

Nominations Open for
WEA Officers

March 8th

TACT Committee Meeting
WEA Office - 4:00 P.M

March 12-16th

Spring Break - Schools Closed

March 19th

WEA In-Service
WEA Office - 4:30 P.M.

March 21st

Special Ed Committee Meeting
WEA Office - 4:30 P.M.

March 22nd

Nominations Close for
WEA Officers 5:00 P.M.

March 27th

Membership Committee Meeting
WEA Office - 4:30 P.M.

Leave of Absence

Applications are due:

April 15th

Masters Equivalency

Plans are due:

May 9th for elementary
May 8th for secondary

Discount Ski Lift Tickets

To purchase tickets come by the WEA
office Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30

Mt. Rose
\$38

Squaw Valley
\$55

Kirkwood
Adult \$53, Junior (13-18) \$43

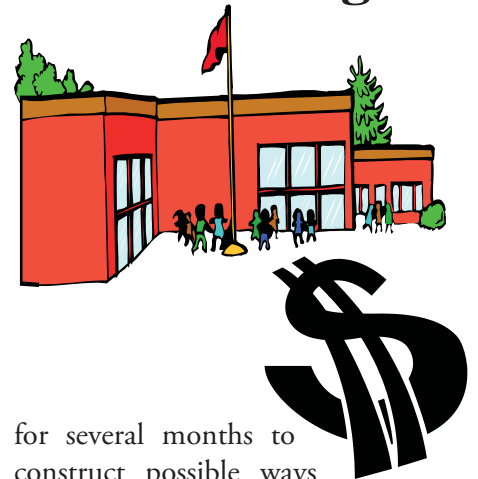
Northstar/Sierra Tahoe
Adult \$53, Young Adult \$44, Child \$15

The 2007 Legislative Session Begins

Lynn Warne/WEA President

The legislature has only been in session for a month, but it has been a busy month. The buzz following the Governor's State of the State speech was all about empowerment schools. What are they? How do they work? Do they really make a difference in student achievement? Do they really empower educators to make improvements to their working conditions? All these questions and more have been asked and there have been very few answers. At press time the Governor's bill on empowerment schools has not yet surfaced.

Enhanced compensation, performance pay, and merit pay have all been the topics of discussions with key legislators since the session began. With both the Assembly and the Senate determined to introduce bills, your lobby team has been busy talking with legislators about the importance of negotiations and proper funding when designing alternative compensation schedules. Currently, several districts around the state are experimenting with incentives and other compensation methods using monies from the 2005 Legislative Session. In Washoe County, a team composed of ten members representing the Washoe County School District and the ten members of the WEA Board met



for several months to construct possible ways to compensate our members for knowledge and skills, additional roles and responsibilities, achieving common goals, and filling high-need and at-risk positions. The bottom line with any of these compensation mechanisms is that they need to be bargained at the local level and there needs to be a sustained and adequate funding source.

Other topics that we have testified on are the study supporting adequate school funding, iNVEST (the funding plan from the schools boards and superintendents), and retiree health benefits.

The session is just beginning so we have only just begun the process. We will keep you informed of the latest details of the lobby team's activities through the WEA Legislative Hotline (828-3032) and our newsletter. Don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, and input!

Support the Lobby Effort

You, too, can be a lobbyist and help the team on the ground in Carson City. As issues come up, you will be asked to e-mail and send postcards to key legislators. Get involved and support public education by answering the requests to participate. Your salary and benefits depend on your involvement! Log onto www.nsea-nv.org

District Seeks Funding Fairness

Virginia Doran/Executive Director

The Washoe County School District, with the help of the WEA, successfully appealed to the community in 2002 to secure the ten-year bond rollover for construction needs through the year 2012. The estimated amount of income from the rollover was between \$300 million and \$600 million. Now, because of the large impact of increased construction costs and the property tax cap enacted in 2005, the District is experiencing a very large construction budget shortfall. In 2005, this looming shortfall was discussed with the Washoe Legislative Delegation who asked that the District seek community support before approaching the 2007 Legislative Session.

Acting on this request, a Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee was formed of local business people and elected officials. The purpose of this committee was to look at the needs and revenue sources for capital construction for the school district. This committee has unanimously agreed on the District's needs



outlined below and individual members are currently submitting resolutions of support.

Estimated available funding from the Bond Rollover for 2007-2012 is \$360 million. Approximately \$270 million in funding is currently committed (to complete projects identified in 2002), leaving approximately \$90 million uncommitted from the bond rollover.

