

Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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Mark Your Calendar

December 22nd thru January 2nd

Winter Holiday
WEA Office Closed

January 8th

Retirement Seminar
ESIP and Insurance

January 14th

Rep Council
(NOTE: it is the second
Wednesday of the month)

January 15th

Retirement Seminar
Financial/Wills and Trusts

January 22nd

Retirement Seminar
Social Security

January 29th

Retirement Seminar
PERS

January Retirement Seminars

The second round of retirement seminars will begin on January 8th and continue each Thursday in January. The seminars begin at 4:15 here at the WEA office.

PLEASE CALL/OR E-MAIL
CHELSEA WESNOUSKY, WEA
OFFICE MANAGER, TO RSVP. WE
MUST HAVE AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE
TO HOLD THE PERS SESSION.

It's A C.L.A.S.S. Act

Ken Buhrmann / WEA President

As funding for public education in Nevada declines, looking for additional funds only seems logical. Two years ago, Tom Wellman and I attended a conference in Salt Lake City that discussed Public School Trust Lands in the West. The funds produced from Public Trust Lands go directly to education. This conference was Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS), a non-profit corporation comprised of education leaders including parents, teachers, administrators and school board members from 19 states. These individuals meet annually to learn more about school trust lands and how to increase their impact on the public schools in their state. CLASS conducts research, provides information, training, and support services to educational organizations. An annual conference is held each summer where members can network, learn and share new ideas, challenges, solutions, and goals. Perhaps the most neglected funding topic in all of education is School Trust Lands. In most cases the lands were granted at statehood by the federal government to provide financial support for schools. Every state at one time had a grant of land or a fund held in a trust for public education. The trusts have always differed from state to state. The school trust concept evolved over time until the survey system established in the General Land Ordinance of 1785 set aside the center section in each township, number 16, for schools. The states accepted the grants along with the role of trustee as they entered the Union. Initially, each state received one square mile in each thirty-six square mile township. As western states were added, the grants expanded to two sections per township. When Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico

entered the union they were granted four sections per township.

Currently, forty-five million acres and \$32 billion are still held in trust for public schools. Public schools are the trust beneficiaries and intended recipients of the generated revenue. Each state trust is different, beginning with the original grant of lands, the geographical location, and resources. They continue to change due to the management structure support, state statutes, evolving land management opportunities, and the involvement of the beneficiaries. In as many ways as the trusts are the same, they are also different

When Nevada was admitted into the Union in 1864, the Enabling Act granted the state almost four million acres of land to generate revenue to support the common schools. The original grant consisted of sections sixteen and thirty-six in each township. Townships were drawn according to the land survey, consisting of thirty-six square mile parcels, six miles on each side. The sections were, and still are, one square-mile parcels that make up the township. After statehood, the Nevada Legislature and Congress agreed to relinquish the almost four million acres so the state could select the lands they wanted but lost nearly two million acres in the agreement. Most of the two million acres has since been sold. Because of mismanagement and misappropriation from 1900 to the mid-1930s, most of Nevada's lands were disposed of and the trust retains only 2,500 acres to date. The lands are managed by the Division of State Lands out of Carson City.

Along with the land grant was a requirement to establish a permanent fund where proceeds from land sales and use would be deposited. The Nevada State Controllers office is responsible for the management of the funds. As of FY 2007, the permanent fund balance was

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Contract Corner:

Personal Leave/Personal Business Leave

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

Sometimes you just need a day to take care of personal “stuff.” Personal Leave and Personal Business Leave are for this very purpose – but what’s the difference between the two?

Personal Leave shall be granted for two days each school year. One is granted unencumbered, and the second is deducted from accumulated sick leave. Personal Business Leave is granted for up to three days each school year, two days deducted from accumulated sick leave and the third with a substitute’s pay deduction.

What is the “reasonable notification” that the contract mentions? Basically this means that the district wants to know as soon as possible so that any necessary arrangements can be made. And don’t forget that you are responsible for finding a substitute, so the earlier you start the better.

