



Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 18<sup>th</sup>

Multi-track/Year Round  
Rep Council Kickoff

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Rep Council Kick-Off

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



Go to  
[www.facebook.com/  
WashoeEducationAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/WashoeEducationAssociation)  
to "like" us!

# State of the Association 2011

*There is a long standing tradition of presenting a state of the association address at the annual WEA Awards Banquet. The following is my address to the members at the May 20th event.*

There isn't a person in this room who doesn't understand the challenges facing public education, not only here in Washoe County but throughout the state and nationwide. It is important for you to know that the WEA, its board of directors and its over 2700 members have taken a proactive role in conveying the possible detrimental effects to our classrooms and the students we teach.

We have sent thousands of postcards and emails, made hundreds of phone calls and even sent a tweet or two. The board of directors has gone to Carson City once a month to visit individual legislators to convey our message.

Another major undertaking has been the process of writing a new evaluation tool to be used district wide 2012/2013. The WEA is collaborating with the Washoe County School District in this endeavor. Through the Teacher Incentive Fund Grant, commonly known as TIF, the district was able to hire the Charlotte Danielson Consulting group. Teachers from every TIF school, the nine pilot schools, six other members, your president and staff participated for four days to achieve this final rubric.

Although the future is unclear, rest assured the WEA will work tirelessly to advocate for ALL its members—protecting your rights as well as assuring a quality education for all our students.

-- Dana Galvin  
WEA President

# Evaluations, Negotiations, Calendar and Bells

*Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director*

## Evaluations

The WCSD/WEA evaluations committee met for four days during April in an effort to create a new evaluation rubric, based on Charlotte Danielson's second iteration of the rubric we used for the current evaluation form. There were over 100 participants in the room: teachers (the majority of which were members), administrators, and district personnel. The facilitators were from the Danielson Consulting Group;

the TIF grant covered the cost. It was an intense interaction and idea sharing which resulted in what we all believe to be an excellent rubric. The process is continuing with a smaller group comprised of folks from the original group plus several people from non-TIF schools. The new form will be used in the 9 TIF schools and the 8 pilot schools for the 2011-12 school year. It is scheduled to be used district wide in 2012-13.

## Negotiations

We have begun our initial meetings with the district. The first meeting involved ground rules and sharing concerns that we (and the district) plan to bring to the table. We will meet again on June 15th, 22nd, and 23rd, and will continue on July 11th and 12th if needed. Of course, by the time you are reading this, the legislature will most likely have completed their work and we will know the money details. We will continue to communicate with our members via email.

## Calendar and Bells

Through the participation of your WEA leadership team and members, the calendar proposals will be on hold until at least the 2013-14 school year. Through the committee process it was determined that the calendar proposal needed more in-depth work with the community, business leaders and staff. The calendar committee will continue its work through the next year with a proposal possibly going to the trustees next spring.

The bell change schedule, through our work with the WCSD, will be examined more closely to work out all the concerns, logistics, and questions that were presented to the district and the WEA. We received emails from numerous elementary and middle school faculties with many items to be addressed. That work will begin in the fall, with a proposal possibly going to the trustees early in the new year. There will be ample opportunity for input from all staff - one of the main concerns voiced to us. WEA will be an integral part of the task force formed to do the work. We will be calling on all of you at all levels for your help.

## Member Discounts: Wild Island Tickets

### Water Park Admission

WEA Price: \$18.50  
(this is a discount of \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids)

### Indy Car Raceway

WEA Price: \$4.00

### Mini Golf

WEA Price: \$4.00

### Pirate's Cove Blacklight

### Mini Golf

WEA Price: \$4.00

### Bowling

(including shoes)

WEA Price: \$4.00

### Laser Maze

WEA Price: \$2.00

### High Ballocity

WEA Price: \$4.00

Tickets can be purchased at the WEA Office with cash or check only, during regular business hours of 8:30 to 4:30.

## Congratulations, WEA Scholarship Winners!

**The Lancaster Family Memorial Scholarship** was presented to Caitlin Jones of Wooster High School. Caitlin is the daughter of WEA member Lisa Jones, and she will be studying Early Childhood Education at Utah State University. **The Marilyn Owen Academic Scholarship** was presented to Alycia Stuart of Reno High School. Alycia is the daughter of WEA member Jay Stuart, and she will be starting the East Asian Studies program at Willamette University in the fall. **The Kathy Powell/Thelma Davila Scholarship** was presented to Melissa

Diaz of Reed High School, who will be pursuing a degree in elementary education starting at TMCC this fall. Three **WEA / United Federal Credit Union Scholarships for Continuing Education** were awarded this year: to Ashley Monnin of Loder Elementary, Janeen Kelly of the ESL Office, and Jennifer Noland, a field based instructor at UNR. If your child is graduating from high school next year, or if you will be taking classes to continue your education, make sure to check the WEA website for scholarship applications in January 2012!