Estimated additional needs for 2007-2012 total \$592 million, leaving a funding gap of \$502 million. While these projects include new schools, money for more technology upgrades, for career and technical education and for major capital renewal projects like new

roofs and HVAC systems, by far, the greatest need is for renovating and revitalizing our older schools. That need alone is estimated at about \$350 million for such needs as science labs, libraries, computer land and music rooms.

All school districts in Nevada receive Property Taxes and Government Services Taxes as sources of revenue for construction. Every school district in Nevada EXCEPT Washoe County has at least one additional revenue source; Real Estate Transfer Tax, Residential Construction Tax, County Infrastructure Sales Tax, and/or Transient Lodging Tax. Carson City has one additional funding source and the other 15 counties have two.

If Washoe County School District received additional revenue sources at the same rate as other districts, the borrowing capacity and revenue stream through 2012 would be as follows:

From the Real Estate Transfer Tax (\$.60 per \$500):

** \$110 million*

From the Residential Construction Tax (\$1600/unit):

** \$45 million through 2012*

From the Room Tax (1 5/8%):

** approximately \$56 million*

From the Sales Tax (1/8%):

** approximately \$111 million*

This issue has been presented to our Washoe Legislative Delegation and it the district's highest priority in the 2007 legislative session. We believe it is a matter of fundamental fairness and equity. One thing is clear. Our legislative delegation needs to hear from citizens. They have said we need to demonstrate that the community supports this effort.

Contact your Senator or Assemblyperson and let them know that your school district needs to be treated the same as the other 16 school districts.

Additional Hours Beyond the Contract Day Survey

Virginia Doran/Executive Director

There is another joint effort on the part of the WCSD and WEA to try and ascertain the number of hours spent beyond the contract day by educators and for what reason. As many of you may remember, we tried tracking this every day during a school year. As one might imagine, the participation fell off greatly after just a few weeks.

Beginning in March there will be an e-mail sent to every educator directing you to a link to complete a short, one question survey about the hours (and how many) spent

on issues outside of the contract day. You will receive a reminder every day during the 3 weeks that this survey is taking place.

The first survey will begin on March 19th. The second will begin on April 16th. The third will begin on May 14th.

It is imperative that everyone make the effort to record their hours outside of the contract day. The bargaining teams need this information in order to address this issue.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Nominations Open

Nominations for the Washoe Education Association's officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) open on March 7th and will close on March 22nd at 5:00. If you are interested in running, please contact our office and we will be glad to either fax or e-mail you a nomination form and a copy of the elections policies.

The expectations of WEA officers

and board members are:

- ~ Board members/officers will attend all WEA Board of Directors meetings (twice a month)
- ~ Attend assigned Washoe County School District Board meetings
- ~ Act as a liaison to WEA/NSEA committees
- ~ Attend all Rep Council meetings
- ~ Communicate on a regular basis

(including on-site visits) to schools in their assigned area

- ~ Participate in all Association-backed or sponsored activities
- ~ Attend/lobby different governmental agencies
- ~ Promote public education and communicate this to the Association's membership

Every WEA Board member is entitled and encouraged to attend one national conference/training, provided for in the WEA budget. In addition, for fulfilling the duties and expectations of a WEA Board member, the WEA Board of Directors and Officers receive their local dues rebated – the same benefit that is extended to our building reps and committee chairs.

For more information or nomination forms, contact the WEA office.

Contract Corner - Transfers

Elaine Lancaster/UniServ Director

The Exclusive Voluntary Transfer period is tentatively set for April 9-20 (schools will be notified of their regular education allocations on March 19th). If you wish to apply for a transfer you must go on-line at the District's website and apply there. If more than one employee has requested a transfer to the same position, the employee best qualified and suited for the position shall be given preference. The criteria is listed in Article 27.1.5 which can be accessed on the WEA website.

Employees who are interviewed for a possible transfer shall be notified in writing as to the disposition of their transfer request. On April 24th the district will identify overages at school

sites that are over-allocated. At the high school level, overages are identified within the subject areas. At the elementary level it is K-6. Principals must ask for volunteers, and if the overage still exists, district wide seniority will be the basis for identifying the overage teacher. On April 25th, the Human Resources Dept. will notify overaged teachers of openings. The overage Teacher Preference forms are due back at Human Resources on April 27th and will be sent to the appropriate principals. On May 7th the principal preference forms are due to the district and overaged teachers will be placed on May 8.

