



The Washoe Education Association Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 4th:

Nominations for WEA
Board of Directors Open

March 12th:

Nominations close at 4:30 p.m.

March 30th-April 12th:

Spring Break - the WEA Office
will be closed March 30th-April 3rd
and re-open on April 6th

April 15th:

Rep Council - 4:30 - WEA Office

April 25th-26th:

NSEA Delegate Assembly -
Peppermill Hotel

May 6th:

Rep Council - 4:30 - WEA Office

May 25th:

Memorial Day
WEA Office Closed

May 29th:

WEA Awards Banquet
6:00 p.m. - Peppermill Hotel

June 3rd:

Rep Council - 4:30 - WEA Office

NSEA Highlighted Bills

Dana Galvin / WEA President

I have been in Carson City on your behalf since the legislative session began on February 5th. The Nevada State Education Association has hit the ground running. The WEA Board of Directors and Legislative Advocates joined me on February 18th to spend the day in committee meetings and meeting with their assigned legislators. They will continue to be in Carson City on the third Wednesday of the month for the remainder of the current session.

In the February 17th edition of NSEA's *Powerline*, numerous bills were listed. Below you will find a list of the bills that are currently of the greatest importance to us.

- **AB47:** Revises provisions governing the dissemination of records of criminal history
- **AB53:** Revises provisions relating to administrative procedure
- **AB54:** Revises provisions relating to local governments existing in a severe financial emergency
- **AB109:** Requires an employee organization to prepare an annual report concerning the dues, expenditures, compensation and other finances of the employee organization
- **AB112:** Revises provisions governing the policy concerning a safe and respectful learning environment for children enrolled in public schools throughout the state
- **AB117:** Authorizes a school district to lease school busses or vehicles belonging to the school district in certain circumstances
- **AB120:** Clarifies rights of public school pupils regarding the free exercise of religion
- **AB121:** Revises provisions governing the discipline of pupils
- **SB19:** Authorizes the board of trustees of a school district to place an advisory question on the ballot at a general election

For more information, including full text versions of the bills, please visit www.leg.state.nv.us.

Recognitions and Awards

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

National Board Certification

On March 9th the WEA in conjunction with the WCSD will recognize our newly National Board Certified Educators and Counselors.

The educators are Krista Anderson-Hunsberger ES, Barry Brett-Spanish Springs HS, Jaime Bowers-Spanish Springs HS, Marcell Boyer-Gomm ES, Sarah Brown-Spanish Springs HS, Denise Coverly Paxton-Shaw MS, Nancy Crosby-Hunsberger ES, Laura DeSimone-Juniper Elem, Diane Domiteauz-Shaw MS, Amy Henderson-Heitz-Incline HS, Sara Kwasna-Spanish Springs HS, Lorraine Perez-Duncan ES, Amy Prosser-Booth ES, Melissa Pruy-Sepulveda ES, Ann Urie-Lenz ES, Rosemary Whistler Lenz ES. The counselors are Marei Block-Sparks HS, Tanta Horsey-Kate Smith ES, Yolanda

Olivares-Double Diamonds ES, Tiffany Robinson-Traner MS, KC Miller-Reed HS, Ray Ritch-Bennett ES, Dustin Hawes-Traner ES, Dana Hamilton-Spanish Springs HS, Heidi Frost-Billinghurst MS, Julie Benson-Spanish Springs HS, Tom Panian-Billinghurst MS.

Our congratulations to everyone!

Senior Recognition Day

Outstanding seniors from every high school, and their most influential educator will be honored on May 21st at a reception at the Crowley Student Union. The WEA Scholarships will also be presented in 5 categories-The Michael Landsberry Scholarship presented to a student who attended Sparks MS for 7th and 8th-the Kathy Powell/Thelma Davila Scholarship presented to a student of hispanic descent entering into education, the

Ernie Johnson Scholarship presented to a student entering a two-year, or vocational setting, the Marilyn Owen Scholarship to a student entering a four year college, and the Lancaster Family Scholarship presented to a student entering into elementary education. The last three recipients must be children of WEA members. We will also be presenting the WEA/United Federal Credit Union Scholarships, to current educators, wishing to further their education.

