



# The Tutorial Enterprise

An affiliate of NSEA and NEA

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## LCEA Announces Mini-Grant Recipients

A committee was formed to review applications for awarding the 2008 LCEA Mini-Grants. We are pleased to announce the following recipients will receive grant money to be spent in their classrooms. Congratulations!

- Eldawna Koch/Christy Saul, EVES
- Rachel Leach, SSMS
- Barbara Myers, DIS/SES
- Charlene Neville, SSMS
- Vivian Olds, FES
- Anna Priess, FES
- Heather Rogaczewski, SVS
- Brad Rowe, SVS
- Donna Sciarani, YES
- Debbie Sutherland, FES

Dear L.C.E.A.,

Thank you so much for awarding me your grant of \$200.00. I have already sent off my orders for science materials for my classroom. Both my students and I will benefit from this.

It really means a lot to be acknowledged by our peers; something that NCLB has never taken into account. Teaching is a human art; not one based on facts and testing. Exploration, discovery, and interest are what make a classroom work.

I recently was nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Your grant will enable me to pursue this nomination.

Again, thank you from all of my students and me!

Vivian Olds  
5th Grade Teacher  
Fernley Elementary School

## The Cat in the Hat Gets Around Lyon County!

On March 3 Dayton Elementary School was taken by storm by a peculiar looking fellow in a tux and tall hat with stripes. Many of us know this man as Steve Fargan, but DES students refer to him as the "Cat in the Hat."

Without any notice to Mr. Steve (so he couldn't change his mind) we set up a stage, microphone and invited the school to see and hear this annual event. We had about 150 Kindergarten through fifth grade students witness this excellent example of voice and charisma.

Thank you, Mr. Steve, on a job well done! We give you 100% engagement while completing our T4S forms; you made it mandatory for all students throughout the learning every 2 minutes! Thanks for all you do!

Mr. Fargan read to many students in classrooms throughout Lyon County on March 3rd in celebration of Read Across America week, an NEA sponsored event.



Steve Fargan  
LCEA President  
Yerington Elementary School/  
Yerington Intermediate School  
lcea@lcea-nv.org

Valerie Friskey  
LCEA Vice President/  
Grievance Chairperson  
Dayton Elementary School

Jane Claar  
LCEA Secretary  
Fernley Elementary School

Dick Mesna  
LCEA Treasurer  
Silver Stage High School

Lyon County Education Association  
www.lcea-nv.org

Uniserv Council of Nevada  
www.ucn-nv.org

Nevada State Education Association  
www.nsea-nv.org

National Education Association  
www.nea.org

**Next LCEA Meeting:  
Thurs., April 17,  
2:45 p.m., SSES**  
*(note the earlier start time in order to begin after the LCSD Best Practices Fair)*  
**All are welcome to attend.**

The Lyon County Education Association newsletter is published monthly during the school year.

Newsletter submissions are due by the 10th of each month. Articles, questions, and comments can be directed to:

Summer Kay  
summerkay@sbcglobal.net

## More LCEA Mini-Grant Thank You Letters

Dear Mr. Fargan and LCEA,

First of all, thank you for visiting us to come and read to my kindergarten class. As part of the Read Across America, it is great that you were able to come and share your time with us. They enjoyed you being there.

Next, thank you for the mini-grant that I was awarded. I have already placed an order for math literature to be used in my class. I feel it will really be beneficial when introducing a new concept and for students to enjoy on their own as well.

Thanks again,  
Cari Bunyard

Dear LCEA,

Thank you so much for the mini-grant to purchase music books! I am in the process of choosing which ones to buy. These books will serve over 100 students each day! With budget cuts and the expense of each book, this grant will allow me to purchase at least 15 books that are needed right now in my music program. Thank you so much!

Deb Sutherland M.S.  
Music Teacher  
Fernley Elementary School

Dear LCEA,

Thank you so much for the generous mini-grant funds. We will be purchasing the book, Patty Reed's Doll. It is a great novel about the hardships endured during the entire journey of the Donner Party. We had already purchased a workbook and a replica of "Dolly" for each class.

EIDawna Koch and Christy Saul  
East Valley Elementary

Thank you LCEA for the Mini Grant.

I have used it to purchase a 3-in-1 printer, scanner, and copier, ink, and cable to attach it to my school computer.

I am hoping to set up eportfolios for my math students. I will be using the scanner to scan my math students' work and pictures into their eportfolios. I am hoping to give the students and their parents another form of assessment of their work in my class.

Thank you again for the Mini Grant it was greatly appreciated.

Charlene Neville

## 2008 NEA Pacific Regional Leadership President's Report

*Submitted by Steve Fargan, LCEA President*

I attended the NEA Pacific Regional Leadership Conference in Boise, Idaho, the weekend of February 15-17, 2006.

On Friday night I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker, NEA President, Reg Weaver, with his motivational speaking style, addressing all of those in attendance and getting us off to a great start.

