

The Tutorial Enterprise

An affiliate of NSEA and NEA

Steve Fargan, President
Jane Claar, Secretary

Valerie Friskey, Vice President
Dick Mesna, Treasurer

Volume 29, Issue 1

September 2007

Informative PERS Presentation Scheduled for the October 17th LCEA Meeting

LCEA will be hosting a PERS presentation at its regular meeting on October 17, 2007. Sonja Hellwinkle, PERS counselor, will be giving a workshop for all LCEA members beginning at 4:30 pm in the Silver Stage High School Library.

Ms. Hellwinkle will be explaining the PERS retirement planning options to active members at that time. Since PERS does not have anything to do with the Nevada State Health Insurance (PEBS), she will not be able to answer questions pertaining to PEBS.

LCEA needs to have an accurate count of those members who are interested in attending this meeting. Please RSVP to your school's building rep by October 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Leanna Ogle at Yerington Elementary School. A flyer will be sent to your building reps with information about this presentation.

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



LCEA Officers and Building Representatives attended the 2007 NSEA Summer Leadership Training. Pictured left to right are: Sandy Gustafson, Dick Mesna, Valerie Friskey, Susan Elson, Steve Fargan, Celia Higgins, Jane Claar, Summer Kay, and Charlene Neville.

NSEA Summer Leadership Training

The 2007 WEA (Washoe Education Association)/UCN (Uniserv Council of Nevada)/NSEA (Nevada State Education Association) Summer Leadership Conference was held at the Carson Valley Inn, August 1-3, 2007.

Nine delegates from LCEA attended and benefited from informative presentations, learning about actions of the recent legislative session, PERS, effective building representation, AB521, and many other exciting topics. In addition, the Nevada Democratic Caucus presented a workshop detailing their efforts in preparation for the Nevada caucus to be held January 19, 2008. All NSEA members are encouraged to participate in state Democratic and Republican Caucuses next year. Contact your political party for more information.

Nevada State Education Association Goals

Courtesy of NSEA Web Site

Now in its 119th year of existence, the Association serves as representative to more than 28,000 members in one of the fastest growing organizations within the NEA family.

The primary mission of NSEA is to advocate the professional rights and economic security of its members, while serving as the prominent voice for excellence in public education in Nevada.

The Nevada State Education Association represents the state's teachers and education support professionals. Educating children is what we know, what we do, and what matters most to us. This is why NSEA has developed the Quality Schools Plan, a solid strategy and a bold vision that outlines how new education resources will improve student achievement in our state.

With support from all Nevadans, we can help students succeed by meeting four critical goals--enhance student learning, provide quality teaching, promote parental involvement, and increase student accountability.

The organization is extremely active in promoting opportunities for professional awareness, growth, and empowerment. The NSEA is a leader not only in the political arena, but in the professional development area as well. The NSEA takes pride in serving as a well-balanced, democratic organization which attempts to serve the best interests of its members while meeting the needs of the students they teach and the communities they serve.

An outline of seven strategic NSEA goals exemplifies the balance, determination, and the commitment of the Association to education excellence.

The NSEA is adding to its storied history every day. For more information about the NSEA, visit their web site at www.nsea.org or call 1-800-248-6732.

New School Year Tips and Tricks

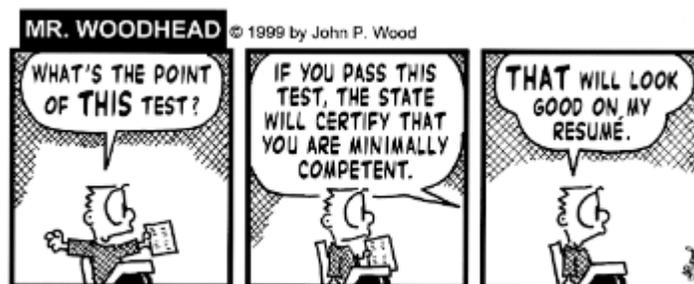
Courtesy of NSEA Web Site

Birthday Cards

From Sue Kast, a fifth grade teacher at Vintage Hills in Pleasanton, California:

"I have my students get to know each other by making birthday cards. They sit in groups and design a card for the person across from them. They have to find out what hobbies that person enjoys, books they like to read, places they have been to and design a cover for a birthday card accordingly. The card must have the student's name, a greeting and their date of birth. I keep the stack by the classroom calendar and post the birthdates. When someone's birthday comes up, the card gets passed around the room for everyone to sign. I give it to the birthday student on their special day along with a birthday pencil. We make up a half birthday for those who were born during the summer. The students who do not celebrate birthdays receive a greeting card during a month when there are no birthdays. This makes handling birthdays much simpler. The kids love to read their cards and know that they are celebrated and appreciated."

**Next LCEA Meeting:
Oct. 17, 4:15 p.m., SSHS
All are welcome to attend.**



What is the Impasse Process?

*Contributed by Randy Cahill,
Organizational Specialist, NSEA*

As the chief spokesman for LCEA in this year's negotiations, I believe that most LCEA members do not understand the process when one party or the other declares that "impasse" has been reached in negotiations. Impasse is a fancy word for "we're getting nowhere at this time". Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 288 defines impasse and the resulting rules for conducting an "interest arbitration". An interest arbitration may be held after impasse is declared. There has to be a minimum of four negotiations meetings before impasse may be declared. LCEA declared the 2007-2008 negotiations to be at impasse in September 2007. Interest arbitrations are hearings conducted by an Arbitrator who is an unbiased third party. LCEA is the moving party in this case and therefore it has the burden of proof to show: 1) The District has the available funds to pay for its proposals, and 2) to demonstrate the "reasonableness" of its proposals. Reasonableness is non-specific but generally it means: "How do our proposals

compare with what is happening in the sixteen other Nevada school districts and can a need for a change be shown?"

It will be up to your authorized LCEA Negotiations Team to decide what issues will proceed to arbitration. As LCEA proceeds to interest arbitration, the District has shown a willingness to engage in "post-impasse bargaining". The LCEA Negotiations Team accepted this offer and there will be at least one more negotiations meeting between LCEA and the District. The Team is optimistic that negotiations can be concluded without arbitration but realistic about the lack of progress to date. The LCEA Negotiations Team will keep you up to date on any progress during the 2007-2008 negotiations.