WEA Awards Banquet

May 30th will be an opportunity for peers to recognize their colleagues in either the dedicated or distinguished categories. We also honor Friends of Education, WEA Leadership, Association Leadership and a President's Award. It is truly an evening to be proud to be an educator.

NSEA: On the Record

The following testimony was submitted into public comment as NSEA's position on this legislation. Visit www.nsea-nv.org for an archive of testimony submitted to the legislature.

Dear Chairman Ellison and Assembly Government Affairs Committee Members,

On behalf of the 24,000 teacher and education support professional members of the Nevada State Education Association we respectfully express our opposition to Assembly Bill 3.

AB3 would dilute public employee representation on the PERS Board by removing a public employee position and adding three non-plan members who are former or current fund designers, managers, actuaries or accountants. This dilution would shift accountability from a board who serves in the best interest of taxpayers and the members the plan represents to private interests who do not share the same fiduciary

responsibility. Under universal public employee representation the PERS Board has the capacity to seek advice from investment professionals and the Board Chairman is the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Las Vegas. PERS maintains efficient operations, a strong investment portfolio, and fiduciary posture among similar sized pension systems in the United States. For example:

- PERS' investment portfolio has a three year rate of return 13.8% and lifetime rate of 9.5%
- The 2013-14 PERS Regular Plan Market Value of Assets has grown 16.4%
- The Actuarial Funded Ratio for PERS Regular Plan has increased from 68.9% to 70.8%
- An additional \$2.1 billion in unrecognized gains have been earned for asset

smoothing.

The MVA and AFR for the Judicial and Legislator plans have grown at even higher rates.

An independent annual benchmark study rates Nevada PERS 33% lower in administrative costs with a 47% higher workload capacity per full time employee among similar size systems.

The PERS system as a non-state agency corporate body has the singular fiduciary responsibility of preserving the lifetime pension benefits of its members. Infiltrating PERS Board representation with non-member fund managers risks compromising the focus of PERS' mission. We respectfully request the committee vote no on AB 3.

Sincerely,
Ruben Murrillo, NSEA President



You mean the Legislature believes we are all paid what we are worth AND we get paid holidays and summers off?

WEA needs you to be there and be involved with our message!

Can you please help? (Mark all that apply):

Writing a postcard

Email my legislator

Email my schools' legislator

Send a text to my legislator

Attend a rally

Attend a hearing

Testify on a specific bill. If so, what topic? _____

Text @NVLEG15 to 23559 for updates and action information.

Other ideas: _____

Pledge Card:

Name _____ School _____

Please fold this page in half and return to WEA via school mail.

School Mail To:



Contract Corner: Evaluation Concepts and Misconceptions

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

Written documentation of the Pre- and Post-Observation Conferences is required. It is to be a part of your MyPGS in the tab marked “My Evaluations.” Post-Observation and even documents from “informal observations” should also post there within 5 contract days of the observation. The Post-Observation Conference is to be held in a “face-to-face” meeting, not online or by email. Though not written in the Professional Growth System Handbook, WEA believes the intent is that the final evaluation conferences should also be face-to-face.

To be clear, an “evaluation” is the document where one is rated as “Effective,” “Highly Effective,” etc.; an “observation” is an assessment of one’s teaching in real time, can be relatively short (“informal”) or no less than 30 consecutive minutes (“formal”) accompanied by written documentation.

All “Formal” Observations must have a Pre-Conference as well as a Post-Conference.

Not everyone must be observed

or evaluated the same number of times in a year; it depends on your previous year’s evaluation.

If one is evaluated as “Highly Effective” the previous April, only ONE observation within the first 120 days of the school year is required for the final evaluation.

If one is evaluated as “Effective” the previous April, TWO formal observations are required, the first by the 80th day of instruction, the second by the 120th day of instruction. Both contribute to the April evaluation.

