



# The VOICE

APRIL  
2008

*The Washington District Education Association*

*Sara Hester, Editor 602-347-4254*

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

## Building Connections at the Capitol

"Building Connections" was the theme this year as educators, support staff, board members, and administrators from all over the state of Arizona gathered at the legislative buildings downtown for Education Day at the Capitol. I have been an active member of WDEA for almost two years now, but participating with so many others made me feel effective in a way that I haven't experienced yet. I personally communicated with my district Representatives, Janet Napolitano, and several local leaders from around the Valley. I am but one small member of a vastly connected web of people in locals, the AEA, and even the NEA. Watching Jennifer Daily, AEA's lobbyist, made me appreciate my part in that web. She is there every day. Legislators know her by sight and sound. They know who she represents before she speaks. They know we will hold them accountable for their decisions. I walked away feeling like a team member and valuable in my efforts as a teacher, a leader, and a changer. I couldn't be more excited about coming back next year!

Submitted By Wren Schultz, Building Representative at Manzanita School

## IBN Recommendation

Your IBN Team has finalized its recommendation on a salary package for next year. The Governing Board will take action on the recommendation at its next regular meeting on April 10. Please support the work your IBN team did and the hours they put in by showing up at 7:00 pm. More information on specific dollar amounts and percentages will be explained **after** the Board takes action ... but if you come to the meeting you'll get a detailed explanation that very night!

## End of Year Observations

It is that time of the year again! Formal observations must be completed within the next few weeks. If you are on an improvement plan, it is required that you be given notification by April 15<sup>th</sup> of non-renewal status. While this is never a happy topic to discuss with others, it is imperative that you contact your Building Representative or a member of the Advocacy Committee for assistance. Many times, plans of improvement are written very ambiguously, making it difficult to prove that you have met your goals. Our job is to ensure that your rights are protected and to assist you in achieving your goals. Your success in the classroom is important to all of us! Don't be afraid to ask for help, we are all in this together.

Keep in mind that Building Representatives do not have attorney/client privilege and could be called to testify. Because of this, an incident involving legal issues should be immediately referred to AEA Organizational Consultant Raquel Altreche.

Advocacy Committee Contacts:

Raquel Altreche, AEA OC; 602-264-1774, ext. 130

Laurie Richards, Committee Chair; 602-274-9751; X5474

Norma Balderamma, Classified Member; 602-327-7395; x2527

Kristy Gill, Member; 602-769-4779; X6277

Sheryl Kronenberg, Member; 602-589-6242; X2124



# The Voice Continued



## March Representative of the Month

Meet Susan Clark!

Susan is an experienced building representative at Washington School. She has taken representation at her site to new levels by recruiting additional reps, particularly support staff members. When Susan can't make a meeting, she makes sure someone from her school is there to gather information and bring it back to Washington. Susan keeps her bulletin board fresh, not only with updated information, but also with seasonal facelifts that really grab people's attention. She often shares her ideas with pictures and other support in order to assist other reps in capturing people's interest. Susan is also an outstanding advocate for employees at her site. She uses a proactive approach and tries to stop problems before they even start. If that doesn't work, she takes a problem-solving approach and tries to find solutions that will work for students and staff. But Susan's activism doesn't stop at her own site. Susan takes her proactive approach into the political arena as well. She works tirelessly to help support education friendly school board and legislative candidates. She most recently helped coordinate WDEA's participation in Education Day at the Capitol. Once again WDEA took one of the largest delegations in the state. Susan, thanks for all you do and who you are!

Submitted by Nina K. LaPine, Area Delegate for Area 6

## Spring Membership Drive

It's that time again...

Would you like extra spending money this summer? Do you know a person at your site who has been thinking about joining the Washington District Education Association? You are in luck! The AEA and WDEA are offering \$10 each for every new member that you sign up between April 1 and the end of the school year. That's \$20 just for giving a person the chance to belong to their professional organization.

When colleagues join during our Spring Membership Drive, they will get 17 months of membership for the price of 12! That means they make no dues payments until September. They get most of the same benefits we all enjoy, including discounts online using the membership card, the million dollar liability insurance, a discount on short-term disability insurance, special medical and dental insurance rates, and the state association magazine, the AEA Advocate.

If you need membership forms or have any questions, please call Membership Committee Chair Nancy Putman at x5973

## Calendar

### Dates:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| April 7-10  | AIMS Testing                                    |
| April 10    | Governing Board Meeting <u>with IBN Package</u> |
| April 21    | Redistricting Forum @ ASU West                  |
| April 22    | Rep. Council Meeting/Dinner                     |
| April 24    | Governing Board Meeting                         |
| April 25-26 | AEA Delegate Assembly                           |



## April Rep. Council Meeting

Join us for our end of the year celebration!

We invite you to join us for dinner at the Rep. Council meeting this month as a thank you for working this year to make our District and our Association a better place to be.

If there is a person at your site who would like more information about joining the Association, please invite that person. If there is a member at your site who is a great leader, please invite that person too. We want to show off to potential members and thank potential WDEA leaders ... so be sure to let them know we want them there!

As always, the meeting will be at Palo Verde Middle School at 4:30pm in the library. The date is Tuesday, April 22. Please RSVP to our Social Secretary, Peggy Mitts-Miller at 602 896-6652 by Friday, April 18. We want to make sure we have enough wonderful Mexican food!