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Useful Communications and News

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<http://www.neamb.com/>



Login and use your NSEA Access membership card for members' only discounts at:

<http://www.memberweb.com/Memberweb2K1/main2K1.asp?tEvent=>

My 2008 NSEA Delegate Assembly Experience

By Curtis Ferlisi

I attended the 2008 Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) Delegate Assembly (DA) as elections co-chairperson on April 11th through April 13th at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nevada. I listened to the issues that will set the course and direction for the NSEA in the coming year. The highlights of my DA experience were: serving as elections co-chairperson, listening to Warren Wish's Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (NV-PERS) presentation, renewing old acquaintances, and meeting new people.

This year, I had a different NSEA Delegate Assembly experience than the past two Delegate Assemblies I attended in 2005 and 2006 as a delegate. I admit I was a little disappointed at first. I was not a delegate so I was not allowed to vote on NSEA: resolutions, bylaws, new business items, and candidates or even speak for or against a motion, not that I'm a public speaker. I was considered a guest and had to sit in the back of the room behind a velvet rope. Once the debates started, my feeling of disappointment dissipated as I listened intently to the issues that would set the course and direction of the NSEA.

Steve Fargan (elections chairperson) asked me to be elections co-chairperson. I had served on the elections committee with Steve in 2006. Steve plans on eventually stepping down from elections chairperson and allowing me to take his position. I appreciate his training and letting me to ease into this position. Although an election was not held, I learned how to give a credentials report. After Steve and I greeted the delegates in several different languages (a tradition started by Katie Pollack), we gave the credentials report as follows:

Four hundred and six delegates (406) were certified for the 2008 Delegate Assembly. Two hundred eighty four (284) delegates and forty three (43) alternates seated registered for a total delegation of 327. One hundred sixty five (165) would constitute a quorum.

I learned that a quorum is the total seated registered delegates and alternate delegates divided by two plus one based on the NSEA Bylaws.

During our nation's possible recession, it is hard for me not to think about our Nevada Public Employees Retirement System (NV-PERS) even if I have at least another 20 years to serve. I want to make sure NV-PERS is there for me in my retirement years. Luckily, Warren Wish's NV-PERS report and presentation relieved my anxiety. NV-PERS is committed to sound investment strategies, including a conservative philosophy, low investment costs, and a focus on a long range point view. Warren Wish used the baseball analogy that NV-PERS is only interested in hitting singles and doubles, not triples and homeruns. NV-PERS is well diversified, having investments in high quality income producing commercial properties and international investments in high quality companies in Canada, Europe, and Japan, in addition to investments in the U.S. stock market. The goal of NV-PERS is to earn 8% on investments with the least amount of risk. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, NV-PERS earned 14.9% on investments. I am sure that NV-PERS will be there for me and is "Dedicated to Those Who Serve Nevada" (NV-PERS logo).

Networking with other educators is a large part of Delegate Assembly for me. I met with Gaylea Manning, Jeff Greb, Chris Whitcome, and Jen Tartan from the Ormsby County Education Association (OCEA). I worked with them while I was an OCEA Building Representative in Carson City. Now, we still meet, although infrequently, as members of the Uniserv Council of Nevada (UCN). I was pleased to meet Leah Brady. She helped clear up a misunderstanding with Elko County School District by interpreting the language behind the extra 1/5 retirement credit. It turns out that I was eligible to receive my extra 1/5 retirement credit for teaching in a hard to fill position as an English to speakers of other languages (TESL) teacher for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. I also met with a TESL teacher from Lyon County. It was interesting hearing how she serviced her English language learners.

My Delegate Assembly experience was invaluable, and I will graciously accept any invitation even as a guest for many years to come. I feel it is necessary to not only be a member of our local, state, and national education associations, but to be an active member. By attending the Delegate Assembly, I am not just paying my association dues and letting everyone else make the decisions of my associations; I am involved. I am representing my: school, county, state, and country. This summer, I look forward to a second opportunity as a delegate at the National Education Association Representative Assembly. I'll see you in Washington, D.C.



Washoe Education Association President and NEA Director Ken Buhrmann enjoys the Fourth of July fireworks display along with other delegates at the NEA Representative Assembly and Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

2008 NEA Representative Assembly and Annual Meeting

The 2008 NEA Representative Assembly and Annual Meeting took place from July 1st through July 6th in Washington D.C. 9,105 elected delegates were in attendance including 168 delegates from Nevada. Elections included adopting two Bylaw amendments and electing the following NEA officers:

President – Dennis Van Roekel

Vice President – Lily Eskelsen

Secretary-Treasurer – Becky Pringle

We also voted on the endorsement of Barack Obama for President of the United States and he addressed the delegates by a live satellite feed. Business included Resolutions, Legislative Amendments, and discussing 83 New Business Items including the passing of one presented by Tom Wellman for the Nevada Delegation addressing the repeal of Social Security Offsets (Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset.) If you are interested in further details on the 2008 NEA Representative and Annual Meeting you can click on the links at RA Action Online:

<http://www.nea.org/annualmeeting/raaction/index.html>

Next year's NEA Representative Assembly and Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California from July 1st through July 6th, 2009.