Please call or e-mail with any questions or concerns. We will keep the building reps up to date if the dates change.

Great Summer Job Opportunity

Thisisit Ranch Day Camp is looking for counselors who enjoy athletic activity and like to work outdoors teaching boys and girls aged 5-12. Activities include swimming, trampoline, soccer, archery, field games, and crafts. We have a camper-counselor ratio of 10:1. This job is for eight weeks from June 11 through August 3, Monday through Friday (eight-hour days for the full-time position). We also are looking for

a counselor who wants to work Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings. We will be closed July 4. The wages range from \$10-\$12 per hour, depending on qualifications. This job opportunity includes paid training. If you are interested, call us at 853-0886 or e-mail us at thisisit.ranchcamp@sbcglobal.net.



Good Ideas Grant Winners

Gail Smith
Desert Heights
Elementary

Lee Chhen Stewart
Damonte Ranch
High School

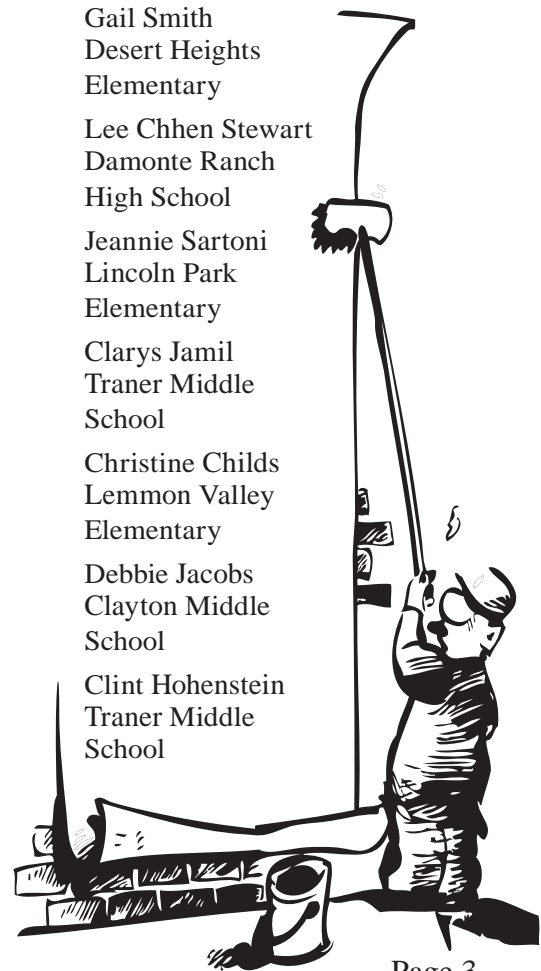
Jeannie Sartoni
Lincoln Park
Elementary

Clarys Jamil
Traner Middle
School

Christine Childs
Lemmon Valley
Elementary

Debbie Jacobs
Clayton Middle
School

Clint Hohenstein
Traner Middle
School



NEA Directors' Report

Hard at Work Regarding Social Security Issues

Ken Buhrmann, NEA Director

On February 8th, your NEA Directors, Ken Buhrmann and Tom Wellman, arrived in Washington D.C. and Capitol Hill to lobby our congressional representatives. We met with the education aides of Senator Reid and Senator Ensign and Congresswoman Berkley and met personally with Congressman Porter and Congressman Heller. The two main issues discussed with all the aides and Congressional people were GPO/WEP (Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision) and the proposed budget cuts to the Perkins Vocational Education Act.

We have firm commitments from almost all of our Congressional representatives and Senator Reid's office that they are supporting the repeal of GPO/WEP and have signed on to the bill to be presented to Congress. Because the 110th Congress is a "new" congressional session, the bill to repeal the GPO/WEP has to start its course through congress all over again. Senator Ensign is still not committed to the repeal of the repeal of the GPO/WEP off-set as he still feels that it is a problem and an issue of "double dipping." Your NEA Directors have been able to convince his aides that perhaps he needs to take a second look at that because it does affect anyone who is considering going into education as a second career. That individual would lose the majority of his/her social security when they become a member of PERS.