Do you have to tell your supervisor why you want the leave? For Personal Leave you do not have to provide any explanation – it is “personal.” For Personal Business Leave, you do need to provide the general nature of the

business to support that it cannot be done outside of school hours or that it will “not reflect adversely on the District.”

For both Personal Leave and Personal Business Leave, if the leave falls during the first or last week of school you will need to have it approved by the principal or supervisor. However, if the leave is to be used during the last week of school and you are enrolled in a class to be used for professional growth, then it will be accepted.

The other limitation for Personal Leave is that no more than 15% of a school’s staff (or the District-wide nursing staff) can use the same day – another reason to notify as soon as possible.

These days do not accumulate from one year to the next if unused. So, let’s recap: one day “free” – three days deducted from accumulated sick leave – one day with substitute pay deduction. Two days are “personal” – no reason need be given; three days are for “business” – requested because it can’t be taken care of outside of school.

Questions? Call 828-3022!

It’s A C.L.A.S.S. Act

Continued from pg. 1

\$273.4 million and was invested solely in bonds with a three percent rate of return. At Delegate Assembly this year in Reno and at the Regional Assembly in Washington, D.C., Tom Wellman and I introduced two New Business Items that were successfully passed. These business items stated: “School Trust Lands are an important part of our history and the development and funding of our educational system. As an Association, we believe that any funding derived from these school land trusts should always be used to supplement already existing state revenue sources, never supplanting the funds. NSEA and NEA will utilize existing media resources to educate our members of the history and value of these land trusts. We as an Association need to support those states with existing school land trusts and help them to maintain their funds.” Needless to say, Nevada has a lot of work ahead of it if we are to increase our school trust fund as well as to manage current lands in the trust to increase land acreage for the future. Two major actions need to happen if Nevada is to have a healthier Public Education Land Trust. First, we need to have the Legislature allow the state Controllers office to be more aggressive with current fund investments. Second, we need to convince Congress to grant Nevada more land, making it equitable to what Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico received when they joined the Union. At the last CLASS conference this summer in Boise, Idaho, I was elected to the CLASS Board of Governors, representing Teacher Education Associations. This will allow Nevada to have a voice and be more involved with and knowledgeable about what is happening with Public Land Trusts. As time progresses, I will update our members on the current status of Public Land Trusts and the Permanent School Land Trust Fund.

The Truth About NEA - The NEA Response to its Critics

By Laurie Johns

Deception 1: NEA wants to keep parents and communities out of schools. The association does not believe in family values.

Truth: NEA encourages parental and community involvement in public schools.

NEA believes education is a team effort that should take place in the home and in the classroom. The Association knows children perform better in school when they receive the help they need from home.

NEA encourages parents to communicate regularly with their children’s teachers, stay informed about their children’s progress, and help shape school policy.

NEA works closely with a number of parent organizations, including the National PTA and the National Coalition for Parental Involvement in Education, that are diligent about building strong family-school-community partnerships. The Association has distributed hundreds of publications on the importance of these alliances and the need for innovative programs to support them.

NEA also co-sponsors American Education Week with the National PTA, the American Legion, and the U.S. Department of Education. This event celebrates educators and the work they do in the classroom.

NEA also welcomes alliances with businesses and organizations that support public education.



Budget Cuts: Your Input Is Needed

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

Superintendent Paul Dugan and the WCSD will be holding a series of Town Hall meetings to gather input concerning the request for budget cuts being proposed by the Governor's office, not only for this year, but the upcoming two-year cycle. The first one was held on November 19th. The superintendent presented much of the information that you received in the September WEA Today (available on our website). On the back of this page, you will find the form that is being used by the district to gather this information. PLEASE take a moment and fill out the questionnaire and return it to the WEA through the school mail. It is vital that the district hear from the educators closest to the students. We will be keeping a copy of the returned information to help us form the WEA priorities. Make your voice heard!!

Fold here and place in school mail to the WEA office

Mail To:



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

What programs, services or areas of the budget should be protected no matter what? Where should cuts NOT be made?