On Saturday I attended three sessions. Two sessions were held Saturday morning and one session was held Saturday afternoon.

The first session I attended on Saturday morning was "Campaign 2008: We Elect to Impact the Future." This session had two presenters from NEA, John Outcalt and Mary Jane Cobb. I was impressed with the amount of effort and the attention to detail that NEA is putting forth in the upcoming Presidential, Congressional, and Gubernatorial races.

"ESEA Update: Will "No Child Left Behind" be Left Behind?" was the second morning session I attended. This session had three presenters, Theresa Montaño, NEA Director, Higher Education, California, Joel Packer, director, NEA Education Policy and Practice, and Becky Pringle, chair, NEA ESEA Advisory Committee. They went over the efforts put forth by NEA concerning the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the reasons why it may not be done until after the 2008 election, and addressed questions and concerns from the members in attendance.

Saturday afternoon I attended "Using Read Across America as a Member Organizing Tool." This session had three presenters, Janice Auld, NEA Board of Directors, California, Anita Merina, NEA Public Relations, and Karle Warren, NEA Board of Directors, Washington. This session was full of great ideas, resources and participants sharing activities they have had success in. We also received many Dr. Seuss items. I used and shared many of these during my Read Across America school visits in Lyon County on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On Sunday morning I attended the NEA Legislative Hearing. During this hearing I submitted the following request:

*I would appreciate hearing back from NEA about the effects of the Obey/Porter Act (requiring "scientific" research-based reading programs in Title I schools.) I am greatly concerned when the companies (i.e. Success For All, etc.)*

*receive federal funding to provide research on the effectiveness and selection of programs while they ALSO sell these programs that are often paid for with federal funds. This is a conflict of interest that needs to be addressed.*

I also met and had discussions with many other teachers from the eight states of the Pacific Region throughout the weekend.

I appreciate the opportunity I was given in being able to attend the NEA Pacific Regional Leadership Conference. I would be happy to share more details about the conference with interested teachers.

## 2008 NEA Pacific Regional Leadership Attendee Reports

*Submitted by Lori Sundblad, LCEA Association Representative*

I had a wild time in touring Boise, the conference of course. I met many people and had many interesting conversations. One meeting session I attended was, "Can't We All Just Get Along? Understanding the Generations," by Kimberly Anderson. Most of her information was from William Strauss's work.

We began with a discussion about text messaging. What is the world coming to...? No actually we discussed the various forms of text messaging which have been around for years; personalized license plates and a book by William Steig (1961) "C D B!" were two good examples. This messaging isn't new, just a different form!

In case you are wondering what generation you are from, I will give you a brief breakdown: Baby Boomers (1943-1960), Generation X (1961-1981) and Millennial (1982-?). There are many others but this ought to cover most of us! Boomers are craft idealists, individualists that resist authoritarianism. Boomers may complain about their jobs, but consider dissatisfaction as part of the deal. Work is a life mission. The educational endowments boomers are known for are accountability, zero tolerance in schools and small learning communities.

Meanwhile Xers see work as a means to a life mission. They do not waste time complaining, but start sending out their resumes! They adapt to changes in culture, family and society. Xers want you to tell me what you want and I will get you there my way. This group's educational endowments are school choice, home schooling, multimedia technologies and multicultural melting pots. They are skeptics that are comfortable with change!

Last but not least is millennial generation who are beginning to join the work force. They are from the most child-centric time in our history. As a result they display a great deal of self-confidence. They like to work collaboratively, creatively, promote values and protect and enhance children. Work is discovery or nothing! They prefer instantaneous feedback. They have no educational endowments yet—give them time!

I think I could have looked over the varying views of the generations for a much longer period than an hour and a half but they kicked me out of the room! We all are working together in the workforce, understanding the various generations and their thinking could be invaluable. History creates generations because younger people are shaped by events; generations create history because older people direct the course of events! We are all in this together, arrgghh.

*Submitted by Val Friskey, LCEA Vice President*

As usual, there were a lot of excellent speakers at the Pacific Regional in Boise this year. One of the keynote speakers on Saturday was Dr. Donna Beegle, a National Poverty Expert from experience and research.

Here are a few of the facts she shared with us. Although some progress has been made in lessening the educational barriers of race, gender, geography and religion, according to research from 1993, poverty is the one barrier that has not even been partially overcome.

Often students of poverty believe that outsiders perceived poverty to be their fault. They often felt that elementary and high school teachers didn't care. Most had not had any teachers who had protected them or reached out to them. The children felt their teachers "didn't know what to do with kids like them."

Mentor support early in life was linked with those who were more likely to obtain a college degree. Some suggestions given besides mentors were:

1. Rethink homework assignments. Asking a single mom with a sixth grade education and three children to spend an hour reading or helping with homework is unrealistic.
2. Suspend judgment of parent behavior.

