



# The VOICE

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## Washington Education Foundation Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser:

### Love to Bowl?

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 8! This year, the Washington Education Foundation will be sponsoring its first Bowl-a-thon to raise money for the grants that are given out each year by the WEF. It will be held at the AMF Bowling Center on Thunderbird Road, just west of I 17.

Since they have 32 lanes available, the Foundation is asking that each school try to assemble at least one five person team. Of course, each school can have more and players are welcome to make up a team with family and friends from different schools. There will be two bowling shifts to accommodate all of the great bowlers. The times are 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm. The cost is \$20 a person, with the proceeds going to the many grants awarded to Washington Elementary School District employees.

The Foundation is also looking for sponsors to help with the event and to raise money for our grants that we give to the employees of the WESD. In addition to bowling for a good cause, prizes will be awarded. More information will be coming to each school, so watch for details. Start forming teams now and plan on a good time!



### Did You Know?

## The AEA Legislative Update Newsletter keeps you informed

As an active member of the WDEA, you know how important it is to know what is happening at the Capitol. The only way to make sure pro-public education legislation is enacted, and just as importantly to make sure anti-public education legislation is defeated, is to know about bills under consideration and to lobby your legislators. AEA has made this task incredibly pain-free by offering a newsletter with easy links to follow.

Get the latest news about what's going on at the Arizona Legislature by signing up for AEA's weekly electronic newsletter, the Legislative Update. This newsletter provides members and activists with news about bills moving through the state legislature.

It also provides opportunities for you to contact legislators about bills needing support or opposition. By becoming a cyber-lobbyist, you are joining more than 6,000 other public education supporters who are all part of AEA's electronic legislative network. These public education supporters are taking action on behalf of our schools.

You can sign up online at <http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup>.



# The Voice Continued



## Representative of the Month

### Meet Rhonda Otterbein!

Rhonda is a third year, second grade teacher at Shaw Butte School. Last year, even though she had only been teaching for a year, Rhonda volunteered to be a Building Representative. Since she has joined the other Reps at Shaw Butte, Rhonda has taken over attending the monthly Representative Council Meetings and reporting back during Shaw Butte's Ten Minute Meetings. I am personally very grateful that Rhonda is there to fill this position. Without her, I fear Shaw Butte's staff would not get the information it needs! She has also walked neighborhoods in support of candidate Jackie Thrasher and attended School Board Meetings. In addition to her WDEA responsibilities, Rhonda participates in BEGIN, the Energy Conservation Committee, and the Social Committee. She is a very busy person, but always does her best to ensure that the district remains accountable to the students and members she serves.

Thanks for all you do for members, Rhonda!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Area Delegate, Voice Editor, and Long-time Rhonda Fan

## A Fond Farewell

The Governing Board meeting on Thursday, December 11 was much like any other, except that it was the last meeting for Governing Board President, Bev Kraft and Governing Board member, Dave Braswell. Thank you both for your dedication and service to the Washington School District.

For both of you, December's meeting capped a long history of volunteerism, both in this district and in others. Your careful thought and deliberation will remain evident in District policy and programs long after you both leave the dais. While sitting on the WESD Governing Board will not be the last thing either of you do, I am sure that it will be one of the most important. Serving the future is not something to be taken lightly, as you both know.

Hopefully, you will enjoy and appreciate the work of the WESD just as much as a member of the audience as you did as a member of the board. Again, thank you for your service!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Voice Editor and Area Delegate

## Calendar

### Dates:

- January 5 First Day Back from Winter Break!
- January 8 Governing Board Meeting
- January 19 MLK Jr. Day ... No School
- January 22 Governing Board Meeting
- January 27 Rep Council Meeting
- February 8 WEF Bowl-a-thon

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



## Thank You WESD!

In response to the WDEA's request, Assistant Superintendent Janet Sullivan updated the November Rep. Council on the District's No Child Left Behind and AZ Learns labels. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to make sure we have accurate, timely information.

If you were not able to attend the Rep. Council meeting in November, here is a brief summary of what Janet explained:

The District is not "failing", the district is in corrective action, along with many other Districts in the state.

The District is in corrective action because it hasn't made AYP in some subgroups for several years.

The District has not made AYP because when anyone subgroup at any given school is not made up of at least 40 students, the subgroup rolls over to the District's AYP matrix.

Thank you Janet for making a very complicated issue seem a little bit more understandable and meaningful.