What ideas or suggestions do you have for achieving additional savings or efficiencies?

Nurse's Notes... *A Reminder During the Flu Season*

Sharon G. Freier / RN

There are things that you, your family and your students can do to stay healthy this flu season...

Remind your family members and students to wash their hands often, especially before eating (rubbing hands together with soap and warm water for 15 seconds, which is equal to the time it

takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice or your "A-B-C's").

Have your family use alcohol based hand sanitizer when they are unable to wash their hands – consider purchasing a small bottle for them to carry at school.

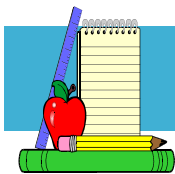
Make sure your family members and students cough and sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, not their hand.

Please do not allow your child(ren) to go to school if they are sick with the flu. (Flu is usually distinguished from a cold by muscle aches and a fever or chills.)

Don't forget to get your flu shot.

Practicing proper hygiene at home and school will help keep you and your kids healthy and learning, and will keep you from having to miss work to care for yourself and/or them.

The Washoe County School Nurses want to extend their warm wishes to you and your family for a blessed Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!



THE EDUCATOR'S TOOLBOX

By: Laurie Johns

This month I was looking around for some good writing ideas, since that is one of my school's focus areas, and as I went through my *Instructor* magazine I found three websites to start off with.

www.kids-space.org focuses on multicultural sharing in a commercial-free environment. Students can upload their stories and read others' work from around the world. One feature, Beanstalk, lets children write a story to go with a picture in the gallery.

www.rhymezone.com Kids can fill in the box with the word they're trying to rhyme. This rhyming dictionary pulls up hundreds of possibilities. It also finds synonyms, antonyms, definitions, related words and more.

www.readwritethnk.org/materials/acrostic will have kids creating acrostic poems in no time. It explains what an acrostic poem is, then they choose and fill

in their topic word. The next page asks them to brainstorm words about their topic that begin with the corresponding letters. Then it's time to write. Their topic word shows up on vertical tiles that are easy to fill in. They even give word suggestions. When it's finished print them out and share!

If you are looking for writing ideas, try these out and see if they are useful and helpful to you!

TEACHERS: I need your help with this project! If you have any websites you absolutely love, can't live without, find extremely helpful, or you use a lot please share them with me so I can share them with all our WEA members. Send any to ljohns@gmail.com. In the subject area write "educator tool box," and please include your name and school so you can be credited with the find! Until next time...Happy web surfing!

And the Winners Are...

