



Washoe Education Association Monthly Newsletter

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**October 2nd**

Retirement Seminar  
4:15 P.M. WEA Office

**October 9th**

Retirement Seminar  
4:15 P.M. WEA Office

**October 16th**

Retirement Seminar  
4:15 P.M. WEA Office

**October 23rd**

Retirement Seminar  
4:15 P.M. WEA Office  
(See article on page 2 for details)

**October 22nd**

WEA Membership  
Committee Meeting  
4:30 P.M. WEA Office

**October 31st**

Nevada Day  
No School

**November 4th**

Election Day  
Professional Development Day

**November 5th**

Rep Council Meeting  
4:30 P.M. WEA Office

# Campaign 2008

*Ken Buhrmann / WEA President*

By the time you read this there will be approximately 35 days until the election. Every educator should be excited and involved in Campaign 2008, the election that could result in major changes in the way we do business in education.

Nationally, a change in administration and congress could see a number of educational reforms. A major change in the national House of Representatives could happen (one house seat in the south and one in the north) in political parties, making all of Nevada's seats friends of education. The reauthorization and revision of No Child Left Behind could become a positive reality. A new Secretary of Education that is more public-schools friendly is also a real possibility. The repeal or even the first steps in the revision of the Government Pension Off-Set/Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP) is very possible with a change in Congress.

In our state legislature, the make-up of the Senate majority could change for the first time in decades, making a legislature that is more friendly to public school issues and funding. Public school funding is in a crisis and needs to have both houses on the pro-side of public education and educators.

One ballot question that will be up for a vote affects education locally. WCS-1 asks for approval to raise sales tax and government service

tax to help revitalize existing older schools in our school district to meet the needs of educating our children. We need to bring these older schools up in technology, comfort, and safety to the same level of our newer schools – giving all of Washoe County school students the same advantage in education no matter where they live in our district.

A ballot advisory question, supported by NSEA, will raise room taxes to 13%. This money would help support teacher salaries, classroom supplies/textbooks, and student improvement. It is advisory only and affects Washoe County minimally as most hotel-casinos in the county are already at that level.

All this could happen only if all our members became actively involved. No one can sit on the side lines and assume someone else will "step-up to the plate" for the cause of education and our students. In this election every vote will truly count. If you are at all concerned about education, your colleagues, your students, or your schools, then become involved: walk for candidates, walk for ballot questions, and walk for initiatives. This is not a time for apathy, but a great opportunity to make some real contributions to your profession and your community. Get involved. Go to the polls early or on November 4th and vote. Work and vote for education and our future generations.

# WCSD Proposed Budget Cuts

*Elaine Lancaster/Executive Director*

The WCSD Budget Task Force met on September 3rd to review the budget cuts that have already been made and to discuss the future. Superintendent Dugan presented a power point reviewing what has already been done and the reasoning behind the cuts. He then presented to the group his recommendations to the trustees for the reductions that will be needed in the '09 budget. These reductions are in response to the Governor's 14% decrease in the state budget, which for WCSD is \$11 million.

The recommendations are as follows:

- \$5 million to come from the ending fund balance
- \$3 million defer payment to the Post Employment Benefits
- \$2 million from the Health Care Insurance fund
- \$1 million in SB185 carryover funds

The payment deferral to the Post Employment Benefits will not have any effect on the benefits currently provided. The district will simply

not make this year's payment and make it up over the coming years.

The money from the Health Care Insurance fund is available due to a healthy ending fund balance. We have used this money in previous years for salaries and benefits.

It was the Superintendent's goal to keep the cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. With that said, if more cuts are necessary, we probably won't be able to avoid effecting our work sites and class size may come into the picture.

Just in case somebody starts in on the high cost of education-we spend \$40 a day in Washoe County to educate our students-that's really stretching a dollar!!!!

It is incumbent on all of us, in this upcoming election, to send friends of education to Carson City and to our local school board. They literally hold our future in their hands!!!

## October Retirement Seminars

The WEA offers retirement seminars to help members navigate the process of retiring from the district. The first seminar, on October 2nd, will cover social security. The next seminar, covering ESIP and Insurance, will be held October 9th. On October 16th, PERS will be discussed, and finally, on the 23rd, Sandy Chapman and Sandy Lawrence will cover finances and legal trends that affect retirement decisions. These sessions are open to all WEA members and begin at 4:15 in the WEA Office. Please RSVP to our Office Manager, Chelsea Wesnousky, via Groupwise or by phone at 828-3026. You can attend each seminar or pick and choose those you find most useful. All seminars will repeat in January.

## Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport

*Phil Kaiser/WEA GR Chair*

As the election nears, we all need to get in the game. Whether you can donate time or money, make phone calls, or put up signs, the time to act is now. This election is too important to sit on the sidelines.

This election will choose not only a new president, but members of congress, state senate and assembly, and school board trustees. Ballot questions to raise revenue for school revitalization and other school funding will be voted on. If you are not registered, please take a few minutes and fill out the form, available at most post offices, and send it in. Talk to your family, friends and co-workers about the important choices that

will be made. Encourage them to vote for the candidates who will support education. Ask them to vote for the ballot questions that will improve our educational resources.

For all of us who value education as a gateway to future opportunities for individual growth, and improved economic development for our state, we need to get involved. We owe it to our students, our communities, and our state to push for a better educational environment. For too long Nevada has been at the bottom of the list compared to the rest of America. Whether it is per pupil expenditures or the number of residents with college degrees, Nevada is lagging behind.

### MOVIE TICKETS AT THE WEA OFFICE - \$6 EACH!

We offer members discount movie passes for Century Theaters. They're a great savings at \$6 each – come by our office to purchase them anytime between 8:30 and 4:30 Monday through Friday!



# Counselor's Connection

*Counselors are integral in ensuring "Graduation Starts at Kindergarten"*

Sherry L. Sanders / School Counselor

Many of you already know that at the end of each school year in Washoe County schools, kindergarteners celebrate their graduation by donning caps and gowns to receive "diplomas." The intention is to leave an early impression on children and their families that graduation is a gratifying experience. This year "graduation starts in kindergarten" takes on a broadened meaning. Our high drop-out rates have compelled Superintendent Paul Dugan and the School Board to reinforce this belief through stringent actions.

The attendance policy is described on the Washoe County School District website: <http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us>. What is not mentioned is that the counselors are an integral part of the follow-up protocol when a student is having attendance problems. The procedures may vary from school to school. Generally, the counselor is the one who will interview the child to find out their story and to make a phone call home after it is evident a student is not following the policy. These calls are intended to verify what the child has said, reiterate to the parent the

District policy and consequences of not following it, and also to help the family trouble-shoot and find solutions that will ensure a change. The counselor is the one who also often sends out the Warning and Possible Retention letters to the parents.

Often the attendance turns around with the counselor's involvement after the first phone call. Some of the situations dealt with, and solutions offered, are: staying home to care for siblings, afraid to come to school due to separation anxiety or bullying, doesn't like coming to school for a variety of reasons, chronic medical concerns that are either not being addressed or communicated to the school, excessive transportation issues, going to bed too late or just sleeping in, not doing the home work or not wanting to face an unpleasant academic situation like a test or being behind in class work, and truancy. **NONE OF THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES.** The usual reasons a child should stay home from school are: a rash, vomiting, diarrhea and/or a fever. Of course, parents may have occasional discretion as long as the child is not missing a lot of school, a pattern has not formed, the absence

is called in and the child makes up the work.

A counselor is trained to help people look at their situation realistically, survey the consequences, develop solutions and monitor the progress for change. As noted above, there can be a variety of reasons for poor attendance. Each student must be considered individually. A plan is then established by the parent AND the school. Often it is the counselor's responsibility to arrange a formal meeting with the parent and other school personnel, provide school and community resources, examine negative relationships and other problems on campus and help the student to develop alternatives. Monitoring the attendance thereafter and reporting it to the appropriate adults (which includes the parents and possibly the attendance office and/or attendance board) is also included in counselor duties.

Whereas, attendance is a shared responsibility of the student and parents/guardians with the support of school staff and the community, it is often the school counselor who is the agent to help these entities work together to ensure student success.

