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The UCN Newsletter

*From the March 2007 Lyon County Education Association
Newsletter, The Tutorial Enterprise:*

President Fargan Reads to Classes and Delivers Mini-Grant Checks



A committee met after the LCEA executive board meeting in February to select the 2007 Mini-Grant winners. The grants are for \$200 to be used on programs which impact students. On March 2, 2007 LCEA President, Steve Fargan, toured the school district reading to classes and delivering the mini-grant checks to the winners listed below:

- Cari Bunyard – FES
- Jennifer Chico – YES
- Jody Ericksen – FHS
- Arvella Jergesen - FIS
- Sonya Kirby – SES
- Marie Lico – SES
- Pat Mikulich – Smith
- Tamara Roseberry – CES
- Torie Sandberg – FES
- Becky Jo Thiel – DES
- Dawn Van Sickle/Janet Shure – SES
- Jane Wren – FIS

Editor's note:

This is the third year that I combined delivering checks to LCEA Mini-Grant winners with NEA's Read Across America. It is a fun to read Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat In The Hat, and other books by Dr. Seuss to excited, enthusiastic students. It is also a pleasure for our Association to receive positive feedback for our efforts.

From the Fourth Quarter 2007 of the Ormsby County Education Association Newsletter, Quest:

Share with Congress NEA's Message on ESEA (NCLB) Reauthorization

As Congress moves toward reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, it is critical that Members know educators' priorities for changing the law. NEA has developed a simple message for Members of Congress asking for changes in three priority areas:

- 1. Use more than test scores to measure student learning and school performance.**
 - Include multiple measures of student learning and school effectiveness instead of the current one-day snapshot based solely on standardized tests.
 - Reward progress over time to improve student achievement at all levels.
 - Recognize individual needs of students (Special Education; English Language Learners.)
- 2. Reduce class size to help students learn.**
 - Restore the class size reduction program.
- 3. Increase the number of highly qualified teachers in our schools.**
 - Provide financial incentives to teachers who teach in hard-to-staff schools.
 - Allow teachers who have achieved certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to be deemed "highly qualified."
 - Provide flexibility for teachers of multiple subjects, including special education and rural educators.

Success Stories from NEA

The pro-public education Congress YOU helped elect has been listening to your calls and e-mails! Congress adjourns this weekend for a congressional recess (two weeks for the House; one week for the Senate) after passing a number of pro-public education bills supported by NEA. Victories for educators, schools, and students include:

Increased education funding for this year

Congress passed a year-long “continuing resolution” providing an increase of \$1 billion for education programs, including Title I, special education and Pell Grants.

Increased education funding for next year

Both the House and Senate passed budget resolutions that would provide \$6 billion more for education than requested by the President. The budget resolution provides a blueprint for how federal funds will be spent in the coming year.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

The Senate passed a five-year extension of this critical program, which ensures a consistent funding stream for schools in rural, timber-dependent counties. The House passed a one-year extension of the program.

Educator Tax Deduction

The Senate passed an amendment to its budget resolution that would make permanent the tax deduction for educators’ out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses, increase it from \$250 to \$400, and extend it to cover professional development expenses.

Student Loan Rates

The House passed the College student Relief Act, which would reduce the interest rate on subsidized student loan by half.

Children’s Health

Both the House and senate included \$750 million in funding for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in emergency “supplemental” funding bills for the current fiscal year. This funding is necessary to ensure continued services to eligible children.

School Bus Safety

The House passed a bill requiring a comprehensive assessment of the threat of a terrorist attack on the nation’s school bus transportation system.

Minimum Wage

Both the House and Senate passed bills increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour.

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Name the UCN Newsletter Contest

We need a new name for the new UCN Newsletter. Would you like to use your creativity for fame and fabulous prizes? Well, fame for sure. I'll see what I can do about fabulous prizes. Please submit your ideas to:

Steve Fargan
UCN Newsletter Editor
3675 Slate Road
Wellington, NV 89444

Or

Email: loloville@loloville.com

Submit an article for the next UCN Newsletter

Are you an aspiring novelist, writer of short stories, or do you just have a message to get out? Please submit an article for the next UCN Newsletter.

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