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2019-2020 School Year, Quarter 1

## Washoe Education Association Newsletter

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Daylight Savings Ends

#### **November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Building Rep Council

#### **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Veteran's Day (WEA Closed)

#### **November 27-29<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving Break (WEA Closed)

#### **December 11<sup>th</sup> (Moved from the 4<sup>th</sup>)**

Building Rep Council

#### **December 19<sup>th</sup>**

End of Grading Period

#### **December 23<sup>rd</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Winter Break

#### **January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Building Rep Council

#### **January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(WEA Closed)

# What has the WEA done for me?

*Janine Luciani / WEA Member, 3rd Grade, Stead ES Building Representative*

I'm here to tell you that you have benefitted from a multitude of WEA actions. The money we pay in dues goes to membership in not one, but three associations – at the local, state, and national level! We pay for collective action. We pay for contract negotiations. We pay to staff an office of three individuals – people we can call or email when we need something. We pay to have a voice at the legislator. We pay to have a voice at the school district. We pay to have a voice with politicians.

However, too often we think that paying our dues is all we have to do. I'm here to tell you that it is not. Are you happy with the state of education in Nevada? If so, then there is nothing else you have to do. If not, it is time for YOU to take action.

Being a member is being a part of something bigger. There is power in numbers. The more members the association represents, the more they are taken seriously when they speak. When a member speaks to the legislator or the district, he or she speaking for all of us and for the most part, our audience knows that. However, there are times when more members are needed in order to illustrate the magnitude of our association. Imagine if we were all physically standing behind the speaker? If that happened, there would be no question that they were speaking for us. It is time to recognize that REAL change will never happen unless we ALL become active members.

Now, I realize that as an educational professional, you are overworked, underpaid, and too often undervalued. But, did you know that the majority of the actions of the WEA are accomplished by only a few individuals? Most of these individuals are volunteers – counselors, dean, librarians, nurses, speech pathologists, and teachers just like you. Become a building representative for your school, join a committee so that your concerns can be heard, write letters to legislators, or just show up to rallies and events that support education.

If you want the WEA to work for you, YOU have to work for the WEA. The bottom line is that YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU and ME are the WEA!

Who is the WEA?

WE are the WEA!

## UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS

Tom Stauss / WEA Executive Director

The WEA and WCSD are still in negotiations, and we will continue to provide updates to WEA members via our WEA Building Representatives and our monthly Building Representative Meetings.

## Our New UniServ Director: Arthur Huron

Arthur Huron / UniServ Director

I was born in San Antonio, Texas, where my family has lived since 1732. Raised in Dallas, where I attended the same school that Bonnie and Clyde attended (Eagle Ford Elementary) I couldn't speak English, but I learned quickly. Graduated from Justin F. Kimball High with High Honors. Received three scholarships, one to SMU, one to West Point, and one academic scholarship to the choice of Universities.

I graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington, went straight to The Army as a Finance and Accounting Officer where I served at The U.S. Military Penitentiary, moved to The Panama Canal, and served in Honduras and El Salvador.

It was then I decided to come back to Texas and served as Vice President of Mercantile National Bank, then the 20th largest bank in the U.S. After 5 years I decided to move to Austin, Texas and was the Treasurer for all

seven campuses of Austin Community College in charge of student tuition payments and payroll.

After being in the Accounting environment for approximately 15 years I decided to teach in Dallas, Texas through the Alternative Certification Program. I began teaching after signing my contract the next day in Pre-Kindergarten. This was the beginning of teaching over 16 years in public schools in Houston, Dallas, and Bryan, Texas.

I took an interest in working with American Federation of Teachers. I worked as a Field Organizer in various school districts and signed over 10,000 members in approximately 12 years. In 2015, I was voted President of Waco AFT by members unanimously.