## Welcome New Members

KELLY SANFILIPPO	TRANER	STACY SMITH	O'BRIEN	LARRY SCHADEL	DAMONTE RANCH
MICHELLE GALLARDO	REED	SHARON DRUMM	DODSON	KAREN KERNAN	CLAYTON
AMY EBBE	MAXWELL	GARY PARKS	VAUGHN	TERRANCE FONTES	SILVER LAKE
RONALD SCALZI	PINE	WENDY BOSZAK	SHAW	RONDA WALLACE	RENO
CLAYTON TRISHAL	SPANISH SPRINGS HS	WENDY PENNINGTON	WESTERGARD	JOY TORRES	CHILD FIND/MILL STREET
MICHELLE CHAVEZ-PEIRCE	SPARKS M.S.	MICHAEL TREMAYNE	SWOPE	JANNIE HUMPHREY	MELTON
TODD BODENSTEINER	SWOPE	TAMMIE NISSEN	BENNETT	ALEXANDRIA SUCHY-MABROUK	HUG
AMANDA BABICH	MAXWELL	DENNIS HUDSPETH	SPARKS H.S.	MICAELA GERARDIN	HUG
PATRICK FAENZA	PINE	RONALD BEAUBIEN	DILWORTH	ROBIN VASQUEZ	WESTERGARD
MICHON BAKER	PINE	JUDI ANNE PORTER	HUG	GRAHAM KIRBY	MCQUEEN
RACHEL WRIGHT	INCLINE H.S.	VANESSA FONDREN	RISLEY	JENNIFER KLEINBAUM	HUNSBERGER
DARCI ACTIS	WINNEMUCCA	RICHARD LEWIS	MENDIVE	AMY PLOUSSARD	HUNSBERGER
DENA LOCKE	PALMER	ALEXA SAIZ	DUNN	ESTELA GERLINGER	HUG
MEGAN NOHR	BILLINGHURST	TINA HART	SPARKS H.S.	BRANDI SHIVERS	HUG
CARYN NEIDHOLD	BILLINGHURST	FLORECITA WOODFORD	TRANER	RACHEL POTTER	NORTH VALLEYS
GRETCHEN SHIPP	ELMCREST	JO KILMER	DESERT HEIGHTS	BROOKE KELLEY	SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
STACEY RODARTE	INCLINE E.S.	SHAYNA BYRD	SMITH RIDGE	CHESTER STITES	AACT
MARAL GARAKMAZIAN	CLAYTON	NICOLE BISHOP	DODSON	ADRIENNE BARRY	NORTH VALLEYS
CHERYL TYREE	WARNER	AMY HENDERSON	INCLINE H.S.	THERESA SHOOLROY	DIEDRICHSEN
JENNIFER CUBRILOVIC	RISLEY	KATHY SLITER	PICOLLO	MARTHA SPELL	GREENBRAE
IAN STODDARD	RISLEY	KATHIE HULL	MOSS	VICTORIA HILL	NORTH VALLEYS
LAURIE LINE	PINE	REBECCA STONE	DESERT HEIGHTS		
SHANNON GARNER	LODER	MELINDA KINSEY	BOOTH		

# Nurse's Notes

## *Meningococcal Meningitis: Should your child be immunized?*

Sharon G. Freier / RN

New public health recommendations have been issued to help protect teenagers and college students against a potentially fatal bacterial infection, called meningococcal disease, commonly referred to as meningitis. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends meningococcal immunization for all adolescents 11-18 years of age.

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous bacterial infection that can strike teenagers and college students. The disease can progress rapidly and within hours of the first symptoms, may result in death or permanent disability, including brain damage, organ failure, loss of hearing and limb amputations. Research shows teenagers have an unusually high

death rate; nearly one in four cases is fatal among this age group.

The good news is that immunization may help to protect against up to 83 percent of cases among teenagers and college students. A conjugate meningococcal vaccine is now available that public health officials anticipate will provide longer protection against the disease.

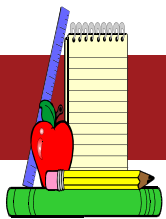
Symptoms of meningococcal disease often resemble the flu and can include a fever, headache, nausea and stiff neck, making the disease difficult to diagnose. That's why it's so important for parents to be aware of the disease and consider immunization for their teenagers and college-bound children.

The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease are transmitted through air droplets and by direct

contact with an infected person (e.g., kissing, coughing). Due to lifestyle factors, such as crowded living situations (sleep-away camps, dorms), active or passive cigarette smoking and irregular sleep patterns, teenagers and college students are more likely to contract meningococcal disease than the general population. In fact, this age group accounts for nearly 30 percent of all cases in the U.S.

Parents should be aware of the CDC's immunization recommendations for meningococcal disease and talk to their child's health care provider about vaccination.

