



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

Calendar of Events



**April 8– Governing
Board Meeting**

**Week of April 12–
AIMS**

**Week of April 18–
Public School Volun-
teer Week**

**April 21– Adminis-
trative Profession-
als Day**

**April 22– Governing
Board**

**April 23 and 24–
AEA Delegate As-
sembly**

**April 27– Rep Coun-
cil Meeting**

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The Voice

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Education Day at the Capitol

Education Day at the Capitol was a troubling event this year. The news about the budget cuts to our school districts seemed drastic, but inevitable. We took a group of 15 to the Capitol to speak with our elected officials. Regardless of the budget woes, your representatives did an excellent job meeting with legislators helping them understand why funding public schools is the right thing to do. Those who attended were Darrin Squire, Dr. Susan Cook, Dr. Lyn Bailey, Mike Scantlin, Mindy Whalen, Caren Oliver, Susie Smith, Joel Barfoot, Theresa Harfman, James Miller, Katie Anderson, Jill Hicks, Steve Murosky, and David Hutchinson. Also in attendance were governing board members Chris Maza, Clorinda Graziano, and Bill Adams. Each person was able to meet with a legislator and discuss their concerns about education. My hope is that everyone will call their legislators and encourage them to stop the cuts and invest in brighter futures for our children.

Submitted by Mindy Whalen, WEPAC Co-chair and WDEA President-elect

My name is Jim Miller, and recently I had the opportunity to participate in the Education Day at the Capitol. This was not my first visit to the capitol to support education. This past summer I attended a similar event. Education Day at the Capitol was a lot more positive for me, because I actually got a chance to meet one of my Legislators, face-to-face. The day started with a group meeting between education representatives and four state legislators, two Republican and two Democrat, at which the legislators had the opportunity to introduce themselves and state their position on education. We then had the opportunity to ask questions of the legislators. I thought this was a very positive interaction. I next attended sessions in the House of Representatives. Instead of getting to the important issues, they spent needless time arguing about what to do with used tires and red light cameras. After lunch, we met to discuss priorities for education and I got an opportunity to meet with one of my legislators, Debbie Lesko of District 9. She was very cordial, but honest and up front. She said she understands how important education is, but that she supports across the board cuts to balance the state's budget.

Things are going to get worse for education. I enjoyed my experience, but things won't change for the better unless everyone gets more involved!

Submitted by Jim Miller, WDEA member and Education Day attendee

Representatives of the Month

Meet Sharon Hall!

Sharon is the Attendance Clerk at Lookout Mountain and a WDEA Representative. She is the friendly face you see when you come into the office. Sharon has been involved with WDEA for the past three years. She helped with District 10 Representative Jackie Thrasher’s campaign and was very involved in the March4Schools Walk. She took several streets to pass out the door hangers and involved parents and students to help her. She also passed out the door hangers on the weekend. She made sure all the streets were covered in Lookout Mountain’s attendance area. Sharon is a foster parent and is a passionate and warm person. She helps many families and students. We are so glad to award the Representative of the Month honor to Sharon.

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

Meet Sandy Bogart!

Sandy has been selected as a Representative of the Month because of her dedication and tireless work for the members, staff, and students at Sunset Elementary. According to her principal, Betty Paterson, “Sandy is one of the most positive people on our campus. She verbalizes how great our school is to anyone and everyone.” This was clearly evident during the March4Schools event. Sandy had organized every detail of the event and recruited dozens of staff members. She was able to send them on their way into the neighborhood quickly, with a bottle of water and a smile. She personifies being a great kindergarten teacher as well as an advocate and an asset for the WDEA.

Thank you Sandy 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!

Congratulations Lamp of Learning Winners!

The following WDEA members were awarded Washington Elementary School District’s highest honor: the Lamp of Learning award, for this year. Please join them in celebrating on May 7. Contact them or the District Office to purchase tickets. Thank you for all you do for our students and our district. Congratulations!

Betty Wyffels, Lookout Mountain

John Clayton, Orangewood

Diana Smiley, Alta Vista

Judy Sugata, Palo Verde

Andree Charlson, Orangewood

Sandi Berry Crawford, Shaw Butte