Another issue with passing the repeal of the GPO/WEP Off-set is the price tag. It is estimated that this would cost approximately 65 billion dollars to meet the claims of individuals who would be immediately eligible

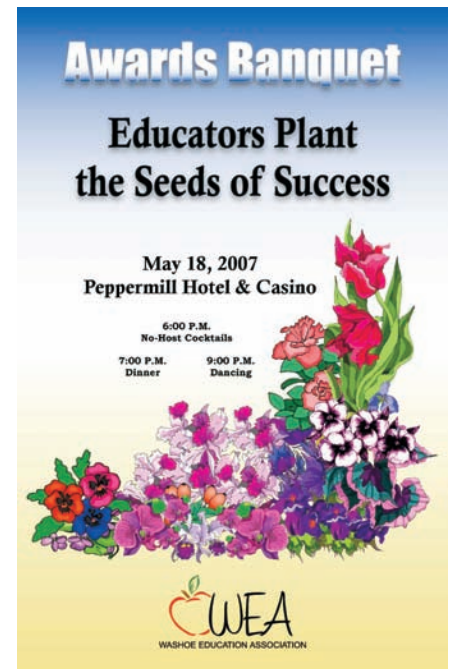
for full Social Security benefits who are currently affected by the GPO/WEP Off-set. Another consideration is being sure to have enough votes to override a Presidential veto that is sure to happen if the repeal gets to the President's desk. Please be assured that the issue is being addressed and fully pursued by NEA and your directors as well as other interested parties.

There has been a proposal by President Bush to drastically cut the Perkins Vocational Education Act in his proposed budget. Your NEA Directors talked to all Nevada congressional representatives. The representatives assured the NEA Directors that the proposal was Dead On Arrival at Congress for a number of reasons. The Perkins Act is a "favorite" of all Nevada Congressional Representatives and they are 100% opposed to any cuts to the act. Last year congress and the President came to an agreement on money for the Perkins Act (and actual increase in funds) and now the President has proposed a severe cut in the program and this has angered many in Congress on both sides of the party line. Your NEA Directors were assured that the proposed cuts would not take place.

It will all take time to make these changes, but there does seem to be a feeling of "change in the air" in Washington D.C. these days. If you have any further questions or

concerns, do not hesitate to contact either one of your NEA Directors at any time. We are more than willing to speak with you and help you find answers to your questions and concerns. Ken Buhrmann, NEA Director, McQueen High School

Go to www.nea.org to find out more about this Issue.



DON'T FORGET
Nominate your members for the Distinguished Performance and Dedicated Service.
Nominations are due April 4th.
Please visit our website for additional forms:
www.weatoday.org

Welcome New Members

Cindy Gray	•	Dodson ES	Kerin Edwards	•	Lemmon Valley
Robin Trimble	•	Spanish Springs HS	Richard Cano	•	Loder ES
Katina Silver	•	Pine MS	Sarabeth Metzger	•	Desert Heights
Wendy Schwedt	•	Rollan Melton	Corinne Zeme	•	Veterans ES
Jamie Wayland- Smith	•	Natchez	Rachel Wright	•	Incline High
Elizabeth Boog	•	Reno HS	Sara Kwasna	•	Spanish Springs HS
Doug D'Ault	•	Mendive MS	Sandra Spezia	•	Greenbrae ES
Addison Wilhite	•	Reno HS	Pamela Drawer	•	Piccollo ES
Rebecca O'Neil	•	Lemmon Valley	Russell Hunter	•	Sun Valley ES
Ilissa Gerhardt	•	Lemmon Valley	Marika Horwood	•	Dodson ES

Bookmark Winners Announced!!

Allison King, a sixth grader in Ms. Tiernay's class at Mamie Towles, is the grand prize winner of the 2006-07 WEA Tact Committee Bookmark Contest. We will be printing 42,000 of her bookmarks and distributing them throughout the district. The other winners include, Geydon Youngberg a student in Ms. Davidson's kindergarten also at Towles, Julie Mejia a student in Ms. Koontz's 1st grade at Desert Heights, Nabila Akhter a student in Ms. Holman's, Ms. Delaney's and Ms. Lappin's 2nd grade at Westergard, Michelle Je a 3rd grade student in Mrs. Xander's class at Westergard, Kerry Wallace a 4th grade student in Ms. Lawler's class at Desert Heights, Christina Harrison from Ms. Bland's 5th grade at

Beck, Anthony Garcia, a 6th grade student in Ms. Pettengill's class at Risley. Both the 7th grade winner Marc Monroe and the eighth grade winner Jose Martinez are from Ms Jacob's class at Clayton, the 9th grade winner Megan Mudge, the 11th grade winner Quincy Shanks and the 12th grade winner are all from Ms. Macfee's class at Reno High. The 10th grade winner is Vy Tat from Ms Kiriluk's class at Spanish Springs HS, and the computer generated bookmark winner is Esteban Valle from Ms. Smith's class at Beck. Each winner will receive their bookmark framed, a gift certificate from Barnes & Noble and goodies for their class. Congratulations to all the winners!!