If one received a “Minimally Effective” or “Ineffective” evaluation the previous April, or if one is a “Probationary” teacher, THREE observations are required, the first before the 40th day of instruction, the second by the 80th day, and the third before the 120th day of instruction. Each of these required observations precedes an evaluation. The evaluations are due, November 1, February 1, and the third Monday in April.

You MUST sign the evaluation; your signature does not mean that you agree, it shows that you received

the evaluation. The “electronic signatures” are equal to your written signature. There is a space in the electronic form for you to place comments, responses, etc. WEA recommends writing these out and then adding to the evaluation (it can be done later). You can also have a meeting after the evaluation meeting to provide artifacts, logs, student work, etc. that you believe would affect the evaluation. **One can bring WEA representation to this meeting.**

Contact WEA sooner rather than later if there are issues or problems. Phone Elaine Lancaster at 828-3025 or Chuck Fletcher at 828-3022.

The “Quantitative Evaluation,” i.e. student test scores weighing on a teacher’s overall evaluation, is NOT happening in NV – yet. The States that are using data as part of evaluations are having difficulty; the “percent” of overall contribution to the evaluation is being debated – many States have moved away from 50% to a lower number. However, using student data in your teaching has been around to inform instruction, and will continue.

Welcome, New Members

Amanda Kloen – *Beasley*

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Summer Thorson – *Caughlin Ranch*

Alecs Noles – *Corbett*

Jaime Congdon-Lindwayy – *Depoali*

Lorraine Hill – *Depoali*

Kaitlin Weeks – *Depoali*

Rachel Kuntz – *Desert Heights*

Elaine, Ellison – *Diedrichsen*

Sara Howard – *Dodson*

Dawn Van Sickle – *Dodson*

Kelly Rotter – *Edison Way*

Nicolette Smith – *Edison Way*

Lindsay Velianoff – *Gomes*

Kimberlee Linton – *Hall*

Renee Cantu – *Hug*

Stephanie Horne – *Hug*

Amanda McNulty – *Hug*

Barbara Cole – *Incline E.S.*

Nicole Ramirez – *Kate Smith*

Tammy Mullins – *Loder*

Maureen Murray – *Loder*

Mayris Turner – *Mathews*

Branson Barr – *North Valleys*

Scott Morgan – *North Valleys*

Theresa Morgan – *North Valleys*

Anthony Shank – *North Valleys*

Darryl Clark – *O’Brien*

Linda Doty – *Risley*

Rebecca Reinders – *Shaw*

Christine Smart – *Silver Lake*

Brandi Vigen – *Silver Lake*

Christine Hull – *Sparks M.S.*

Theresa Shirley – *Sparks M.S.*

David Achtabowski – *Vaughn*

Katelyn Howard – *Vaughn*

Ashley Lebalch – *Vaughn*

Tamara Brocker – *Winnemucca*

Courtney Alarcon – *Wooster*

Discount Tickets

CINEMARK THEATERS: \$8

COCONUT BOWL: \$4

DIAMOND PEAK

ADULT (23-64): \$54

YOUTH/SENIOR (13-22/65-69): \$41

CHILD/S. SENIOR (5-12/70-79): \$22

HOMEWOOD

ADULT (19+): \$60

TEEN (13-18): \$40

CHILD (5-12): \$20

KIRKWOOD

ADULT (19-64): \$69

TEEN (13-18): \$61

CHILD (5-12): \$50

SENIOR (65+): \$61

NORTHSTAR/HEAVENLY

ADULT (23-64): \$98

YOUNG ADULT (13-22): \$87

CHILD (5-12): \$56

SENIOR (65+): \$87

SQUAW VALLEY/ALPINE MEADOWS

ADULT (23-64): \$88

YOUNG ADULT (13-22): \$76

CHILD (5-12): \$51

Unused ski passes may be returned to the WEA Office by
April 15, 2015 for a full refund. This is a firm date.

Taxes

It's that time again!

This year's tax deduction
for full-time dues is

\$694.07

This year's tax deduction
for half-time dues is

\$358.29



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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weatoday.org

WEA Today is published four 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.