



WEA TODAY

www.weatoday.org

July/August 2009 Issue

Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 15th

Year Round Rep Kick-Off
WEA Office
4:30pm

August 24th

Traditional Rep Kick-Off
WEA Office
9:00am

August 31st

First Day of School
for Traditional Track

September 2nd

WEA Rep Council
WEA Office
4:30pm

September 12th

WEA Wild Island Picnic
Wild Island Family Adventure
Park
10:00am - 7:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

The WEA Office will be open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday all summer long, so come by and pick up your movie passes and Wild Island tickets!

Pride in WEA Membership

Ken Buhrmann / WEA President

Everyone should be very proud of their membership in Washoe Education Association! W.E.A. has worked very hard this legislative season to keep and safeguard member's rights, benefits, and jobs.

Thanks to the hard work of your association leadership and staff who worked closely and continuously with Washoe County School District, a number of very positive things stayed in place. First and most importantly there will be no lay-offs or Reductions in Force (RIF) in our district. At the end of the school year, everyone with a standard contract who stayed in the district and did not retire will have a job! Second, Washoe County teachers and education employees will keep their salary schedule, steps, and "roll-overs" in tact! There will be no "step freezes" nor salary percentage decreases as per the recommendation of Governor Gibbons. Washoe county educators will be the only group in the state of Nevada, outside of the two major Nevada gold producing counties, that will not experience those cuts to salaries or jobs! This took a lot of hard work and many conversations between WCSD and WEA.

NSEA, WEA, and its members sent over 15,000 letters and postcards to their legislators protesting Governor Gibbons' drastic cuts to education. WEA and its members sponsored a rally April 13th in Carson City, attended by hundreds of educators, urging the legislature to do the "right thing" for public education and restore funds to education that were cut by our "Education First" Governor. We strongly sup-

ported our legislators in restoring over \$300 million to the education budget through revenue enhancements. These actions helped save salary schedules, Regional Professional Development centers, health insurance funding, adult education, and the 1/5th service credit in Nevada and WCSD. Another victory we can be proud of is the successful passage of the Room Tax Initiative during the November elections. Guiding the room tax through the legislature, to the governor's desk, and into law was a major accomplishment that will add approximately \$200 million to the state's budget. Again, your state and local associations' hard work and the hard work of all members made this a reality.

The next time you hear someone ask what advantages there are to belonging to WEA, your professional association, and what WEA does for its members, just point to this article and then to your paycheck. Point out that there were no lay-offs or Reductions in Force, and that we are the only county in Nevada, other than the two "gold counties," that did not experience these painful processes. WEA and its members have much to be proud of this year! Our members were active, vocal, and very involved. That is what makes this association one of the strongest in Nevada, what makes us effective, and why we are proud members of WEA! Thank you members for all your hard work! I am proud to be your WEA President!

Welcome Superintendent Morrison!!!

Elaine Lancaster / Executive Director

On Saturday, June 13th, the WCSD Board of Trustees offered Dr. Heath Morrison the job of superintendent and he accepted!! The WEA, the administrators association, and the support personnel association went to the table together to support his candidacy. The entire board spoke on behalf of hiring Dr. Morrison. The camaraderie on the board and the feeling of working toward a common goal was terrific. When the motion was passed unanimously, President Barbara Clark called Dr. Morrison on speaker phone to offer him the job, which he happily and enthusiastically accepted while all of us clapped and cheered. It was quite a moment. Hopefully by the time you read this article, the board sub-committee of Ken Grein, Dan Carne and Scott Kel-

ley will have worked out the details of his contract.

Your association has been involved in the entire process every step of the way: through paper cuts, interviews and time alone with the candidates. We asked tough questions of each person to help us decide who we would recommend. Dr. Morrison had all the qualities we were looking for in a Superintendent. He began his career as a classroom teacher, became a vice-principal, then a principal and finally a Community Superintendent (much like our area superintendents) for the Montgomery County Md. School District. He is extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and ready to take on the challenges here in Washoe County. When we called our counterparts in the association in Montgomery County


they said they were very sorry to lose him (always a good sign for us). They told us that he is a good communicator who is always willing to have the association at the table and that he is very involved in the community. We believe he will be an advocate for the students and employees of the WCSD.

If you haven't had a chance to e-mail Superintendent Dugan and thank him for his years of service, now might be a good time. Once Dr. Morrison arrives, Paul will be leaving the school district – he truly deserves our gratitude.

Thank You, Awards Committee!



Many thanks to the Awards Committee for a fabulous Awards Banquet 2009! Left: Dana Galvin, Kathy Howard and Nicolette Andriani perform some "quality control" testing on the candy favors. Right: Jane Bantz sets up centerpieces.



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Printed by Registered Ink

Registered Ink is a proud supporter of education in Washoe County

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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.

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.

**Yes! We Still Have
Movie Passes!**



\$6 each

Good for any show at any Century Theater in town, provided that the show allows the use of passes (check theater listings).

