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Useful Communications and News

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

Ready or Not-Elections 2012 are Here

(From the NSEA-Retired Newsletter, Warren Wish, NSEA-Retired President)

Ready or not the elections of 2012 are right around the corner. Political ads are already blasting across television screens and more are on the way. Nevada is considered to be a swing state – each party will be searching for votes – you can expect lots of negative campaigning. Even though the economic crisis has worldwide proportions, it is particularly felt by Nevada's unemployed and families in foreclosure. Already, fingers have pointed at teachers, public employees and retirees for earning too much and receiving too many "entitlements".

In July, 2011 the NEA Representative Assembly met in Chicago, Ill; and teacher and ESP leaders from across the nation overwhelmingly approved an early endorsement of President Obama as the first step in the upcoming election battle.

Many delegates opposed elements of the President's educational policy: "Race to the Top", merit pay, and charter schools. Others wanted Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan replaced. Ultimately, the decision was based on the fact that more than any other candidate, the President is the only one who believes every child should have a quality education in a great public school.

The 2012 national elections will be momentous for many other reasons. Across the country, Republican candidates are campaigning for Senate and Congressional offices on a platform of spending reduction without increasing revenue. What is not being widely talked about is the Republican Party's endorsement of federally funded school vouchers, opposition to collective bargaining for public employees, repeal of health care reform, changing defined benefit pensions into defined contribution plans, and emasculating major parts of Medicare and Social Security.

In Nevada, the political races are especially critical. The Senate race between Republican Dean Heller and Democrat Shelley Berkley will in large measure determine whether the U.S. Senate retains its Democrat majority and holds off passage of the Republican's economic agenda. So too, the Nevada Congressional races in District 2 between Kate Marshall (D) and Mark Amodei (R) and the open seat in Congressional District I will help determine whether the House of Representatives continues to have a very conservative Republican majority.

In the 2010 elections, across the country many teachers and retirees voted for what they thought were moderate Republican candidates. We all know how shocked Wisconsin teachers were by Republican Governor Scott Walker's frontal assault against unions, collective bargaining and cuts to public education. Less widely known is how New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (R) worked to severely underfund teacher pensions or how Texas Governor Rick Perry made massive cuts to public schools. Many of NSEA's own members voted for Governor Sandoval. His pleasant demeanor carefully shielded a stealthy approach to balancing the state budget by making huge cuts to public schools, the university system, and programs for seniors and the disadvantaged.

The 2012 election will be all about our country's vision for the future. Will the leaders of America work together to strengthen our economy to benefit all and not just the wealthiest? Will America strengthen its public schools or continue to move towards privatization? Will every child in America have the opportunity for a good education? Will America insure affordable health care and safeguard Social Security for seniors and people with disabilities? And will America remain a land with a large productive middle class – working, saving, and optimistic about the future for generations to come?

Contribute to the NEA Crisis Response Fund

(From the NSEA-Retired Newsletter, Warren Wish, NSEA-Retired President)

Attacks against public education, public employees and public programs have mushroomed to enormous proportions around the country. In almost fifty states, the NEA has been asked to help fight multi-pronged attacks funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, the Tea Party, and others with an extremist agenda. Responding to these media attacks takes money. Here in Nevada, the NEA recently made a sizeable grant and helped NSEA respond to Governor's proposed funding cuts and anti-teacher legislative agenda.

Beginning this year, all active NEA members will be assessed an additional \$10 a year to establish a crisis response fund. Retirees can also contribute by sending a check for \$10 or more to the NSEA on behalf of the NEA Crisis Response Fund. Though we are retired, we can still contribute to the fight to protect public education.

Update: Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System

(From the NSEA-Retired Newsletter, Warren Wish, NSEA-Retired President)

Fiscal year 2011 continued a path of very positive gains for Nevada PERS. For the third year in a row, investment gains substantially increased. The 20.8% increase for the fiscal year was an historic high. Today, PERS has over 25.2 billion dollars in assets.

For the past 28 years, PERS' investments have generated an annualized return of 9.6%. This far exceeds the annual 8% investment objective.

PERS continues to be on schedule to reduce its unfunded liability over the course of the next 25 years.

Nevada PERS remains a national leader in maximizing investment gain and limiting market risk. PERS has a conservative investment philosophy and believes that preserving capital in down markets is just as important as increasing assets in up markets.

2012 UCN Elections

In 2012 the following UCN offices/positions will be up for election:

- UCN President (2 year term)
- UCN Vice President/Treasurer (2 year term)
- UCN Vice President/Communications (2 year term)
- UCN Delegate to NEA Representative Assembly Region A (2 year term)
- UCN Delegate to NEA Representative Assembly Region B (2 year term)
- UCN Delegate to NEA Representative Assembly Region C (2 year term)
- Region B seat on NSEA Board of Directors (3 year term)



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 2011-2012 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.

The price is currently only \$329* per pass!

(Order early to get next season's pass at a lower price.)

Network Pass Benefits: 2 per day \$10 off buddy tickets on weekends and holidays (\$20 off midweek), 20% off Sun-Friday lodging, 10% off logo items and pass holder pricing at ShopKirkwood.com.

Greetings! As your 11/12 Kirkwood Network Pass Representative, I'm happy to share with you this sale price of just \$299* - the lowest of the season and the best deal anywhere, anytime on a full, every day, all day, unrestricted winter of Tahoe's best skiing and riding! Take advantage of this early-bird deal and purchase using the login below:

Network Log In: **fargan**

Network Password: **kirkwood68**

Purchase Your Pass Here:

<http://www.kirkwood.com/networkpass>

or

<https://skikirkwood.com/e-commerce/grpLogin2.aspx>

*The next scheduled increase on the Network Pass rates is September 7th. Final Network Pass price is \$499.

Contact [Steve Fargan](mailto:lolo@loloville.com) at: lolo@loloville.com (home e-mail) if you have any questions.

WEA/UCN ANNUAL WILD ISLAND PICNIC



**250 Wild Island Court, Sparks
Saturday, September 10th, 2011
10:00 to 7:00
Doors will open at 10:00**

We have reserved the whole park for association members and their families to enjoy!

Come out for the wave pool and water slides, Miniature Golf and Indy Cars, Bowling and High Ballocity!

FEATURING

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

The buffet will be available from 10:30 – 6:30.

**Music will be provided by Bluegrass band:
“HOMEMADE JAM”**

Admission: \$10/person

(Admission includes entry to all park attractions, tube rental, and the all-you-can-eat buffet.)

FREE- 3 years old and younger

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

Sign up with your Building Rep

We must have your local's RSVP (including total number of guests) by September 6th!

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

FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

*Because we subsidize a large portion of this event, a single member bringing more than ten people with them pays more per ticket to help cover the cost of admission. Remember, if you sign up, you are expected to pay and show up.