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*The UCN Newsletter
is published quarterly.*

The UCN Newsletter



A Message From Lynn Warne, NSEA President

NSEA has always been an outspoken advocate for public education in Nevada and, as your new NSEA President, I am excited about continuing this work as we tackle the challenges confronting us and seek new opportunities to better serve our members around the state.

One of our greatest challenges is membership, both recruiting and retaining our members. I offer you my support in our effort to increase our membership. Additionally, I am committed to improving the relationships the NSEA has with its members, though improved communications and additional resources.

I want to make myself available to you so that you can obtain the goals you have for the upcoming year. Don't hesitate to contact through e-mail or call me in the Reno or Las Vegas offices. I welcome your input and look forward to serving you and all our members.

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First Time Delegate

By Curtis Ferlisi

I arrived in Philadelphia as a Nevada Delegate to the 145th Annual Meeting and celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the National Education Association. While registering, I was told over 9,000 delegates from across the United States would be in attendance. The 9,000 plus delegates would represent 3.2 million National Education members.

"This was amazing," I thought, "to be part of the largest democratic, deliberative body." I had no idea of the magnitude of the Representative Assembly until Monday morning when all the delegates gathered into one room in the Philadelphia Convention Center. Cheers swelled the auditorium as NEA president Reg Weaver addressed the delegates.

"First time?" the lady next to me asked.

"How could you tell?" I responded.

"The look on your face says it all."

During a morning state caucus meeting, I left my seat and spoke at a microphone to make a motion to oppose a new business item that would make a raise in association dues permanent. However my argument contained inaccurate information and I was corrected immediately. As I returned to my seat embarrassed, several delegates from Carson City congratulated me on my first time up at the microphone so I felt a little more at ease. A few days later, I returned to the microphone to make a motion to support New Business Item 76. NBI 76 proposed that NEA should provide 21st century technology when presenting workshops. The majority of our state's delegates voted in support of the new business item. Later, it was adopted on the floor of Representative Assembly. I was satisfied that I at least spoke about two items that had concerned me during our state caucus meetings, but there was no way I was going to speak to 9,000 plus delegates or so I thought.

On the last day of Representative Assembly I was asked to speak in support of New Business Item 89 which encouraged NEA to support Chess programs to be included in the school curriculum. I did not want to write a speech to 9,000 plus delegates, so I agreed to yield my microphone to Steve Fargan.

"Curtis Ferlisi, Nevada, in support of New Business Item 89, I yield my microphone to Steve Fargan at microphone number..." I said over and over in my head. I didn't want to embarrass myself. Unfortunately debate on the new business item was closed before I had a chance to speak. Then to my disappointment New Business Item 89 was defeated.

Representative Assembly ended at 9:34 P.M. on Thursday, July 5. Many thought we would be there all night in order to finish business. In just four days we had debated and voted on all: Constitution and Bylaw changes, Resolutions, 95 New Business Items, and the budget for the new fiscal year. Also, we voted on new NEA officers, witnessed many presentations, and listened to many special guest including actor Richard Dreyfuss and eight 2008 presidential candidates.

"Wow!" I thought. "This process really works!" I certainly desire to become a returning delegate to Representative Assembly like many of the other delegates. Maybe next time I will get a chance to speak on the floor.

Representative Assembly Report

from your NEA Directors, Ken Buhrmann and Tom Wellman

Representative Assembly took place this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 2 thru July 5, 2007. Eight UCN members traveled to Philadelphia to take part in one of the largest democratic assemblies in the world. Approximately 10,000 representatives from all fifty states and the U.S. territories took part in this convention.

During the Representative Assembly, also known simply as RA, all Presidential candidates were invited to speak to the delegates. The following eight accepted the NEA's invitation to speak to the assembly: Clinton, Edwards, Kucinich, Dodd, Biden, Richardson, Obama, and Huckabee - the lone Republican. These Presidential hopefuls spoke on issues ranging from No Child Left Behind reauthorization, funding and finance, educators' rights, school voucher programs to a respect for all public school educators! It was very exciting to see and listen to these candidates. For complete details regarding New Business Items and other actions at NEA RA, log onto www.nea.org.

The constitutional amendment to allow "associate" membership to individuals outside of education failed to receive the 3/4ths majority and therefore did not pass. The issue of increasing NEA dues to help build up a fund to fight anti-education initiatives - like Nevada's TASC initiative - passed.

Your NEA directors, Tom Wellman and Ken Buhrmann, submitted a New Business Item, #51, to the assembly that was passed. This NBI will provide money for grass root efforts in all states that are affected by GPO/WEP (Social Security Off-Set tax). This money is to be used to educate members on the negative impact it has on retirement and to support lobby efforts on Capital Hill to have congress repeal this unfair law.