Counselor's Connection

Teenagers' Brains: Under Construction

Mary Hausauer/School Counselor

"For teenagers today, it's all about four words: More, fast, easy and fun. The electronic media and advertising team up to form cultural norms and messages that reinforce our "Yes" culture," stated Dr. David Walsh, award-winning psychologist and author, addressing a group of educators recently at the Siena.

Walsh emphasized the importance of understanding brain development when working with our youth today. "The prefrontal cortex (PFC) is the brain's executive, helping with impulse control, managing emotions, and understanding consequences. What scientists have discovered is that it is not fully developed until people are in their early to mid-twenties. Often the part of the brain that teenagers fall back on in times of emotional stress

is the amygdala, which is the seat of anger and fear," he said. "Because the PFC is still 'under construction' and their hormones are all over the place, teenagers do not read non-verbal cues effectively. They often react with anger (the amygdala) and make poor choices. It can be compared to teenagers driving cars. They have the gas before they have the brakes."

According to Walsh, it is the job of parents, teachers, and coaches to act like the prefrontal cortex, helping our adolescents deal with their emotions by providing both consequences and a close connection. With the added influence of the media images, it becomes even more important that adults help our youth manage the "more, fast, easy, fun" culture, especially by learning to help them

develop self discipline. "In fact, self discipline is twice as important of a predictor of school and career success as intelligence," Dr. Walsh said.

Susan Rusk, WCSD counselor coordinator, stated, "Dr. Walsh's ideas are very timely as we deal with the growing influence of technology and the media. We're hoping to have him back for a workshop in August."

For additional information about this topic, you might want to read Dr. Walsh's books: *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain and Why Kids-of All Ages-Need to Hear It "No" and Ways Parents Can Say It*. You can also check out his websites: www.mediafamily.org and www.teenwiseparents.org.

Nurse's Notes

Eating Disorders

Cata Ingalls/RN

Each year millions of people in the United States develop serious eating disorders. More than 90% of those afflicted with eating disorders are adolescent and young adult women, though boys and men are also affected. In fact, there is increasing evidence of disordered eating occurring among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States that is contrary to the persistent belief that eating disorders affect only young, white women. Athletes can be particularly at risk especially in sports where body image or weight is emphasized.

There are three types of eating disorders: Anorexia nervosa is a condition in which a person will literally starve to death. The process of eating becomes an obsession. Bulimia nervosa is a destructive pattern of excessive overeating followed by vomiting or other "purging" behaviors used to control weight. Binge eating disorder resembles bulimia nervosa. Like bulimia, it is characterized by episodes of uncontrolled eating or bingeing. However, binge eating disorder differs from bulimia because its sufferers do not purge their bodies of excess food.

Experts at the National Eating Disorders Association give warning signs of eating disorders. They include: dramatic weight loss, preoccupation with calorie counting, frequent weighing, obsession with exercise, bingeing/purging, food rituals such as taking tiny bites and rearranging food on a plate, eating alone or avoiding meals, use

of laxatives or diuretics, smoking aimed at appetite suppression, criticism of self as "fat" even with weight loss.

With eating disorders certain maladaptive patterns of eating take on a life of their own. Not due to a failure of will, the disorders are real, treatable medical illnesses with a biological basis modified and influenced by emotional and cultural factors. They are most successfully treated when diagnosed early because the longer abnormal eating behaviors persist, the more difficult it is to overcome the disorder and its effects on the body. Eating disorders have among the highest mortality rates of all mental disorders, killing up to 10 percent of their victims. Individuals who use drugs to stimulate vomiting, bowel movement, or urination are in the most danger, as this practice increases the risk of heart failure. Fewer than half of those with a history of an eating disorder report receiving treatment.

Through their involvement with

school-age children, educators have the opportunity to notice weight fluctuations and irregular eating habits. While teachers or coaches are certainly not responsible for diagnosis or therapy they can be instrumental in helping students through forthright and compassionate conversation. If a student discloses an eating disorder, a teacher should not agree to keep it a secret. Further information can be obtained at the following website www.NationalEatingDisorders.org



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Susan Pittman	Production Artist
Registered Ink	Printing

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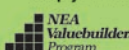


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