



The Washoe Education Association Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 8th:

RA Ballots due in the WEA Office

March 15th:

National Board Certification Reception, 5-7pm
Joe Crowley Student Union, UNR

March 21st-April 1st:

Spring Break - the WEA Office will be closed from March 21st to March 25th, reopening on Mar. 28th

April 6th, May 4th, June 1st:

Rep Council - 4:30 - WEA Office

April 6th-April 14th:

Nominations for WEA Officers - due by 4:30pm on April 14th

April 11th:

Awards Nominations Due-4:30pm

April 22nd-April 24th:

NSEA Delegate Assembly - Las Vegas

May 11th:

Ballots for WEA Officers due-4:30

May 16th:

Senior Recognition Day, 5-7pm
Joe Crowley Student Union, UNR

June 3rd:

WEA Awards Banquet 6:00pm
Peppermill Hotel & Casino

It's Now or Never

Dana Galvin / WEA President

By now all of you should have heard, read or seen that the Public Schools Overcrowding and Repair Needs committee (PSORN) voted unanimously to only put one tax on the WCSD ballot question this November... Sales and Use tax. There are several reasons why the committee chose to do this.

1. A large percentage of sales tax in Washoe County is paid for by tourists.
2. Deciding on a single tax is easier to explain to the voting public.
3. Sales tax does not tax food or medicine.

"We looked at many taxes," said committee member, Dylan Shaver, noting the many taxes—car registration fees, sales tax, property taxes, hotel room taxes and real-estate transfer fees—under consideration for a 2016 schools ballot question. "Let's do something we can easily explain and has the best chance of getting passed." "The District will still need money," said committee member, Mike Cate. "We're not going to stop growing and stop needing money."

On February 6th, WEA held an in-service class for members. Superintendent Traci Davis, Chief Operating Officer Pete Etchart and Riley Sutton from the WCSD Communications Department explained what the District would look like if this ballot question does not pass. Let me tell you, it is not pretty! High schools and middle schools would go to double session. There would be one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon (different sets of students). The morning session would start really early in the morning and the afternoon session would begin in the early afternoon and end in the early evening. There are a myriad of details to be discussed...exact times, staffing, extracurricular activities, and transportation. In all likelihood, most elementary schools would go to multi-track year round schedules. If you would like more detailed information please go to the WCSD website /overcrowding.

We have a little over eight months to decide the direction of public education in Washoe County. We can decide the future on Election Day in 2016. It will be up to all of us to encourage the citizens of Washoe County to pass this ballot question—because we understand best what the consequences will be.

Snow Day & Nutrition

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

Two subjects that have many of you asking questions!

The snow day will be made up by most of you on June 10th. Principals have been given several choices for the PD that will happen at each site. Folks who will be attending graduation with their families or have some other verifiable reason (including sick leave) for

not being at their school sites on the 10th, will need to attend some type of PD during the summer break. When the class is completed, a form will be filled out and returned to your site administrator. Hopefully, there won't be another snow day—just delayed starts!

As for the nutrition issue, the district Wellness Committee met on Feb. 17th. The committee will be recommending 2 “exemption days” a month—one for

birthdays and one for holidays. Each school will decide as a faculty, which days to choose. The committee also removed caffeine from the not to be consumed list. As a reminder, extra-curricular activities after the completion of the school day, are not affected by the policy. The new policy with the revisions should be available in 2 weeks.

Contract Corner: Evaluations Are Coming!

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

WEA receives many questions regarding evaluations, especially AFTER the evaluations come out, but the time to address the issues is BEFORE the evaluation. Likewise, if one suspects that there **could** be a problem, it is necessary to be a member of WEA BEFORE the evaluation happens or when there is a Focused Assistance Plan (FAP).

Probationary Teachers

- ✓ Only one evaluation, but observations are multiple (each with a pre- and post-observation conference) with a minimum number each probationary year. [“Walk-thrus” not included]
- ✓ Evaluation is to be done by the “third Monday in April.”
- ✓ MEET with the evaluator for discussion BEFORE electronically signing the evaluation.
- ✓ A RESPONSE can be made in the “comments” section; check the appropriate box on the cover sheet. [Don't write in MyPGS until the response has been “composed”]
- ✓ A “Minimally Effective” rating in the First year isn't a huge problem, BUT there must be 2 **consecutive years** of “Effective” evaluation to move to “Post-Probationary” status by State Law.
- ✓ **Call WEA at the first sign of a problem: 828-3025 (Elaine) or 828-3022 (Chuck)**