**Yes! We Have Discount
Wild Island Tickets!**



\$17 for the Water Park
\$4 each for bowling, mini golf, ballo-
city and race cars

Call 828-3026 for more information!

Final Report on the Legislative Session

Chuck Fletcher / UniServ Director

Legislative Update

Thanks to your postcards and e-mails, the NSEA Lobby Team, and the Legislators, nearly \$300 million dollars was returned to the K-12 budget that was scheduled for nearly \$700 million dollars in cuts from the governor's budget. Included in this was health insurance, money for professional development, and adult education, and for those who chose the "credit" instead of the cash, the 1/5th service credit was continued until those currently enrolled gain the maximum one full year.

Although the Legislature did reduce the amount of money that WCSD will receive, the district - thanks to Superintendent Dugan, staff and the Board of Trustees - had begun cost saving measures last year continuing to this spring, enabling the use of the ending fund balance to keep the "contract" intact. WEA took the position early on, and the superintendent agreed, that we had a contract that was in force and that changes would require negotiations, which the district wanted to avoid.

The bills enabling the "revenue enhancements" will sunset in two years, meaning that the next legislative session could easily be as difficult as this one unless there is a governor who is

not handcuffed by ideology and a legislature just as willing to try to find solutions.

The passage of the bill that came from the NSEA initiative petition (IP 1 became law without the governor's signature) that equalizes the hotel room tax is expected to bring in \$200 million. This was a huge win for WEA and NSEA and allowed us to remind the legislators that teachers brought \$200 million in revenue to the table.

Other Major Bills Relating to Education

AB 243 requires employers to grant leave to a parent, guardian or custodian of a child to participate in certain school conferences, activities, and events.

AB 488 extends to June 20, 2015 the program that allows retired educators to fill critical labor shortage position and collect PERS. It also allows an easier process for the district to designate a critical labor shortage.

SB 163 defines "bullying" and "cyber-bullying" and revises the provisions governing safe and respectful learning environments to include a prohibition of these acts. Penalties for bullying have been in law previously, but the term had never been legally defined.

SB 416 suspends, for the next two

years, norm-reference examinations. It also prohibits school districts from administering any district-wide test not adopted by the school district before July 1, 2007, and is not required by state or federal law.

SCR 37 requires the Interim Finance Committee to conduct a review of Nevada's revenue structure and to provide long-term stabilization of revenue.

As in many past legislative sessions, bills that were stopped were as important as those passed:

- There were changes made to PERS and PEPB, but ONLY for new employees hired after January 1, 2010.
- Bills were fought that would have made major changes to collective bargaining
- Bills that would have tied teacher evaluations to student test scores
- Bills to enact blatant anti-union measures
- A bill to provide vouchers to students to attend private schools

Bills that were supported by educators, but were vetoed were **AB 319** (Educators Bill of Rights), **AB 422** (excluding School Support Taxes from the STAR bonds), and **AB 458** (establishing an education stabilization fund).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Kristina Gonzalez	Reed
Sarah Bartrum	Spanish Springs H.S.
Susan Nicolls	Stead
Dan Gies	Mitchell
Robert Kahn	Kate Smith
Jennifer Reynolds	Mendive
Melissa Rains	Clayton
Anne Pinto	Spanish Springs E.S.
Miriam Lorenzo	Dodson
Chantal Wagener	Taylor
Olivia Avera	Spanish Springs E.S.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RETIRING WEA MEMBERS

Dale Andrews	Billinghurst
Christine Cullen	Brown
James Felten	Reed High
Candice Fife	Washoe High
Ellen Fockler	UNR
Phil Gehin	Hunter Lake
John Gilbertson	Reno High
Marsha Hulsey	Dodson

Nancy James	Alicy Smith
Robert Kelley	Sparks M.S.
Marilyn Paradis	Peavine
Debbie Reed	Washoe High
Daniel Robbins	Duncan
Kay Underwood	Bennett
Gladys Van de Mark	Alice Smith
Neil Wangsgard	Incline Middle
Karen Williams	Whitehead
Stel Woods	Beasley

Thank you for your years of service!



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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 WEATODAY

WEA ANNUAL WILD ISLAND PICNIC

saturday
september
12th 2009
10:00 am
to
7:00 pm

Mark your calendar for some fun in the sun: the WEA's annual picnic at the Wild Island Family Adventure Park is coming up on September 12th! Tickets are only \$10 (unless you are bringing a group of more than ten people, in which case admission is \$15 each) each and include admission to all park attractions as well as an all-you-can-eat BBQ buffet. We've bought out the whole park just for association members and their families to enjoy. So come on out for some water slides, wave pools, lazy rivers and kiddie pools! If water's not your thing, come enjoy unlimited mini golf, bowling, or indy car racing while the kids adventure through the High Ballocity play structure.

\$10 per
person

includes
Water Park • Indy Cars • High
Ballocity • Miniature Golf •
Coconut Bowl • All You Can
Eat Barbeque Picnic • Live
Music By Homemade Jam