



Washoe Education Association Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 9^h

Last day of school

August 2nd

New Teacher Luncheon

August 2nd

Building Rep Kickoff

August 3rd

First Day for Teachers

August 9th

First Day for Students

September 1st

Building Rep Council

September 6th

Labor Day (WEA Closed)

September 11th

Wild Island Picnic



The WEA Facebook page (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.

Wrapping up the 2020-2021 School Year

Phil Kaiser / WEA President

As we end this year of COVID-19 disruption, we can look forward with some hope for a more normal school year in the future. All educators have been given the opportunity to receive vaccinations, and we worked hard to make sure we were near the front of the line for them. Now, we look forward to bringing back our Wild Island picnic this fall, as well as fall sports, homecoming dances, and all the things that have been put on hold.

Through this past year, WEA has represented dozens of educators in individual cases, and we have advocated for public education more broadly with policy makers. From our rallies and in-person lobbying in Carson City, to our Nevada State Education Association “ground team” following legislation on a daily basis there, we have advocated for pro-public education issues. And it ain’t over yet! While we continue to contact law makers in the legislative session that is scheduled to end May 31, we understand that there may be several special sessions: one to deal with federal funding and one to deal with redistricting based on census data. We will be there! And with an improving economic forecast the legislature has added \$500 million to the K-12 budget over the biennium!

We have also processed dozens of applications for the Sick Leave Bank, a negotiated benefit that helps educators who have suffered serious illness and injury and have used up their sick leave. We pressed the district to create a special COVID sick leave bank, and any unused days in that bank will move into our regular sick leave bank.

Our community engagement efforts have continued this year, including providing computers for students who lacked them, collecting food with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, donating to Moms on the Run, the Salvation Army, the Education Alliance, and others. WEA has continued supporting and recognizing National Board Certification.

WEA has provided professional development for educators and has awarded scholarships to students. We have had a consistent presence at school board meetings, as well as a presence on a variety of committees and commissions including the insurance committee, the zoning committee, and committees with a specialized focus such as for speech pathologists.

I hope everyone has a chance to relax a bit this summer, maybe a trip to the lake, a hike in the mountains, or reading something just for fun. Take care of yourselves!

Why I am a WEA Member

Jeff Bellows / North Valleys HS

I guess I have always rooted for the underdog and I see both a teacher and a union member as underdogs. Teachers are often criticized and always underappreciated. I also know that unions have had a dirty name for the last century and a half as it is often connected with radical left movements leading to socialism or even communism.

Hillarie Jones / Pleasant Valley ES

In a school year like 2020-21 the list is long as to why I'm a member of the WEA. This year has seemed like the longest school year in the history of school years. Literally, in one year we went from heroes in our community, when parents had to help distant learn; to being lazy teachers who didn't want to be in the classroom, because of COVID cases on the rise, and no vaccines. The only shining light for me was knowing WEA had my back. WEA gave us updates on

Jeff Kirst / Innovations HS

Strength in numbers is one of the reasons I always want to be a member of WEA. Our organization is the primary advocate for public education and for our student population. That makes me proud to be a member of WEA,

Many believe labor unions are an antithesis to capitalism or at best a necessary evil. As a history teacher with a knowledge about what our country looked like when business leaders treated the industrial era like the Wild West with little or no rules, it would be disturbing to see those actions still taking place, which is where the labor union fits in. So, in that sense I see a union as part of the necessary whole to

meetings they were having with our district and health officials. Our district, on the other hand, was quiet all summer long and gave their messages to the media for us to find out what they were planning on doing. Our union was loud about what was right for us, as teachers. They fought for us, as teachers, making sure safety measures were in place to keep us safe during a pandemic year. They stood up for us in a time when our community viewed us as babysitters that didn't need to worry about our health or the health of our

and one of the "numbers" that helps give strength to the WEA voice.

As a member of WEA, I have been afforded opportunities to be involved in public education in ways that otherwise would never have presented themselves to me. The people I have been privileged

bring some level of balance and something that should be celebrated not demonized.