Post-Probationary Teachers

- ✓ Number of formal observations is based on rating from the previous spring. “Highly Effective” **minimum** is one observation; “Effective” **minimum** is 2 formal observations. Ratings less than “Effective” require a **minimum** of 3 formal observations and a Focused Assistance Plan (FAP).
- ✓ Evaluated on all 4 Standards in one evaluation due the “third Monday in April.”
- ✓ Every formal observation (longer than 15 minutes) must include a pre- and post-observation conference.
- ✓ All pre- and post-observation information and evaluation information should be in MyPGS.
- ✓ MEET with the evaluator for discussion BEFORE electronically signing the evaluation.
- ✓ RESPOND to issues in the evaluation in the “comments” box, HOWEVER please don't type in the box until you have “composed” it beforehand; check the appropriate box on the cover sheet.
- ✓ **Call WEA at the first sign of a problem: 828-3025 (Elaine) or 828-3022 (Chuck)**

No Lifeguard on Duty?

Recently, I was staying at a motel out of town and noticed the sign by the pool, “No Lifeguard on Duty.” We’ve all seen these signs. But that day it struck me in a different way. When you think about our students, many of them struggling, WE ARE THE LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY! We are the ones who keep them afloat when they start to go under. It doesn’t do any good to yell to a drowning kid, “Why didn’t your parents teach you to swim?!” We throw them a lifeline. All of us who are involved in education understand the vital role we play when it comes to helping children. It goes well beyond the alphabet and the times tables. We wipe their tears, bandage their scrapes, and listen to their cries. We are the ones who make the difference every day in the lives of children. We are the lifeguards on duty.

As we head into this election season, we need to make sure we elect lawmakers who understand the challenges faced by children in our district. We need lawmakers who realize the obstacles we encounter in trying to help students succeed. Every one of us has a stake in this election, as we will vote on members of the state legislature, school board, Congress, president, and, of course, a ballot question on funds for building improvements.

Please, take a moment and fill out the commitment card. Check as many lines as you can, to help friends of education win elections. Together, we can make a difference. Please help.

Phil Kaiser
 Educator, WEA Board Member, and NSEA Government Relations Committee Chair

Please detach the bottom portion of this page and return to the WEA office via school mail.

Sign Me Up! I’ll Help!

I know we need friends of education in positions of power, so I will help! I can do all of the following.

Name	Phone	Home Email
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put up a yard sign		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work on a phone bank calling educators		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write postcards to members		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk a neighborhood distributing materials for pro-education candidates		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donate to Together In Politics (TIP)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Share WEA/NSEA posts on social media		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write a letter to the editor (<i>Reno Gazette Journal</i> or <i>Reno News & Review</i>) with WEA talking points		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend a rally to support public education and friends of education		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hold a 10-Minute Meeting at school to provide information on important education issues		

Nurse's Notes:

March National Health Observances

Sharon Freier / RN

National School Breakfast Week - MARCH 7 - 11: Students who participate in school breakfast show improved attendance, behavior, standardized achievement test scores, and decreased tardiness. Providing students with breakfast in the classroom setting is associated with lower tardy rates and fewer disciplinary office referrals.

National Poison Prevention Week - MARCH 15 - 21: Making your home safe is critical to avoiding poisoning because more than 90 percent of poisonings occur in the home.

Here you will find basic tips for preventing poisonings.

- Never mix household or chemical products together. Doing so can create a dangerous gas.
- Never share prescription medicines. If you are taking more than one drug at

a time, check with your health care provider, pharmacist, or call the toll-free Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222), which connects you to your local poison center, to find out more about possible drug interactions.

- Keep all chemicals, household cleaners, medicines, and potentially poisonous substances in locked cabinets or out of the reach of children.

National Nutrition Month®: National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign created annually in March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. In addition, National Nutrition Month® promotes the Academy and its members to the public and the media as the most valuable and credible source of timely, scientifically-based food and nutrition

information.

Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day, also celebrated in March, increases awareness of registered dietitian nutritionists as the indispensable providers of food and nutrition services and recognizes RDNs for their commitment to helping people enjoy healthy lives.

2016 NNM Theme: The theme for 2016 is "Savor the Flavor of Eating Right," which encourages everyone to take time to enjoy food traditions and appreciate the pleasures, great flavors and social experiences food can add to our lives. How, when, why and where we eat are just as important as what we eat. Develop a mindful eating pattern that includes nutritious and flavorful foods — that's the best way to savor the flavor of eating right!

Save Your Vision Month: March is National Save Your Vision Month. While many of us think that having
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School Mail To:



Counselor's Connection: What is a School Counseling Program?

