



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

**Calendar of
Events**



- AUG 3 Teachers Return**
- AUG 10 First day for students**
- AUG 11 Executive Board Meeting**
- AUG 13 Governing Board Meeting**
- AUG 25 Rep Council Meeting**
- AUG 27 Governing Board Meeting**

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The Voice

Special Back to School Edition

www.wdea.net

August 2009

Volume 1 Publication of the Washington District Education Association

Heat Wave for Public Education

Whether you are a teacher, parent, bus driver, principal, superintendent, or even a governing board member, the school year ended with all of us in a state of shock as we watched the legislature attempt to cut public education so deep that it would not be able to recover. Who was going to fix this? Wasn't anyone looking out for my students?

Enter the AEA Heat Wave. AEA would "keep watch" over the legislature during the entire month of June, hundreds of you teachers, technicians, board members, administrators, parents, and students. We would not go "silently into that good night." We were professional and respectful and demanded answers. We sat in the House and Senate galleries, requested meetings with

our legislators, and told the stories of what these cuts would do to us and our students. The roar was exciting when the governor vetoed it on July 1st. On July 6th, a new budget was approved that would return much of what was taken. AEA and WDEA were there. You will benefit from this Heat Wave by being called off a RIF list or you will receive a paycheck with fewer furlough days than expected. **Go thank a WDEA member!**

I thank each of you in the WESD Community who were there to witness the incredible month long event. It reminded me of why we do what we do – to help children and to provide a professional wage to those who attempt to do just that.

Submitted by Chris Maza, WESD Governing Board Member and Director of AEA Region 4

Receive \$20 for each new member signed up

Be listening for more information about recall/new hire event.

New Membership Category: Associate Category

At the AEA Delegate Assembly in April, Delegates voted to enact a new membership category. The Associate Category is for any person who does not qualify for another category of membership. This means you may ask your spouse, your children, active parents at your school and anyone else who believes

in a quality public education for all students.

The annual dues are \$48, and members in this category can give additional money to the AEA Political Action Committees, just like you can. WDEA leaders are in the process of asking our School Board Members and some State Legislators to consider membership.

If you can think of some people who would like to identify themselves as supporters of Public Education, ask them to join today. Remember retirees, substitutes and ESP's have their own membership categories and are not eligible for Associate Membership.



Mike Scantlin and Mindy Whalen in Summer Leadership at the Wigwam Resort

Summer Leadership at the Wigwam Resort

The summer heat of Arizona didn't stop WDEA leaders coming together July 14th - 16th to train for the new school year. The Wigwam Resort in Litchfield, AZ hosted the AEA Summer Leadership event once again.

This was my first year attending the event and I didn't know what to expect. There were several workshops to attend. You could get tips, advice and training on a variety of topics: membership, organization and communication, and the

responsibilities of being a local officer.

All the leaders from local districts around the state made each day inviting and exciting to be in attendance. The conference was a chance to look at the WDEA with fresh eyes and set goals for the organization and especially for myself, who will lead the WDEA as your Secretary for the new school year.

Friday, July 17th, gave our building reps a chance to get additional training. The representatives worked

hard on their leadership roles, generating membership ideas, committee opportunities, 10 minute meeting options and much more. Thanks go out to **Randal Rudder, Carol Ruben, Patricia Reeves, Sally Abbey, Helen Ciba, Wren Schultz, Darrin Squire, Laurie Richards, Joslyn Brown, Mindy Whalen, Nancy Putman, Sara Hester, Nina Lapine** and **Mike Scantlin** for making it out to the Wigwam.

Submitted by **Carolyn Naylor**, WDEA Secretary

Check out these websites for more information and stay tuned each month for **specific Member Benefits.

AEA Member's Only: arizonaaea.org, click on the green membership card.

NEA Member Benefits: neamb.com, register for each site, save money on everything from home mortgages to haircuts.

We will be hosting a **Members Baseball Game Night later in the year. Be on the **lookout for your tickets!**

NEA Representative Assembly in San Diego

The NEA Representative Assembly happens every summer over the Fourth of July holiday. This is where the national agenda is decided for our association. This summer, I was

one of the six WDEA members that attended the Assembly in San Diego, CA. Over the six days we were there, I at-

tended meetings, voted on various business, and supported fellow educators in California with a post card campaign to the governor. I also had the pleasure of hearing Secretary of Education Duncan speak about public education. Friend of Education recipient Linda Darling-Hammond talked about how teachers need to lead education reform not be lead by somebody else. It was very inspiring.

Some of the things that were voted on were supporting health care reform, Social Security reform, fine arts certification and urging our government to support nutritional guidelines and daily physical education for all students. Other WDEA attendees were: **Laurie Richards, Mindy Whalen, Darrin Squire, Sara Hester and Nancy Putman**, pictured at left.

Submitted by **Chandra Beck**, Building Rep at Palo Verde