On a more specific note, I enjoy being a member and especially a building representative because it allows me a chance to connect with other members on a shared goal and to have intimate knowledge of union, district, state, and federal decision making. I am proud to be a member and honored to be a leader within the WEA!

loved ones. Our WEA goes unnoticed for the behind-the-scenes efforts they do day in and day out for us as teachers. It is the one and only place that puts us first, not the public's needs for babysitting, or the parents needs to have us teach their child in person, because they just can't do it. WEA listens and stands up for us, this is only one reason why I am a member of the WEA, but in a year like this one, it seems to be the BIGGEST REASON why. Thank you, WEA, thank you for sticking up for US when no one else did.

to be associated with in WEA are first-class, with their hearts in the right place in their desire to serve students and the community. I'm a member of WEA and grateful for all it does for so many in terms of support, education, and chances to be involved in activities and deeds that can make a difference.

Introducing Summer Kay

Summer Kay / WEA Executive Director

I'm Summer Kay, the new Executive Director of the Washoe Education Association. Prior to coming to WEA, I was a UniServ Director for the Nevada State

Education Association (NSEA) for nearly five years where I served 17 local associations in ten counties throughout the state of Nevada. I hold a master's degree in Education and taught elementary school for 12 years in Fernley where I was

also the local President of the Lyon County Education Association. My family is from Nevada and I grew up in Yerington. It's my pleasure to work for the educators of Washoe County School District and I look forward to meeting all of you!

"Caring for Yourself and Your Association During Challenging Times"

Andrea DeMichieli / WEA Secretary

The NSEA Summer Leadership Conference is virtual this year! The theme is "Caring for Yourself and Your Association During Challenging Times." The opening keynote speaker will be Attorney General Aaron Ford and there will be an extended keynote session with Dr. Christine Clark from UNLV. She will focus on social justice with "Let's Talk about Racism and White Supremacy in Teacher Education and the Teaching Profession: What White Teachers Must Do to Transform the Profession and the Imperative to Act." In addition,

there will be sessions to attend about leadership, planning for retirement, and member engagement. This virtual conference is open to all members and is only \$25. You will earn your 15 hours of professional development for the 21-22 school year, which can be used when you renew your NDE license. If you are interested in attending, please email your name to Earl Spriggs (earl.spriggs@washoeschools.net). If you have any questions, email Andrea De Michieli (ademichieli@washoeschools.net) or Dawn Etcheverry (demiller@washoeschools.net).



2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients

We all know that the past year has been difficult on our students. In respect of this the WEA Board decided to double the number of scholarships we awarded this year. Please join us in congratulating the recipients.