To find out more about meningococcal disease and immunization contact your family's health care provider or your school nurse, or visit the CDC Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



## THE EDUCATOR'S TOOLBOX

By: Laurie Johns

This time I have some websites specifically for younger learners.

[www.mrsjonesroom.com](http://www.mrsjonesroom.com) was packed full of everything and anything ever needed for early childhood and kindergarten levels. She provided lessons, activities games etc and links to many other things. This lady sure put a lot of time and effort into this website. Many good ideas and materials can be found here for early childhood and kindergarten teachers.

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) was another site for younger children that had games and activities for young and emergent readers. There are alphabet activities and printables, short vowel work, beginning sounds, stories, and games available from them as well.

[www.first-school.ws/theme/alphabet.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/theme/alphabet.htm) This site also had alphabet printables and activities for early childhood and kindergarten levels.

[www.projectalphabet.com/index.php](http://www.projectalphabet.com/index.php) was another site I found where you could make your own calendars, alphabet, counting books etc. using your own digital camera photos. This would be good for assisting ESL children in the classroom with real and familiar photos.

[www.professorgarfield.org/phonemics/introcharacters.html](http://www.professorgarfield.org/phonemics/introcharacters.html) was another site I found which has oddity tasks, blending sounds, rhyming words, phoneme manipulation, phoneme blending and segmenting all in games children can play themed around everyone's favorite fat cat Garfield.

[www.makinglearningfun.com](http://www.makinglearningfun.com) was another site that had themed activities, games, emergent readers, worksheets, and ideas for kindergarten and early learning aged children. I have used this one a lot this last week and the children enjoyed the coloring, reading and math activities I found that went along with our story this week "The Gingerbread Man".

Well, that's it for this time! If you have any wonderful websites that you totally enjoy, can't live without or have found to be really interesting or just plain COOL, please forward them on to me so I can include them in the next issue. Send them to [ljohns@gmail.com](mailto:ljohns@gmail.com) with "educator's toolbox" written in the subject line. Please include your name and school so I can give you the credit that is due. Until next time, happy searching!

# NSEA Recommended Candidate List

## ASSEMBLY

AD 24 Washoe David Bobzien (D)  
 AD 25 Washoe Pending  
 AD 26 Washoe Pending  
 AD 27 Washoe Sheila Leslie (D)  
 AD 30 Washoe Debbie Smith (D)  
 AD 31 Washoe Bernie Anderson (D)  
 AD 32 Humboldt, No Endorsement  
 Lander, Washoe  
 AD 33 Elko, Humboldt No Endorsement (D)  
 AD 35 Churchill, Eureka, Rachel King (D)  
 Humboldt, Lander,  
 Lyon, Pershing, Washoe, White Pine  
 AD 36 Churchill, Pending  
 Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye  
 AD 38 Carson City, No Endorsement  
 Churchill, Lyon, Storey  
 AD 39 Douglas, Pending  
 Carson City, Washoe  
 AD 40 Carson City, Bonnie Parnell (D)  
 Washoe

## SENATE

SD 3 Washoe Bill Raggio (R)  
 SD Central Mike McGinness (R)  
 Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Esmeralda,  
 Lyon Mineral, Nye  
 SD Rural No Endorsement  
 Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln,  
 Nye, Pershing, White Pine

## CONGRESSIONAL RACES

CD 2 All Counties Jill Derby (D)  
 except Clark  
 OTHER RACES (Nonpartisan)  
 Supreme Court Justice, Seat B  
 Pending  
 Supreme Court Justice, Seat D  
 No Endorsement  
 State Bd. of Education Dist. 8  
 Pending  
 State Bd. of Education Dist. 9  
 Barbara Meyers  
 University Bd. of Regents Dist. 10  
 Pending

### WEA Endorsed Washoe County School Board Candidates:

**Celana Wasson - District A / Ken Grein - District D**  
**Denny Martindale - District E / Barbara McLaury - District G**



**VOTE!**

Your participation is vital.

**EDUCATORS  
VOTE**



**VOTE!**

Everyone is counting on the  
 Educator's Vote to...  
 Make The Difference.

Support Friends of Education!

## Dates To Remember...

**October 14**

Last day to register or update  
 registration for General  
 Election

**October 18 – 31**

Early voting for  
 General Election

**November 4**

GENERAL ELECTION