NSEA Partners Up with Gaming to Increase Education Funding

Room Tax Ballot Measures Vehicles to Secure Monies

The Nevada State Education Association has partnered up with leaders of the gaming industry to secure additional monies for K-12 public education. The proposal being put forth to increase education funding is to increase the hotel room tax by three percent. There are two different approaches to ensure this end goal is met.

A statutory initiative as well as an advisory question has been filed respectively with the Secretary of State's office and the Clark County Elections Department. Below is a description of each approach.

Statutory Initiative

NSEA, in partnership with leaders of the gaming community, filed the measures Thursday in Carson City to increase the hotel room tax. The statutory initiative filed would raise the room tax by up to 3% in the largest counties in Nevada for the support of public education.

Once we have gathered the required signatures--more than 58,000 statewide by November 1--the statutory initiative will go to the legislature in 2009.

Leaders of Nevada's most important industry and Nevada's educators have joined together to bring this issue to the legislature. We hope and expect that the legislature will act quickly to enact this initiative to support our schools.

If the legislature, for whatever reason, doesn't act on the initiative within 40 days we are confident the overwhelming public support that has been expressed for this issue will be displayed at the ballot box in 2010. This guarantees that if the legislature does not act on this proposal the voters of Nevada will have their say.

We intend to engage in a comprehensive and extensive campaign that will educate and inform voters about the initiative and the importance and logic of this solution. While we have not yet encountered any severe opposition, we will be ready for a vigorous debate.

Advisory Question

The Advisory Question filed would simply ask the voters in Clark County if they would support a 3% increase in the hotel room tax to support public education. Passage of this question would send a strong message to Nevada's legislators to support a room tax at the beginning of the legislative session. An Advisory Question will soon be filed in Washoe County that will ask voters the same question.

For additional information, please visit the NSEA website at www.nsea-nv.org. If you have any questions, please contact NSEA President Lynn Warne at lynn.warne@nsea-nv.org.

The Steps to Candidate Endorsements

The question is not should we participate in the political arena, but how do we do that? Members of NSEA long ago embraced the fact that politics affects every facet of their professional lives, and lobbying and endorsing candidates has become a regular part of our participation in the overall process.

NSEA has three types of endorsements: early endorsements, continuing support endorsements and open seat endorsements. These endorsements are finalized only after a lengthy process that involves members and leaders at the state and the local level.

Early Endorsements

At the end of the 2003 Legislative Session, we found that candidates for legislative office were coming forward at an unprecedented rate. Angered over the performance of legislators who blocked a vote on taxes, these candidates (some of whom were NSEA members) were seeking early support in their bid for office. Our hands were tied by our endorsement process because most of these candidates were in open seats and we would normally be required to wait until the close of candidate filing to even interview candidates.

The NSEA Board approved a change in policy to allow for our early consideration of candidates running in an open seat.

How does it work?

- The NSEA GR Committee may develop a list of candidates that NSEA has been working with or has recruited to run for office in open seat races. (For NSEA an "open seat" is any seat in which we do not have a previously endorsed incumbent.) This list must be completed by the end of an odd numbered year following a legislative session.
- The list of recommended candidates must be submitted to the NSEAGR Committee at its first meeting of the even numbered campaign year.
- Once the NSEA Board has approved the list, the affected NSEA affiliates are notified and they must then take the candidate through the endorsement process having them complete an interim questionnaire and an interview.
- Locals then submit any recommendations to the NSEA Board for final approval.
- If a candidate who was on the original list does not receive the endorsement, he/she can still go through the endorsement process after the candidate filing period.

Continuing Support Endorsements

Only previously endorsed incumbents are eligible to be considered for a continuing support endorsement. This type of endorsement can be given to eligible candidates fairly early in the campaign year, which means contributions can be given earlier. This helps our friends who are running for re-election.

How does it work?

- Early in the campaign year the NSEA Lobby Team reviews the performance of previously endorsed incumbents
- The Lobby Team can:
 - Send candidates a questionnaire
 - Bring candidates in for an interview
 - All of the above
 - None of the above

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- Based on all available information, the Lobby Team decides which candidates to recommend for continuing support endorsements.
- Those recommendations are sent to the appropriate locals for their concurrence.
- Local boards concur (or not) with those recommendations.
- Recommendations on which there is concurrence then go to the NSEA Board for final approval.
- Candidates are informed about the endorsement.
- If a candidate who is eligible for a continuing support endorsement does not receive the endorsement, the race is then considered to be an "open seat."

