



An affiliate of
the Arizona
Education
Association and
the National
Education
Association

Calendar of
Events



**March 2– Read
Across America**

**March 3– Education
Day at the Capitol**

**March 4– March4
Schools Action Day**

**March 11– Govern-
ing Board Meeting**

**March 15-19– Spring
Break**

**March 23–Executive
Board Meets w/
Sup't**

**March 30– Rep.
Council Meeting**

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The Voice

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Payroll Deduction Bill Passes Committee

House Bill 2395 passed in House Government Committee last week. This bill, sponsored by Representative Laurin Hendrix, will prohibit school boards from allowing Association dues to be collected through payroll deduction. House Bill 2395 takes away control from teachers' personal freedom to choose how they want the funds from their paycheck distributed and it limits teachers' abilities to make personal business decisions. This bill is another example of the legislature attacking Arizona's teachers and infringing on their rights in an attempt to punish teachers for lobbying on behalf of school funding, specifically for rallying in front of the Capitol last March 4. House Bill 2395 continues the work of the policy changes passed during special session last year that eliminated contract dates, RIF recall rights, and seniority protections for teaching professionals.

Let your Representatives know how you feel about the government telling you how you can spend your money! Go to the AEA website for contact information for your Legislative District.

Education Day at the Capitol

AEA's annual Education Day at the Capitol gives members and their guests the opportunity to gather at the capitol to meet with their legislators and ensure public school interests are a priority. Teams including Education Support Professionals, teachers, administrators, governing board members, and parents will advocate for all those who work and learn in Arizona's public schools. This is your chance to engage with legislators and let them know what your local will be doing on March 4 for the March4Schools Day of Action. Education Day at the Capitol is March 3, 2010, from 8 a.m. to early afternoon. Next month we will have an article sharing our member's experience this year.

March4Schools: A Statewide Day of Action

On March 4, 2010, at 4 p.m., thousands of education supporters statewide will mobilize in community outreach actions. These concurrent actions will have teachers, education support professionals, and parents sharing their stories about the impact of legislative funding cuts to their schools with the voting public in an effort to bring attention to the anti-education legislators who are attacking the teachers and schools in their neighborhood. Don't miss out on the March4Schools Statewide Day of Action. Contact your Site Representative or your Principal to learn more about your site's activities.

Representative of the Month

Meet Chandra Beck!

Chandra is a long time Site Representative at Palo Verde Middle School. She can always be counted on to attend meetings, participate in Ten Minute Meetings, maintain an awesome bulletin board and represent her members at the state and national level. She has attended both the AEA Delegate Assembly and the NEA RA in past years. Chandra's WDEA bulletin board is a source of great pride for the members at her site. She keeps it updated, changing it every month, and keeps it looking interesting to help entice new members and keep current members informed. Chandra, like most of us, is looking forward to a busy first week of March. Read Across America, Education Day at the Capitol, and March4Schools will keep Chandra and all WDEA members busy.

Thank you Chandra for all you do for students and members!

**Want to know more about your benefits? Surf on over to these websites:

WDEA Member Assistance: wdea.net, learn about your Area Delegates and Advocacy Members

AEA Members Only: arizonaaea.org, click on the green membership card for coupons and discounts.

NEA Member Benefits: neamb.com, make sure to register on the site in order to save money.

**We will be hosting a Member Benefits Fair later in the year. Be on the lookout for your "invite only" tickets!

Last Minute Ideas for a Seuss-sational Read Across America

1. Play the pajama game. Invite parents and students to don their pajamas and snuggle up and read in a Read Under the Stars event.
2. Put on your culture cap. Create a culture cafe and put books on the menu. Your reading recipes can combine food and fiction or nonfiction and offer a taste of reading's great adventures.
3. Make your reading event a multilingual, multicultural affair. Looking for readers? Why not try storytellers from your ethnic minority communities. Their oral traditions are treasure troves for your students.
4. Aim high. Who says high school (or junior high) students won't get involved? High School students love reader's theater and poetry slams, and middle school students can organize book fairs and read to elementary students, or create blogs to engage their peers.
5. Tip your hats to hometown heroes. Have students write to local heroes and ask them about their favorite books.
6. Put reading on parade or hold a book lovers' ball.
7. Have your Principal issue a proclamation.
8. Hit the airways and read on the your morning announcements. Ask your student council members or Educational Support Professionals to read. They'll love the opportunity.