It was with great pleasure that I began to work with NSEA as a contract employee in Las Vegas, summer of 2018. I immediately found a full time position in Wyoming as a Uniserv Director, working the Cheyenne, Laramie and Torrington Areas. After 6 months I was transferred to the Southwest Area

of Wyoming, which included Rock Springs, Rawlins, Jackson Hole, Green River and Evanston. I then applied and was fortunate enough to be hired here in the Washoe Education Association this past June! These past several months have been extremely productive and I have enjoyed meeting and working with Natha Anderson, Tom Stauss and Earl Spriggs. It has been incredible working with the WEA Board who are truly the most dedicated board I have had the pleasure to work with! Thank you for the opportunity to work and learn in this awesome and incredible Union of professionals!

I am very grateful to my mother who taught Pre-K for 50 years at the same school, the same classroom, and the same classroom her first grade and my first grade teacher, Mrs. Fuller taught us both, and to my father who was there for all of us when my mother was obtaining her Bachelors and Masters degree at night for over 7 years.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

Tom Stauss / WEA Executive Director

EAP is a confidential, licensed counseling service that is available to you and your immediate family members that are insured through WCSD Health Insurance Plan. This program is offered by WCSD to you and your immediate insured family members at no cost to you and provides up to three (3) counseling sessions per issue per year.

The District's EAP services are provided through a program called GuidanceResources®. Guidance Resources has counselors on staff who can provide you with assistance for just about any issue, including: Marriage/Family; Substance Abuse; Emotional/Stress; Work-Life; Physical Wellness; and Program Consultation.

The GuidanceResources® program is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may speak to a counselor in person or telephonically. There are two ways to access your GuidanceResources benefits:

1. Call 855.401.WCSD (9273). You'll be connected with a counseling professional who will listen to your concerns and guide you to the appropriate services you require.
2. Visit GuidanceResources Online at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com) and enter your company ID: WCSDEAP

You can fold up this form and send it through school mail.  
It is already addressed on the reverse side

# Democracy Counts on You



We are counting on you to help elect pro-education candidates!  
In 2020, we will help elect a president (the person who appoints the Secretary of Education!), as well as US House, members of the NV Assembly, NV Senators and WCSD Trustees.

We need friends of education as our elected officials. Please indicate below which of the following you will be willing to do to help elect pro-education candidates:

(Check as many as you can, thanks.)

- ☐ Donate to TIP (Together In Politics). Monthly donations help the most.
- ☐ Attend the Presidential Caucus (either party).
- ☐ Put up yard signs at your house.
- ☐ Walk neighborhoods and hand out materials.
- ☐ Work on a phone bank (calling educators)
- ☐ Help register voters.
- ☐ Attend a rally or town hall meeting.
- ☐ Write letters to the editor
- ☐ Help with social media
- ☐ Hold a monthly 10-minute meeting at your school site (not on contract time)
- ☐ Write postcards to educators

Please list your contact information below.

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (please provide personal, not school email) \_\_\_\_\_



# Member Spotlight

SPONSORED BY THE WEA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Shelace Shoemaker, a 6th grade Science/Math teacher from Depoali Middle School, not only excels in the classroom, but she is one of the top bodybuilders in the country. Shelace, who has always been athletic, has been involved in the sport for the last 10 years, but has gotten serious with her training during the past 3 years. Her training includes cardio every day for 20 minutes which she squeezes in before school. She also hits the gym again after school for another hour to an hour and a half for weight training. She trains at American Iron where she is also a personal trainer herself. Her proudest accomplishment is earning her body building Pro Card in 2016. To accomplish this she had to earn 1st place in her division at a national show going against competition from around the nation. As for the future, Shelace will continue to compete with the ultimate goal of reaching Olympia, an international competition for the top bodybuilders. It's the Super Bowl of Body Building.

Good luck, Shelace!



Do you know of a WEA member who has some amazing talents outside of the classroom? Or, do you yourself possess some incredible ability in some area? If so, WEA would love to share these stories of the accomplishments of our talented members.

To access the Member Spotlight form, simply go to the WEA Website or contact your building rep.