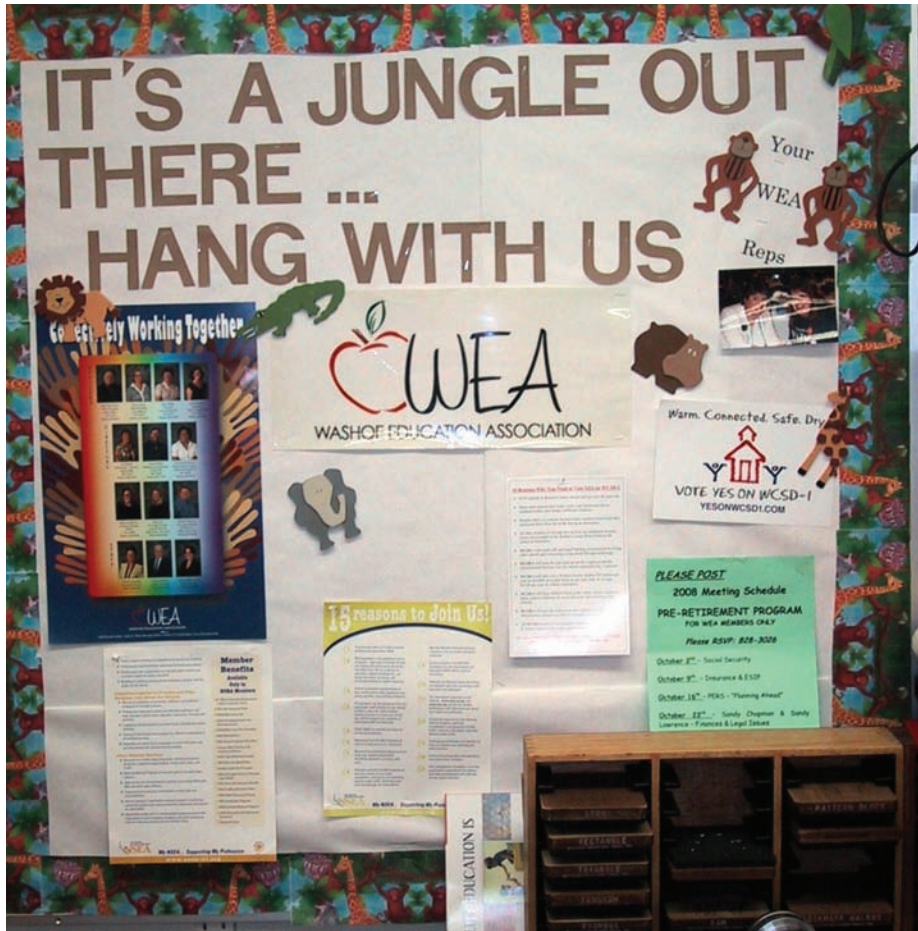
This fall all new members who joined since June 1st, 2008 were entered in a drawing to win one of twenty \$100 gas cards from the WEA. Congratulations to our winners, and a warm welcome to all new members!

Mariah Erickson - Booth
 Jessica Holt - Cannan
 Ellen Townsend - Damonte Ranch
 Kariann Lattin - Dodson
 Elizabeth Neuman - Donner Springs
 Sarah Anderson - Drake
 Jenell Hull - Duncan
 Terra Hernandez - Greenbrae
 John Mendicino - Lincoln Park
 Shannon Garner - Loder
 Erika Bowling - Migliore - Mathews
 Melissa Francis - Moss
 Rosemarie De La Torre - Natchez
 Leo O'Brien - North Valleys
 Kathy Sliter - Picollo
 Erin Beaver - Sun Valley
 Christine Williamson - Towles
 Leona Cameron - Whitehead
 Laura Kurtzweg - Winnemucca
 Erin Danielsen - Wooster

Salvation Army Angel Tree at WEA and Edison Way

For the second year WEA has teamed up with the folks at Edison Way to deliver toys to the Salvation Army. Realizing the economy, hopefully we can make a difference in a child's Xmas. Please take the opportunity to drop by either location and grab a tag. You needn't wrap the gift, just deliver it back to us.

As always, thanks for your help!!



Bulletin Board Winner: "It's a Jungle Out There!"

Vicki Smith and DeeAnn Roberts,

WEA Reps at Lincoln Park



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Registered Ink Printing

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weatoday.org

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.

Advertising

Size and rate information is available by contacting the Editor at (775) 828-9282. Acceptance of advertising is at the sole discretion of WEA and staff. We reserve the right to refuse advertising not deemed appropriate for this publication.

Important Dates to Remember

- * ESIP applications are due Dec. 12th
- * Request for a leave of absence for the '09-'10 school year are due March 1
- * WEA Retirement seminars begin Jan. 8th
- * Master's Equivalency Application Dates- HS-Feb 2 & April 22-ES-Feb. 3 & April 28

Welcome New Members

Cinnamon Butler	North Valleys	Marta Olivarez	Donner Springs
Karen Kraus	Silver Lake	Lisa Larson	Cold Springs
Mollie Lussow	Traner	Victoria Wellman	Bennett
Joelle Masters	Palmer	Nate Tolle	Stead
Carol Bergin	Lenz	Cassie Smith	Mitchell

WEA will be CLOSED during winter break-we will be open until 5 P.M. on the 19th for those last minute ski tickets and movie passes-great stocking stuffers!!