Ernie Johnson Memorial Vocational Scholarship

Madelyn Berg
Kyla Lowery

Gladys Hamm Scholarship

Heather Kiser
Carleen Rauh

Kathy Powell/Thelma Davila Scholarship

Talia Guzman
Jorge Antonio Mamani

Lancaster Family Memorial Scholarship

Kylie Kibala
Alison Rutherford

Marilyn Owen Academic Scholarship

Tylee Kareck
Emily Milliken

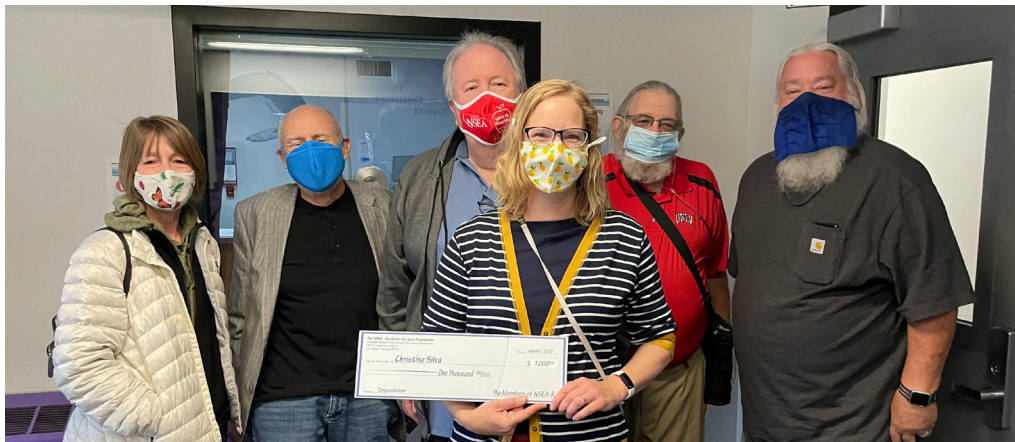
Michael Landsberry Memorial Scholarship

Leigh Fisher
Nayely Zecena

Congratulations Christine Silva

The Nevada State Education Association-Retired program recently implemented the Elizabeth Brown Early Career Educators scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship program is to assist public school educators; which is to include education support professionals in their first five years of employment that wish to pursue additional training in their profession and chosen field of interest. This could be a masters program, National Board Certification or professional development. Applicants wishing to pursue alternative route to licensure are also eligible to apply. This scholarship is being funded through members donations, family contributions and NSEA-Retired fundraising activities; no dues dollars have been allocated to this program.

The first scholarship recipient was Ms. Christine Silva. Christine is a teacher at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School where she works with kindergarten through second grade students with autism and helps with teaching strategies for the school. Members from the NSEA-R Board of directors were proud to present Christine with her check and to wish her the very best as she works to improve education for our students.



Red for Ed Advocacy

Selena La Rue Hatch / WEA HS Director

This year WEA co-sponsored two rallies, Red for Ed and Red for Revenue, with NSEA and our other education partners. Thank you for everyone who turned out on 2/15 and 4/26 to show your support for education funding this session. We had hundreds of educators in red line the streets to demand that our leaders invest in education. We chanted, “Be Brave, Be Bold, New Revenue’s the Way to Go” and “Students Deserve Better.” In addition to the rallies, WEA members have dedicated their time to lobbying our leaders through phone calls, emails, social media, giving testimony over the phone and in person, and

even meeting with legislators face to face. On our lobby day we had over 40 educators in the building to advocate for our students and our profession. As many legislators shared with us, we were the first non-paid lobbyists in the building and the largest lobbying force all session. Many elected leaders signed our in person pledge to increase funding to the national average and put AJR1 on the ballot, which is a great first step in our campaign for educational funding. Your unceasing efforts and tireless devotion to the cause has been impressive to behold and is making a difference in the halls of power. Our advocacy has proven effective as the legislature added \$500 million to the K-12 budget

over the next two years. Of course, the work will not stop after session is over and we will continue to engage in the political process to raise up educator voices and fix Nevada education. We cannot do this alone and depend on all of our members to become engaged in the process.

If you are interested in helping us move funding to the national average, or any other issue facing educators in Nevada, please consider the NSEA Grassroots Taskforce. It is a group of educators committed to increasing funding and activating our members in order to achieve that goal. You can contact either Selena La Rue Hatch (slarue@washoeschools.net) or Dawn Etcheverry (dawn.etcheverry@nsea-nv.org) to learn more.

National Boards Shouldn't Be About the Money \$

Mary Owens / WEA Special Services Director

Money \$...we talk about it a lot in education! It's a hot topic, from what we'd like to see in our paychecks to what we'd like to see the legislature funding! In fact, we recently participated in a successful "Red for Revenue" Rally in Carson City to help address Nevada having a dedicated revenue stream for education!

Money \$...it was also on my mind, when I was considering starting the journey of becoming a Nationally Board-Certified Teacher (NBCT). Working toward this goal takes a lot of your time, patience, academic skills, dedication, and energy, plus it also takes...a lot of your money. Over \$2000 of it! I had set the goal for myself to begin the process, but learning the cost made me pause to consider if this was something my family wanted to invest in. I didn't like the fact that money might be the obstacle that stopped me from trying.

Money \$...it was even discussed during my NBCT Cohort's first meeting. We were told that WEA members could get help with this. How, you ask? A 0% loan, that's how! What a relief to know that money would no longer be the obstacle that would hinder the start to my journey. Not only does the WEA offer this loan to all members, but they work with you on the amount you want to secure (up to \$2500 at first with an additional \$750 for those who need to retake a section) and the terms of the loan. And best yet, the WEA sets it up so that your monthly owed amount is automatically taken directly out of each paycheck. Easy peasy!

