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The UCN Newsletter



WEA President Ken Buhrmann and UCN President Jennifer Tartan

WEA ANNUAL WILD WATERS PICNIC

The Wild Waters Picnic was held on Saturday, September 8th, 2007 at Wild Island Court in Sparks, Nevada. (continued on page 2)

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WEA ANNUAL WILD WATERS PICNIC (continued from page 1)



UCN President Jennifer Tartan enjoying the wave pool

Approximately 3500 members and their families were in attendance. This is the second year that the Washoe Education Association has invited members of Uniserv Council of Nevada affiliates to join in on the fun. Close to 800 members and their families were from UCN. Besides the waterslides, wave pool, and live blue grass music by “Homemade Jam,” everyone also enjoyed an All-You-Can-Eat barbeque Luncheon including hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, potato salad, fruit salad, cookies and soda. In fact 750 pounds of potato salad was consumed. An admission cost of only \$5.00 (3 years old and younger were free) made this an affordable membership benefit. We hope that you can attend this fun event next year.



Your UCN Communications Vice-President and newsletter editor, Steve Fargan

The Nevada Presidential Caucus and the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind

Caucus voter turnout activities to further lobbying efforts

Congratulations Nevada! You have been chosen to host an early 2008 presidential caucus. But what does that mean? And what does that mean for members of the Nevada State Education Association? Well, for starters, the state of Nevada will soon become the center of attention for many people in the state and across the United States.

The media frenzy will place voters—meaning you—in a position of power, making the state a national contender in determining the next president.

When connecting the caucus to public education, voter activity will be critical. The caucus will offer you a chance to influence presidential candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties, bringing a central piece of education legislation to the forefront—the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as No Child Left Behind.)

So what is a caucus?

The caucus in itself is not a new concept since Nevada voters have been using it since the 1960 to select presidential candidates.

What makes the Nevada Presidential Caucus different is that it's being held early, which will have an impact on who the Democratic and Republican Party chooses as its presidential nominee.

What does this have to do with public education teachers and education support professionals?

The next U.S. President will have a huge voice in shaping the single most important piece of legislation for children and public schools—the Elementary and Secondary Education Act /No Child Left Behind.

What's at Play?

Regardless of party affiliation, it is important to get involved from the beginning. It is an important first step because we have to pick presidential candidates that represent Nevada's interests.

And with Nevada now in a position to show its strength, presidential candidates from both parties are going to want to listen.

The caucus process starts from the ground up—with everyday citizens becoming involved, deciding on a candidate and selecting delegates to represent them in county, district, state, and national caucus conventions.

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The Nevada Presidential Caucus and the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (continued from page 3)

Here's how the Nevada Democratic Party Caucus works:

- The Nevada Democratic Presidential Caucus will be held on January 19, 2008. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. at more than 1,000 sites throughout Nevada.
- Participants sign in and their names are checked against the voter rolls.
- People not registered to vote, non-partisans, Republicans, and other non-Democrats may register as Democrats at the door.
- Caucus-goers will divide into groups based on who they support and a vote will be taken. Votes can be cast a numbers of ways, including raising hands, a sign-in sheet, or by casting ballots. All votes are public.
- Any candidate who receives less than 15 percent of the vote will be disqualified. Their supporters then must pick a different candidate or remain uncommitted.
- Once all participants have committed to candidates receiving 15 percent or more, the results are reported to the state headquarters. The state headquarters will tabulate all the results from across the state and come up with one final vote.
- From there, each precinct proportionally assigns county delegates for each candidate. The delegates will later attend the county convention on February 23, 2008; and select new delegates to represent them at the state convention on April 18-19, 2008 in Reno, Nevada.
- The delegates from the district and state will eventually have an opportunity to represent the state's interest at the National Democratic Convention in Denver, Colorado from August 25 through August 28, 2008. Their votes for delegates will determine Nevada's preferred candidate for president.
- Participants who have resolutions for the Democratic Party Platform will turn them in to the caucus chair.