# Your Passport to Savings!

**nea** Member Benefits

[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)



**Your Travel Agent:**

**David Glenn**

[dglenn@neamb.com](mailto:dglenn@neamb.com)

*Due to heightened security, when making financial decisions that impact your personal and professional life, please ensure that you utilize this "Passport to Savings!" to save money and time. Don't hesitate to get in touch with your travel agent, David Glenn, with questions!*

## **REGISTER on the NEA Member Benefits Website**

Step 1: Go to [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)

Step 2: Under log in box, **CLICK REGISTER**

Step 3: Complete Form. **PLEASE** use a **PERSONAL** email address.

Step 4: **CLICK REGISTER**

Step 5: Log in to NEA Member Benefits website, using your **PERSONAL** email address and start **SAVING** with your Association membership

## CREDIT PROGRAMS:

- \* NEA Cash Rewards Visa Signature Card
- \* NEA Accelerated Rewards American Express Card
- \* NEA Platinum Plus Credit Card With WorldPoints Rewards

## INVESTMENTS:

- \* NEA Sponsored Money Market Account
- \* NEA Sponsored Certificate of Deposit
- \* NEA Tax Deferred Retirement Savings Program

## LOANS AND MORTGAGE PROGRAMS:

- \* NEA Home Financing Program
- \* NEA Personal Loan
- \* NEA National Board Certification Loan



- \* Continuing Education Course Providers:
  - Anti-Defamation League
  - Berlitz
  - CE Credits Online
  - Educational Impact
  - I CAN Learn
  - Jones International University
  - Knowledge Delivery Systems
  - Learning Bridges
  - NEA (these courses can be taken FREE of charge!)
- \* On-line Masters Degrees
  - Professional Learning Board
  - Virtual High School
  - Wisconsin Education Association Council
  - Walden University
  - Western Governors University (WGU)
  - UMass Online

## CONSUMER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS:

- \* National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC)
- \* NEA Auto Purchase Advantage Program
- \* NEA Car Rental Program
  - Hertz
  - Alamo
  - Enterprise
- \* NEA Click & Save
- \* NEA Hearing Aid Savings Program
- \* NEA ID Theft Protection Program
- \* NEA Magazine Service
- \* NEA Collette Vacations
- \* Costco Membership Discounts
- \* H & R Block
- \* Jenny Craig
- \* NEA Smart Option Student Loan by Sallie Mae
- \* Nolo: Law Books, Legal Forms, and Legal Software
- \* Carson-Dellosa Publishing
- \* Rapid Resources
- \* SmileMakers
- \* Smithsonian Journeys
- \* Snap Fitness
- \* Whirlpool Corporation VIP Link Program
- \* World Wide Country Tours
- \* Curriki

## INSURANCES:

- \* NEA Complimentary Life
- \* NEA Introductory Term Life Insurance
- \* NEA Guaranteed Issue Life Plan
- \* Auto and Home Insurance Plan
- \* NEA Group Term Life Insurance Plan
- \* NEA Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan
- \* NEA Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plus
- \* NEA Level Premium Term Life Insurance Plan
- \* NEA Hospital Care Insurance Plan
- \* NEA Dental and Vision Insurance
- \* NEA Income Protection Plan
- \* NEA Long Term Care Program
- \* NEA Medicare Supplement Program
- \* NEA Vision and Prescription Savings Plan
- \* NEA Pet Insurance Program



# Nurse's Notes: Death by Bath Salts!

*Karen Vernon / RN*

The latest dangerous drug craze is a powdery substance marketed legally as bath salts or plant food. This drug is sold under harmless-sounding names like Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, White Lightning, Aura, Zoom 2 and Hurricane Charlie. Anyone can legally purchase these compounds at the corner store, the truck stop, over the Internet or at your local mini market for as little as \$20.00. This powder is a hazardous mixture of mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV) that can be snorted, injected, smoked or dissolved in water and consumed as a beverage.

The usual hallucinogenic mind-altering effect is similar to LSD and Ecstasy, but frequently the drug user experiences the side effects of para-

noia, rapid heart rates, extreme agitation, superhuman strength, a feeling of euphoria and suicidal thoughts. The drug may cause horrible side effects but the users state that they have intense cravings for the drugs; therefore, it is very addictive. Parents and medical staff recount gruesome stories of victims of the side effects of the drug which include experiencing days of delusional hallucinations resulting in self-injurious behaviors like cutting, imaging monsters or insects under the skin, extreme agitation with superhuman strength and suicides.