I'm not going to end this article totally about money, but instead my personal and unsolicited dedications (because I was successful and could not have done it alone)! Many thanks to:

my mother, Nancy, "the editor" (who isn't a teacher, but has an eagle eye for grammar mistakes)
my husband, Jeff, who picked up the household slack and cooked a lot (& I hate cooking)
my videographer, Jennifer, who took a zillion hours of footage for me to choose from
my students, who were willing to go the extra mile with me on my homework
my administration and school staff, who worked out the logistics of students I worked with
my WCSD Cohort (especially Jaime & Nicole) for being my cheerleaders, and of course
my WEA, for...you guessed it, the money \$!

If you are considering starting your National Board journey, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions at mrowens@washoeschools.net! And great news, now you don't have to let money get in the way of your decision to jump in and start!

Negotiations Update

Survey: We received over 700 survey responses from our WEA members, which is up from about 300 survey responses in 2018. Thank you to those who responded to the survey. We will be compiling the feedback from the surveys and the general WEA member meetings (see below), and working with the negotiations team and WEA Board of Directors to identify proposals.

WEA General Membership Meetings: We held three (3) general virtual WEA member meetings in February and March, where we reviewed areas for proposals, gathered additional feedback, and provided information on the negotiations process, including NRS 288. Thank you to those who attended.

Negotiations: The WEA negotiations team started meeting on May 19. We anticipate the first meeting between our team and the district's negotiations team to occur mid-June. Future timelines will be determined based on legislative disbursement of education funding. Updates will be provided as we proceed through the process.

Welcome, New Members!

Sue Schlottman
Alice Smith
Shannon Dunlap
Anderson
Christelle Altom
Bennett
Tina Rosa
Bennett
David Salsbury
Caughlin Ranch
Carrie McDonald
Child Find
Kevin Wheeler
Damonte Ranch
Caroline Gabica
Depoali
Matthew Harper
Depoali
Brittany Morris
Depoali
Wesley Patton
Depoali
Tyler Ball-Imsdahl
Desert Skies
Kendragrace Reyes
Desert Skies
Joshua Gibbons
Desert Heights
Breanna Gianopoulos
Dilworth
Juanita Ndomb
Dilworth
Tiffany Kaiser
Duncan
Michon Otuafi
Galena

Kathleen McNamara
Gerlach
Erin Dehahn
Gomm
Amanda Maydeck
Herz
Jacqueline Flynn
Hidden Valley
Amy Webber
Hidden Valley
Patricia Coats
Huffaker
Eden Gutierrez
Hug
Samuel O'Brien
Hug
Angelica Solano
Hug
Tracey Sondag-Tuck
Hug
Shauna Righellis
Incline ES
Destiny Wright
Incline HS
Daniela Pavlova
Incline MS
Amanda Barrette
Lemmon Valley
Alisha Anderson-Hurley
Lincoln Park
Grace Hoke
Lincoln Park
Eun Young Ko
Lincoln Park
Karrington Armstrong
McQueen

Laura Brantley
McQueen
Nathan Williams
McQueen
Brooke Brackett
Moss
Sandra Kihm
Mount Rose
Timothy Wood
Mount Rose
Jennifer Schulz
North Star
Penka Wilcox
North Star
Ignacio Chavez
North Valleys
Anna Cicak
North Valleys
Whitney Coulter
North Valleys
Tamara Frazier
North Valleys
Mariah Enochson
Poulakidas
Angela Stevenson
Sepulveda
Jasmine Miller
Spanish Springs HS
Maribel Ramirez
Sparks MS
Grace Desilets
Stead
Diahanne Nielsen
Stead
Andrea Torres-Nunez
Sun Valley

Ivonne Addison
Vaughn
Rose Anzelmo
Vaughn
Eli Ayetta-Freidman
Vaughn
Fathia Barkadle
Vaughn
Joseph Borda
Vaughn
Kate Branson
Vaughn
Kirk Ellern
Vaughn
Kyle Fibelstad
Vaughn
Amanda Mawson
Vaughn
Megan Vieta-Kabell
Vaughn
Michelle Vrijenhoek-Dalpe
Winnemucca
Sylvia Averill
Wooster

Early Enrollment Program



Just a reminder that now through the end of August, 2021, our potential member friends can join the WEA and not begin paying dues until September, 2021. Now is a good time to reach out to educators who might have an interest in joining. Thank you for your efforts in recruiting new members into our association. We stand stronger when we all stand together.

Details can be found on the WEA website at www.weatoday.org/early-enrollment



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WEA Today is published three 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.