Katherine Loudon/ Counseling

A school counseling program:

- Reaches every student
- Is comprehensive in scope
- Is preventative in design
- Is developmental in nature
- Is an integral part of the total educational program for student success
- Selects measurable student competencies based on local needs in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social domains
- Has a delivery system that includes school guidance curriculum, individual planning, responsive services, and system support
- Is implemented by a credentialed school counselor
- Is conducted in collaboration with all stakeholders
- Uses data to drive program decisions
- Monitors student progress
- Measures both process and outcome results and analyzes critical data elements
- Shares successes with stakeholders

How are students impacted through the school counseling program?

American School Counseling Association (ASCA): National Model and Updates Related to your school counselor:

Washoe County School District has approved the results based transformative ASCA National Model as a way to ensure that counselors implement a universal plan that is relevant for their individual school communities. The ASCA National Model answers the question of “what do counselors do?” but focuses on “how are students different as a result of what they do?”

The model provides a science based framework for designing, coordinating, implementing, managing and evaluating counseling services for students. It is not centered on “some” students but provides something for “all” students.

The ASCA National Model will help schools be more preventive in design,

developmental in nature, provide comprehensive delivery, and support the promotion of student competencies. Schools will have a list of indicators that highlight student learning outcomes. Students will be able to gain skills that contribute to effective learning in school, but also span to the world of work, life, and community.

Counselors are in a position to call attention to situations in schools that impede and pose barriers to student success. More Counselors in WCSD will now use The ASCA National Model as a way to identify issues and develop solutions that remove student barriers. Parents can look forward to proactive counselor involvement with a balanced delivery of service that includes a firm foundation, a comprehensive management system, and increased accountability for counselors to performance standards.

For more information visit www.schoolcounselor.org or contact your school's counselor or the WCSD Counseling Department, 775-850-8011.

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good vision simply means that our eyes are healthy, that is not always the case. Regular comprehensive eye exams can ensure that you not only keep your vision in great shape, but that you keep your eyes, and ultimately your body, healthy as well. Scheduling an eye exam is the first step to take in saving your vision. During a comprehensive eye exam, your eye doctor does so much more than just figure out your prescription for eyeglasses or contacts. Your doctor also checks your eyes for common eye diseases, examines how your eyes work together, and also evaluates your eyes as an indicator of your overall health. Eye doctors are often the first health care professional to detect chronic systemic diseases such as high

blood pressure and diabetes.

Eye exams are a vital part of health maintenance for everyone, no matter your age. Adults should have their eyes tested annually to keep their prescriptions current and to check for early signs of eye disease. Eye exams for children play an important part in ensuring normal vision development as well as academic achievement. Vision is closely linked to the learning process and children with undetected vision issues will often having difficulty with their academics.

In addition to evaluating your eyes for contact lenses and glasses, your eye doctor will also check your eyes for diseases and other issues that could contribute to vision loss. Here are some

examples of the conditions your eye doctor will be looking for:

- **Eye teaming problems** - It's possible your eyes do not work together efficiently as a team, even if they appear to be properly aligned. Binocular vision problems can cause eye strain, headaches and other issues that can affect vision.
- **Refractive error** - Refractive error refers to nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. Refractive errors can be corrected by eyeglasses, contacts or refractive surgery.
- **Strabismus** - Strabismus if more commonly known as crossed eyes. Your doctor will check your eyes' alignment to make sure they are working properly together.

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

SQUAW VALLEY/ALPINE MEADOWS

ADULT (23-64): \$92

YOUNG ADULT (13-22): \$81

CHILD (5-12): \$56

Unused ski passes may be returned to the WEA Office by
April 15, 2016 for a full refund. This is a firm date.

Upcoming Celebrations

On March 15th, the WEA and the WCSD will honor the newly National Board Certified educators at a reception at the Crowley Student Union. They are: Ailene Azzam-Lenz *Elementary*, Temoca Dixon-Clayton, Alicia Fawley-Lenz, Nakea French-Pleasant Valley, Janet Brown-Reno HS, Cecelia Higginas-Music, Erin Rix-Juniper, Katie Senn-Hunsberger, Christi Wilson-Hunsberger, Michelle Gleason-Van Gorder, Kimberly Mathisen-Donner Springs. Congratulations to all.

May 16th is the WEA Senior Recognition Day event-we will also be awarding our 5 scholarships. Each high school is asked to submit an outstanding senior male and female graduate. Those students will identify their most influential educator. Both will be honored at a reception at the Crowley Student Union.

The WEA Awards Banquet will be held on June 3rd at the Peppermill Hotel and Casino. Nomination forms for each faculty will be distributed to reps at the March 2nd rep council. Dedicated, distinguished, Improvement to Education, Association Leadership, and Service to WEA will all be recognized. Nominations are due back on April 11th. This is your chance, as a colleague, to nominate an outstanding peer!

Taxes

It's that time again!

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

\$692.77

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

\$357.20



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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.