Deliver to:



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# Excitement and Positive Energy of Being a Public School Educator: DA & RA

*Natha Anderson / WEA President*

As Janine Luciani pointed out in her article, WEA is a member run organization whether through our Building Reps or our Board of Directors. There are other ways for members to be involved in our association beyond the Building Reps or the Board of Directors – a member could serve on a committee (listed on our website and in our handbook) or could be elected to represent WEA at the Nevada State Education Association Delegate Assembly or the National Education Association Representative Assembly. Both bodies are great reminders of how we are connected to other educators at the state and national level, not to mention a powerful celebration of public education.

We wanted to give some quick information about the 2020 NSEA Delegate Assembly so people can prepare for the election of DA delegates (nominations and elections will take place in January). DA is the governing body for NSEA and is held at different sites

around the state. The term of office is for two years and we will probably be electing about 15-18 delegates (will have specific number by January). This year it will be held in Elko, April 24 and 25. In the past we have traveled by chartered bus (paid for by NSEA). Delegates who choose to drive will be reimbursed for mileage. The hotel room is paid for (double occupancy) and delegates will receive a per diem if food is not provided. We are usually done by noon on the second date. The 2020 DA will have an election for the NSEA Secretary/Treasurer, a discussion over the legislative platform and other issues impacting all counties.

Representative Assembly is the national governing body for NEA with 8,000-10,000 delegates attending from across the nation. It will be held in Atlanta, GA, July 2-7. The nomination & election takes place in February for the two year term and we'll probably have about 8-10 delegates to be elected (will know exact number by February). Some members have expressed concerned about the cost – WEA contin-

ues to pay for the flight, the hotel room double occupancy) and representatives receive a per diem for food. Most days the work begins around 7 a.m. ending around 5 p.m. with an hour lunch. The last day sometimes goes later. This year the RA will be electing the NEA President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer as Lily Eskelson-Garcia terms out. In addition to the elections, we'll be voting on bylaws, resolutions, federal legislative program, new business items as well as hear speeches from National Teacher of the Year, National ESP of the Year and (possibly) the endorsed candidate for President of the U.S.

The excitement and positive energy of being a public school educator is truly celebrated at both DA and RA. All WEA members are encouraged to run for DA or RA (or even both), not only for the experience but also for your voice to be heard as important education issues are debated.

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## Site Visits: Sit and Listen

Feedback from our members is vital. Already this school year we have visited these 22 schools to listen to the ideas, issues, and concerns of our educators.

### **Brown**

#### **WCSD Deans**

**Desert Heights** - Margaret Babb, Sarah Bartrum

#### **Elmcrest**

**Galena** - Joel Munc, Adam Shoda

**Gomm** - Regan Hartzell, Kimberly Smerkers-Bass

#### **Huffaker** - Emily Husted

**Incline Elementary School** - Kerrian Neu

**Incline High School** - Darin Manning

**Incline Middle School** - John Mueller

**Lemelson** - Corrine Paiva, Cherry Rensch

**Loder** - Stacie Aranda, Keyana Bunting

### **Melton** - Lalita Cole

**Mendive** - Darren Fleck, Salena La Rue Hatch

**North Valleys** - Jeffrey Bellows, Deanna Layport

**O'Brien** - James Coleman, Rosemarie Olheiser

**Reed** - Laura Balsley, Kerra Curley-Morga,  
Leigh Metcalfe, Amanda Rodriguez

#### **Shaw** - Jason Tatomer

**Silver Lake** - Adrienne Conley, Teresa Diarte

**Smithridge** - Marina Martin

#### **Verdi**

**Veterans** - Julie Dimick

## WEA Discount Partners

The WEA is always looking for new community partners for our members and would like to highlight businesses owned by members. Please contact Earl Spriggs if you have ideas or contacts for more partners. Here are a few of our current providers. A complete and up-to-date list can be found at the WEA website ([www.weatoday.org](http://www.weatoday.org))