It was a very successful RA! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Nevada RA delegate or your NEA Directors, Ken Buhrmann or Tom Wellman.

Next year's RA will be held in Washington DC and should prove to be very exciting. Remember, it is a Presidential election year! Please think about running for a position on the UCN RA team representing local members at this national convention that does the business of NEA and its members. Contact any of your UCN officers for more information on how and when to run for RA 2008.

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.

Submit your articles to:

Steve Fargan

UCN Newsletter Editor

3675 Slate Road

Wellington, NV 89444 Or Email: loloville@loloville.com

2007 National Education Association's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly By The Numbers

By Steve Fargan, UCN Communications Vice-President, Lyon County Education Association President, and Elected Delegate to Representative Assembly.

3,200,000 – Number of NEA members.

28,000 – Number of NSEA members.

8,779 – Number of delegates in attendance.

7,974 – Number of non-delegates in attendance.

16,753 – Combined total in attendance.

157 – Number of delegates from Nevada.

150 – Number of years since the founding of NEA (This took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 26, 1857.)

145 – Number of annual meetings since the founding of NEA.

86 – Number of Representative Assemblies since the founding of NEA.

6 – Number of days for the 145th Annual Meeting and 86th Representative Assembly (June 30 – July 5, 2007.)

4 – Number of NEA Officers elected (Christy Levings of Kansas and Paula Monroe of California were elected to the Executive Committee. Laura Montgomery of Arkansas is beginning her term as president of the National Council for Educational Support Professionals. Jim Rice of Massachusetts is the new president of the National Council for Higher Education.)

5 – Number of Board of Directors ESP At-Large who were elected (Judy Near, Janis Eggert, Ruthie Wright, Lois Yukna, and Chuck Thompson.)

1 – Number of Constitutional Amendments on the ballot.

0 – Number of Constitutional Amendments passed.

5 – Number of Bylaw Amendments on the ballot.

4 - Number of Bylaw Amendments passed.

8 – Number of Amendments to NEA Standing Rules proposed.

4 – Number of Amendments to NEA Standing Rules adopted.

19 – Number of Legislative Amendments proposed.

12 - Number of Legislative Amendments adopted.

98 – Number of New Business Items.

67 – Number of New Business Items Adopted or Referred to Committee (52 Adopted, 15 Referred to Committee.)

3 – Number of New Business Items submitted by members of the Nevada Delegation (One by Thomas F. Wellman and two by Bob Muñoz.)

3 – Number of New Business Items submitted by members of the Nevada Delegation that were adopted (NBI 51, NBI 75, and NBI 77.)

8 – Number of 2008 Presidential Candidates who address the NEA Representative Assembly. The candidates are Senator Joe Biden (D-DE), Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CN), Former Senator John Edwards (D-NC), Former Governor Mike Huckabee (R-AR), Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), and Governor Bill Richardson (D-NM).

If you would like further details on the 2007 National Education Association's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly go to this page on NEA's website:

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



Skier: Ron Shevock, Photo taken by Steve Fargan

Discount Season Passes at Kirkwood

First, a little background history. Over the past seven years the Ormsby County Education Association and Lyon County Education Association have teamed up to offer discounted season passes at Kirkwood. We expanded our team to include members of any local affiliate of the Nevada State Education Association or the National Education Association.

Now Kirkwood has expanded the offer to include your family, friends, and even friends of friends.

Here are some details (2007-2008 rates) on the best deal on an unrestricted Kirkwood 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. This is much better than the restricted discount passes offered by other resorts in that you can use your Kirkwood pass during school holidays (which often offer some of the best winter snow conditions.)

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.

Here is the deal:

The price is only \$399 per pass!

(This is \$70 off their already great early purchase price)

Use it just six days and it's paid for.

The pass also includes up to 5 discounts on lift tickets for friends, an optional upgrade to include cross-country skiing, and more great benefits.

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 be get an email receipt.

The deadline to order is August 20th.

Contact [Steve Fargan](#) for the login name, password, and a link to the special secure Kirkwood site.

To get your 2007-2008 discounted season pass at Kirkwood contact Steve Fargan at:
lolo@loloville.com (home e-mail)

WEA ANNUAL WILD WATERS PICNIC



**250 Wild Island Court, Sparks
Saturday, September 8th, 2007
10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Doors will open at 10:00 am**

FEATURING

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Style Luncheon: hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken,
potato salad, fruit salad, cookies and soda.

The barbecue will be available from 10:30 - 6:30

The wristbands being provided will allow participants to enjoy the other park attractions for \$3.25 (normal prices range from \$5 to \$7).

Music will be provided by Bluegrass band: *"HOMEMADE JAM"*

Admission: \$5.00

FREE- 3 years old and younger

Sign up with your Association Rep. We must have an accurate count by September 5th.

American Fidelity, one of our endorsed companies, sponsors this event.

FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES