



The VOICE

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Sara Hester, Editor 602 347 4246

Education Day at the Capitol A HUGE Success!

WDEA and WESD bring out over 300 people to support education

If you didn't go, you probably know someone from your school that did. Ours was the only district to have all School Board members attend. All three of our superintendents were also there as well as teachers, support staff, principals, parents, and students. Here's what one of the attendees had to say about her experience:

"As an educator, Wednesday March 4th will be a day I always remember. The lawn at the State Capitol became a platform for educational stakeholders across the state of Arizona."

The day started with a chance to talk to legislators, one-on-one, and ask them to help make positive changes for public education on the political front. Soon after, we were grouped together with administrative staff, students, teachers, and board members to personally present framed artwork designed by WESD students to members of both the House and the Senate. An open forum was set up with Senate members and Representatives which gave us another opportunity to have specific questions answered that supported the interests of our students and their futures.

The day culminated in the late afternoon with the largest education rally to date. The rally gathered groups of people from across the valley that value and support education. The scores of people who gathered were astounding; 10,000 people were holding signs, wearing shirts, and voicing opinions. All of them were expressing their beliefs in education for everyone at the Capitol to see.

It was a great day and I was proud to have been a part of it. We must continue our efforts to make our collective voice be heard in support of positive educational change.

Submitted by Carolyn Naylor, Tumbleweed Building Rep and Area 8 Delegate

Did You Know?

The WDEA Website is a Wealth of Information

www.wdea.net

Have you ever asked yourself "Can they do that?" or "Who is the WDEA President?" or "Is there a meeting I'm supposed to go to this week?" and not known how to find the answer? If so, the WDEA website is for you! The website has all sorts of information about membership, district policy, WDEA Officers and Building Representatives, schedules, the AEA, the NEA, and what do to if there is an issue at your school. Past issues of the Voice and the SEC are posted, and there are even pictures from past WDEA events.

Visit now! Go to www.wdea.net and learn more about your organization. While you are there, you can register to receive weekly reminders about upcoming events.

If you have any questions or comments about the website or its content, please contact Laurie Richards at Cholla School.



The Voice Continued



Representative of the Month

Meet Lori Fox!

Lori Fox is currently the Elections Chair for WDEA. Lori is also the Rep at Moon Mountain and is one of our National Board Certified teachers. Lori has been very active in WDEA the past few years. She went to the NEA Convention last summer in Washington, D.C. to make sure your views were expressed on a national level. What an experience! She couldn't believe 10,000 educators at the convention. Lori has helped with the New Teacher Event the past few years and even brought her student teacher to help this year. Her student teacher became an AEA member right away and got first-hand knowledge of what the association is all about. Lori is not shy about signing up new members at her school and keeping her members informed on what WDEA is doing, especially during these trying times. Lori attended Education Day at the Capitol on March 4 and e-mails her legislators weekly with concerns about the state budget and what is happening to education. WDEA is proud to have Lori as our Rep of the month!

Thanks for all you do for members Lori!

Submitted by Nancy Putman, Membership Chair

Plant a Seed, Watch Us Grow!

Annual Spring Membership Drive

Every spring, the WDEA has a membership drive and it will be especially important this year with the state budget crisis. This year has been hard on all of us, financially and emotionally, but our organization has worked as a team to make positive changes at both the district and state level. You know all the great things we have done, and now it's time to share your knowledge and invite others to join us! Remember, and remind others, the only way to make things better is to work together with a collective voice.

When new members join starting April 1, they get 17 months of membership for the price of 12. They do not pay membership dues until September! For every new member you sign up, the WDEA will reward you with \$10, just for sharing all of the wonderful things we have done and will continue to do. We will also host a thank you dinner at our Rep. Council Meeting on April 28, so mark your calendars.

If you have any questions about Membership please contact Nancy Putman (x5973) at Lookout Mountain School.

Calendar

Dates:

April 9	School Board Meeting
April 16	Pre-convention Caucus
April 23	School Board Meeting
April 24 and 25	AEA Delegate Assembly
April 28	Rep Council Meeting/Dinner
May 12	Officer Installation Dinner

If you would like more information on any of these events, please contact your Building Representative.



IBN Contacts

As IBN season wraps up, remember that it's not too late to make sure your voice is heard.

Please contact your Rep if you have any questions or feedback about this year's IBN Process or Recommendations.

Nina K. LaPine	Special Education Rep
Seith Lewis	5 th /6 th Grade Rep
Mindy Whalen	Middle School Rep
Darrin Squire	WDEA President & Resource
Angie Taylor	WDEA Classified Resource
Joslyn Brown	WDEA Trainee
Carolyn Naylor	Working Conditions Subcommittee
Helen Ciba	Working Conditions Subcommittee