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The Nevada Presidential Caucus and the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (continued from page 4)

Here's how the Nevada Republican Party Caucus works:

- The Nevada Republican Presidential Caucus will be held on January 19, 2008. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. in approximately 500 sites throughout Nevada.
- Participants sign in and their names are checked against the voter rolls.
- Participants must be registered Republicans 30 days before the caucus.
- Attendees will participate in a "straw poll" by casting their vote for their preferred presidential candidate.
- In Clark County there will be election of delegates to the county convention. It is unknown if delegates will be elected in other parts of the state.
- The dates of the county and state convention are still to be determined.
- The delegates from the district and state will eventually have an opportunity to represent the state's interest at the National Republican Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota from September 1 through September 4, 2008. Their votes for delegates will determine Nevada's preferred candidate for president.
- No resolutions will be accepted at the caucus.

What does the caucus mean for the reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB?

Becoming involved in the state's presidential caucuses gives you the opportunity to discuss the issues most important to students and the teaching profession.

With the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act up for reauthorization this year, the state's caucuses gives voters, including educators, a chance to lobby all candidates to publicly support the positive changes proposed by the National Education Association.

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The Nevada Presidential Caucus and the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (continued from page 5)

Here's what NEA has recommended:

- Use of more than test scores to measure student learning and school performance, which includes multiple measures of student learning and school effectiveness instead of the current one-day snapshot based solely on standardized tests.
- Reduce class size to help students learn. Through the reauthorization, there is an opportunity to restore the class size reduction program.
- Increase the number of highly qualified teachers in Nevada public schools by providing financial incentives to teachers who teach in hard to staff schools; all teachers who have achieved certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards should be deemed as "highly qualified;" and provide flexibility for teachers of multiple subjects, including special education and rural educators.

Having access to presidential candidates who are willing to listen is Nevada's window of opportunity to inform them of NEA's recommendations.

For more information on the Nevada caucuses or to get involved, send a message to educatorsvote@nea-nv.org.

**Weingarten Rights
(Right To Representation)**

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my Association representative be present at the meeting."

If you have any work-related problems, follow these guidelines:

1. Do not resign or abandon your work location.
2. All communication with your Association is strictly confidential.
3. Document, in writing, the incident.
4. Keep any records that relate to the incident.
5. Representation is strongly advised.
6. Timeliness is important—don't delay.
7. Use your contract as your guide.
8. Follow orders unless there is potential for personal injury—you can grieve the orders later.
9. Call your UniServ Director for help.

2008 UCN Elections

2008 will be a big year for UCN elections. Three UCN officers, one NSEA Board member, and three NEA Representative Assembly delegates will be elected next year.

Please refer to the table below.

UCN ELECTED POSITIONS AND TIMELINES

Position	Term	Term Limit	Current Holder	Term Beginning	Term Ending	Term No.
President	2 years	3 terms	Jennifer Tartan	2006	2008	1 st
Vice-President/ Treasurer	2 years	3 terms	Gaylea Manning	2006	2008	2 nd
Vice-President/ Communications	2 years	3 terms	Steve Fargan	2006	2008	1 st
NSEA Board Region A	3 years	2 consecutive terms	Gaylea Manning	2005	2008	2 nd
NSEA Board Region B	3 years	2 consecutive terms	Sherry Grund	2006	2009	2 nd
NSEA Board Region C	3 years	2 consecutive terms	Susan Lacey	2007	2010	1 st
RA Region A	2 years	N/A	Gaylea Manning	2006	2008	N/A
RA Region B	2 years	N/A	Sherry Grund	2006	2008	N/A
RA Region C	2 years	N/A	Vacant/ Curtis Ferlisi	2006/ (2007)	2008	N/A

All of the positions highlighted in blue will be up for election in 2008. If you are interested in any of the above positions, or know of anyone you would like to nominate for a position, you may do so at the February 9, 2008 UCN meeting or you may return a nomination form by mail.

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.

Submit your articles to:

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

Or

Email: loloville@loloville.com