**Absolute Music**  
15% discount  
 8175 S Virginia St  
 Reno



**Amy's Flowers and Gifts**  
15% Discount on all local purchases  
 1349 Baring Blvd  
 Sparks



**Break Thru Reno**  
12% discount  
 294 E Moana Ln #13  
 Reno



**Boulevard Pizza**  
15% off all food orders  
 1076 North Rock Blvd.  
 Sparksp



**Butcher Boy**  
10% discount  
 530 W Plumb Ln Unit C  
 Reno



**Celtic Pest Control**  
\$35 discount on First-time inspections and services  
 (775) 348-7445  
[celticinspections.com](http://celticinspections.com)



**Claim Jumper**  
25% Discount, excluding Happy Hour  
 4905 S Virginia St  
 Reno



**Donut Bistro**  
\$2.00 off per dozen  
 465 S Meadows Pkwy  
 Reno  
 1550 Pyramid Way # 100  
 Sparks



**IMBIB Brewing**  
15% discount  
 785 E 2nd St.  
 Reno

## WEA Discount Tickets

Coconut Bowl Pass (Good for 3 uses of Bowling with shoes, XD Adventure Theater, High Ballocity, Jungle Karts, Laser Tag, Indoor or Outdoor Mini Golf) are t\$20 each

Cinemark movie passes are \$8 each.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the WEA office between 8:30 to 4:30 Cash or check only

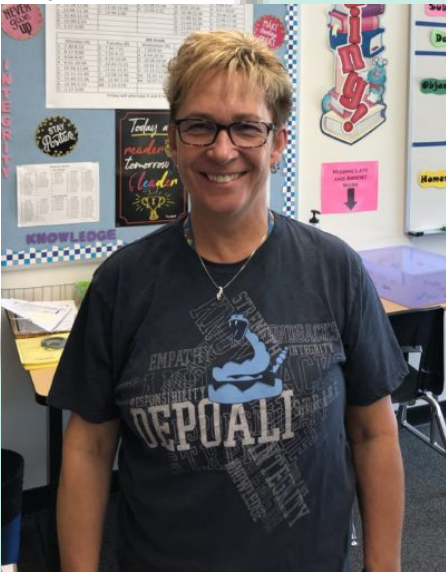
# WEA High-Fives

SPONSORED BY THE WEA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**BJ DAVIS**

Depoali Middle School  
Sixth Grade ELA/SS

BJ is the nurturer of Depoali sixth grade. She organizes birthday luncheons for sixth grade staff. She also takes charge of restroom supplies. The sixth grade restrooms are well stocked with scented soap, air freshner and most importantly ROLLS of toilet paper! BJ rocks!

**CHARLOTTE SCARBOROUGH**

Whitehead Elementary School  
Resource Teacher

Charlotte always goes out of her way to help others. She volunteers to cover duties and notices when someone is out and might need coverage. Thank you for all you do Charlotte!

**CHARLES TARGETT**

Sparks Middle School  
Math Teacher

Charles is one of the most dedicated teachers on our staff. He strives to build relationships with all of his students as well as using innovative ideas to teach math. Charles is always willing to go the extra mile to help anyone.

If you have a fellow WEA member you would like to nominate for a “High-Five” please go to [weatoday.org](http://weatoday.org) for the nomination form. WEA’s Membership Committee is working on recognizing and supporting more of our unsung hero members!

# Welcome, New Members!

Erenst Adamo	Elyse Evans Kircher	Kevin Marks	Mary Splawinski
Ashley Allen	Zeynep Evenson	Patricia McDonald	Erin Steele
Elena Amador	Liberty Farnsworth	Kira McGlothen	Lyndsi Stephens
Lindsay Anderson	Brian Fitzgerald	Veronique Meador	Katharine Stewart
Christina Arias	Sydney Flint	Amanda Mendenhall	Karla Stewart
Nicole Asdrubale-Born	Anneliese Fraide	Dylan Moellendorf	Lisa Stockton
Michael Austria	Hilda Gallardo	Tammie Moniz	Jennifer Stoner
Emily Babcock	Malia Goade	Leah Moore	Eleanor Strand
Timothy Baird	Bailey Gray	Hannah Moyer	Sarah Tahlier
Courtney Ballard	Cameron Green	Dustin Nevins	Jennifer Tappan
Valerie Barton	Bret Greenburg	Kirsten Nichols	Maryann Thompson
Joseph Barton	Olivia Hackett	Rachel Niemi	Melissa Tolbert
Amy Beckman	Barbara Hall	Lisa Norman	Maegan Tolley
Marilyn Beede	Lorabelle Mae Hardisty	Ashley Norman	Kayla Troche
Curtis Bent	Debra Harrison	Jennifer Pagano	Ellen Tyrell
Michelle Berry	Brent Hatakeyama	Deanna Parker	Amy Urban
Sophia Blair	Erik Helper	Erin Parker	Anne Vereeke
Robert Bloxham	Jake Hembree	Savannah Parsons	Nia Waters
Veronica Borden	Brianna Hodgson	Demi Partyka	Lori Wegren
James Branson	Tamra Hopkins	Erica Pienkoski	Jacelyn Wells
Careen Breslau	Jade Horne	Alyssa Pinto	Amanda Wentz
Abbie Buntin	Mark Horton	Chris Pondok	Corey West
Thomas Buttacavoli	Ryan Howe	Caitlin Pooparnthong	Daniel Wexelblatt
Ian Callahan	Jessica Hughes	Michaela Ports	Monet Wilson
Ronald Calvillo	Robin Hunt	Ashley Ratliff	Yecenia Yanez Gladstone
John Cardoza	Linda Hutchinson	Katie Ricks	
Kimberly Carl	Adam Inglis	Michelle Riley	
Kaileen Carlson	Joseph Jacques	Nicole Rimmel	
Kaitlyn Carscadden	Tori Jimenez	Hernan Rios-Ortiz	
Elizabeth Cavender	Corey Jones	John Rogers	
Amy Chin	Tessa Kampf	Janet Roman	
Shawna Claiborne	Kamra Kay	Dawn Romero	
Frankie Clark	Samantha Keller	Samuel Rosales Rivas	
Sage Clark	Aimee Kelly	Kevin Roukey	
Konami Compton	Fallon Kimball	Erika Sanchez	
Maya Condos	Andrea Kirkwood	Jeremy Satalick	
Christopher Cook	Amanda Kloehn	Robert Satmary	
Jessica Cormier	Kimberly Laack	Marchelle Schield	
Tunde Csepelyi	Peyton Lane	Sara Schleich	
Megan Cudney-Frechette	Katherine Larson	Kelly Schmiike	
Kathleen Cushman	Felicia Leclair	Cameron Scholes	
Katherine D'Antonio	Courtney Lee	Kristi Scholl	
John Devaney	Jan Lenz	Kristen Scott	
Diana Dingeldein	Judith Lombard-Mansfield	Nicole Seitz	
Kayln Dodge	Steven Lopez	Maria Shiffer	
Ann Dominguez	Corrine Lott	Vanessa Shipman	
Whitney Dumville	Keith Lowe	Kaylea Siahmakoun	
Amber Durk	Erin Lowther	Jeffery Slover	
Thomas Elmer	Melody Lupinek	Kimberly Smerckers-Bass	
Pamela Engstrom	Karen Lynn	Allison Smith	
Haley Evans	Karen Lynn	Jason Smith	
Keli Evans	Arthur Lyon	Ruben Soliz	



WASHOE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
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Frances McGregor	Vice-President
Thomas Stauss	Executive Director
Arthur Huron	UniServ Director
Earl Spriggs	Office Manager



**weatoday.org**

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.



The WEA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WashoeEducationAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/WashoeEducationAssociation)) is the best place to find up to date information on the WEA. Like and Follow us to stay informed about issues that impact you.