Thirty-three states have reported abuse of the drug to the Poison Control Center. These side effects along with deaths and suicides have prompted many states to begin legislation to ban the sale of the dangerous products and monitor the sale of the compo-

nents of the drug. In 2009, there were no reported cases to Poison Control Centers in this country. In 2010, that number jumped to 236. This year alone, the reports have surpassed that with 248 cases. And remember, that's just what's reported.

Part of the reason this drug is abused and has gone undetected until now is that it is relatively new and legal to buy. Anyone can go to a local mini market and purchase the product without being questioned. An unaccompanied minor can buy the drug as easily as they purchase their Slurpee.

Students and parents need to be aware of the dangers of this potentially lethal drug and warned about the risks of the attraction to this hallucinogenic substance marketed legally as bath salts or plant food!

## Contract Corner: Changes...

*Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director*

The State budget struggle isn't finished as this is written. WEA's negotiations with WCSD have only begun. We currently live with uncertainty, and the resulting frustration and stress have affected everyone. Yet, we must remember the good we do each day.

### Assignments for 2011-12

Normally, before the end of the school year, employees who are not "newly employed or transferred" are expected to be notified of their assignments for the next school year. With the budget currently in limbo this cannot be expected to happen with any finality.

Yes, it is in the contract (negotiated agreement), but to insist on this happening in the current Sea of Uncertainty would not benefit our members.

### Transfer / Overage

The principals have been given tentative allocation information, for planning purposes, and apparently some have advised staff of what MAY hap-

pen IF the WCSD budget is cut by \$40 million. This could happen - or not - depending on the action in the Legislature.

As a result of our Sea of Uncertainty, while there is a plan for transfers/overages, it changes nearly daily. At some point the process will begin, and we will attempt to get the information to you.

The first item in the process is a two week voluntary transfer period. Once that is complete, if there are overages in the school, volunteers for overage will be solicited. Once the overage teachers are identified, they will receive a list of the openings. Teachers and principals will identify their preferences, and ultimately there will be an Overage Meeting that will include WEA.

### "Lanes" to be Satisfied First

Changing "lanes" (e.g. special ed. to regular ed.) is not possible until after the Overage Teachers have been placed. This policy assures that there

will be jobs for people and no one will get shut out because they were the licensed "odd man out."

The suggested course of action would be to open communication lines with your principal and let him/her know that you are interested in a different position and then check back occasionally. The principals are under no obligation during the summer if you don't contact them.

### Unused Ski Tickets

Did you forget to use your Northstar or Squaw Valley ski tickets this winter? Northstar tickets can be redeemed over the summer for 18 holes of golf Sunday through Thursday after 1pm, or for 2 mountain biking trail passes. Squaw Valley tickets are worth two summertime Cable Car/Skate/Swim tickets. Regrettably, if you have leftover Kirkwood or Mt. Rose tickets, they can't be used over the summer.

# New WEA Member Discounts at Local Businesses!

Some dedicated WEA members have been hard at work finding businesses to offer us discounts! Just bring your membership card to these generous local businesses (or have them call our office to verify your membership) and you'll be on your way to savings!

## Absolute Music

8175 South Virginia St.

**15% off goods & services:**  
musical instruments,  
accessories, repairs.

## Claim Jumper

4905 South Virginia St.

**20% off everything but  
Happy Hour.**



## Donut Bistro

1550 Pyramid Way &  
465 S. Meadows Pkwy.

**\$2 off per dozen donuts**

## Labels

### Consignment Boutique

601 W. First St.

**\$5 off your purchase of \$25**



## Reno Auto Sound

2945 South Virginia St.

**10% off**

**parts & labor**

## Valley Transmissions

100 Gentry Way #E15

**10% discount on**

**parts & labor**

Do you know a business in the Reno/Sparks area that would be interested in providing a discount to WEA members? You can get a \$25 bonus for recruiting a new discount! Just download the Special Services Endorsement form in the "Helpful Resources" section of [www.weatoday.org](http://www.weatoday.org).



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.

## Welcome, New Members!

- **Temoca Dixon** at Dilworth
- **Jennifer Hamm** at Hug
- **Gina Lujan** at Pine
- **Elizabeth O'Neal** at Brown
- **Bonnie Serpa** at Beck
- **Lori Weyer** at Sun Valley

## Movie Ticket Price Change

**\$7.50**

Cinemark theater no longer offers the Classic SuperSaver Passes. Only Platinum SuperSaver tickets are available now. These tickets are \$7.50 each, but they are good for any show - no more waiting two weeks!