Open Seat Endorsements

For NSEA, "open seat races" are those in which there is no previously endorsed incumbent, or the previously endorsed incumbent did not receive a continuing support endorsement. The big difference between the two types of endorsements is that, when doing continuing support endorsements, we do not deal with any opponents of our previously endorsed incumbents. In open seat races, we invite *all* candidates who have filed to run to go through our endorsement process.

How does it work?

- At the close of candidate filing in May of each campaign year, we compile the list of all candidates who should be invited to participate in our endorsement process.
- The official NSEA Candidate Questionnaire is mailed to each eligible candidate with a deadline for return of the questionnaire to NSEA.
- NSEA notifies the appropriate local affiliate(s) about which candidates have completed and returned the questionnaire.
- The local affiliate(s) appoint an interview team, and candidate interviews are conducted.
- The interview team makes recommendations about which candidates to endorse to the local board(s).
- The local board(s) acts on those recommendations and sends those they have approved on to the NSEA Board, which finalizes the endorsements.
- The candidates are notified about the endorsements.

Here is a link to the NSEA Recommended Candidate List (.pdf file):

<http://www.nsea-nv.org/documents/endorsedcandidatemailngpg2revised.pdf>

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, August 12, 2008 – Primary Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 – Election Day



Skier: Ron Shevock, Photo taken by Steve Fargan

Discount Season Passes at Kirkwood

The Ormsby County Education Association and Lyon County Education Association have teamed up again to offer discounted season passes at Kirkwood. We have expanded our team to include members of any local affiliate of the Uniserv Council of Nevada, the Nevada State Education Association or the National Education Association. Kirkwood has expanded the offer to include your family, friends, and even friends of friends.

Below are some details on the best deal on an unrestricted Kirkwood 2008-2009 Network pass.

- There are no blackout dates.
- Never miss a powder day.
- Ski or ride any weekend, any holiday and never have to wait in a ticket window line.
- Kirkwood gets the deepest and driest snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Kirkwood is adding two new surface lifts for the 2008-2009 season.

Kirkwood made a few changes in the process that will make things easier for you. There no longer is a need to form quad groups and anyone (family, friends, friends of friends, etc.) can join in on the deal.

The price is only \$399* per pass!

Save up to \$200!

(Order early to get next season's pass at last season's best price.)

Valid 7 days a week with no restrictions.

IMPORTANT BONUS if you order before August 22nd:

Network Pass Benefits (valid for all network passes purchased on or before 8/22/08):

- Purchase up to 2 full day tickets per day at \$10 off Mon-Fri and \$8 off weekends and holidays.
- 10% off mid-week, non-holiday lodging rates.
- 10% off Kirkwood logo wear.

The Network Pass is not valid at Durango Mountain Resort!

You will need to login to a special secure site at Kirkwood and enter the login name and password. You can now order and pay directly online. You will receive an email receipt.

Contact [Steve Fargan](mailto:lolo@loloville.com) at: lolo@loloville.com (home e-mail) for the login name, password, and a link to the special secure Kirkwood site.

* NETWORK PASS RATES INCREASE THROUGHOUT THE FALL:

\$399 from the beginning of the sale until September 15, 2008 at 11:59pm.

\$429 from September 16 until October 15, 2008 at 11:59pm.

\$459 from October 16 until November 15, 2008 at 11:59pm.

\$499 from November 16 until sale ends at 11:59pm. on December 15th 2008.



WEA/UCN ANNUAL WILD ISLAND PICNIC

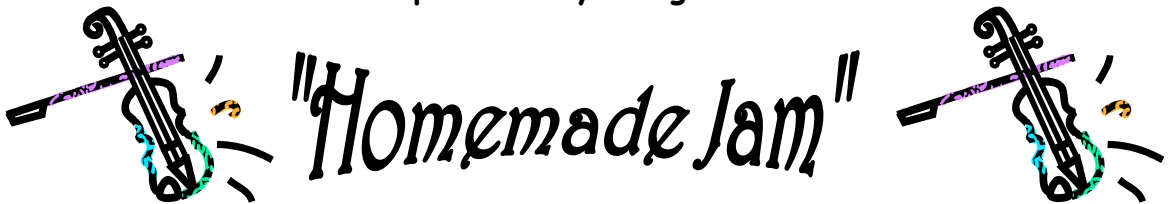
250 Wild Island Court, Sparks
Saturday, September 6th, 2008
10:00am to 7:00pm
Doors will open at 10:00



ALSO FEATURING

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Luncheon: hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, potato salad, fruit salad, cookies and soda. Available between 10:30-6:30.

Music will be provided by Bluegrass band:



Admission: \$10/person

FREE- 3 years old and younger

Groups of more than 10 people: \$15/person

Sign up with your Association Rep- We must have an accurate count by Sept. 3rd

American Fidelity, one of our endorsed companies, sponsors this event.
FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES