



# The VOICE

November  
2008

A Publication of The Washington District Education Association

Sara Hester, Editor 602-347-4246

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

## A Note From Save Our Schools (SOS)

One of the goals of SOSAZ, or Support Our SchoolsAZ, is to increase the number of informed voters and their support of public education. To meet this goal the group has developed a website, surveyed candidates, and posted their replies to a survey directly related to educational issues. Election Central provides legal, non-partisan access to comprehensive information on legislative and school board candidates, as well as other issues that affect public education.

While it is too late to register for the upcoming election, it is NOT too late for registered voters to become informed on the candidates, their stances, and the big issue impacting public education during this election, the vote on unification of the elementary and secondary districts.

Please visit [www.SupportOurSchoolsAz.org](http://www.SupportOurSchoolsAz.org), sign up for e-mail updates and become an informed voter.

## Did You Know?

### Educational Support Professional Day is in November

Each year, during American Education Week, we honor our Education Support Professionals. This year, American Education Week ESP Day falls on November 19. WDEA has over 200 ESP's members. AEA has over 5,000 ESP members. Who Are the ESPs in your building? They are the:

- school bus driver who greets students and delivers them safely to school.
- cafeteria worker who prepares healthy meals.
- para-educators who provide students with a little extra help in the classroom.
- school nurse who comforts a sick child.
- office assistant who makes sure students' records are up to date.
- technician who wires the classroom computers.
- custodian who works to keep schools clean.
- security professional who helps keep students safe.

Take some time to thank our Education Support Professionals for all the work they do on the behalf of our students! Thank you ESPs for all you do for public education!

Submitted by Nancy Putman, WDEA Area Delegate & Membership Chair and AEA Board of Directors



# The Voice Continued



## Representative of the Month

Meet Steve Tobias!

November's Building Representative of the month, Steve Tobias, has just moved over to Desert Foothills after several years of teaching at Palo Verde. As soon as the school year started, Steve started as a brand new Building Representative without a moment's hesitation. Steve asked a few questions and got right to work, learning quickly and taking on every challenge posed to him. At a school that has desperately needed a larger WDEA presence, Steve has made a definite impact in a few short months. He signed up many new members, including the school principal! He has come to monthly meetings on short notice and has done everything he can to bring up issues that effect his school and represent the members there. Every site could use a person as dedicated to members and students as Steve. With more members like him, our district and our organization would be the envy of all around us. Keep up the great work Steve. Thanks for all you do for Desert Foothills, WDEA members and WESD employees too!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Area Delegate and Voice Editor

## 2008 Election Victory for Students and Educators

For the first time in 40 years, Arizona's Congressional Delegation is made up of a pro-public education majority.

With the election of Rep.-elect Ann Kirkpatrick in the 1st Congressional District and the reelection of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona's 8th Congressional District, former teacher and NEA member Rep. Harry Mitchell in the 5th Congressional District, Rep. Ed Pastor in the 4th Congressional District, and Rep. Raul Grijalva in the 7th Congressional District, Arizona has a majority of friends of public education in its Congressional Delegation.

This victory for public schools will have an even greater impact when Congress meets. to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act.

## Calendar

### Dates:

November 4	Election Day!
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 13	Governing Board Meeting
November 19	Annual ESP Day
November 25	Site Rep. Meeting
November 27/28	Thanksgiving Break

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



## Working Together with WESD!

WDEA would like to thank Justin Wing, Director of Human Resources. Most recently, Justin has collaborated with the WDEA to develop video trainings regarding leave policies and regulations. Like August's Sexual Harassment training, Justin has developed presentations that better inform employees of current regulations as well as update them on recent changes brought about through IBN. As each component is developed, Justin is collaborating with WDEA leadership to ensure accuracy and clarity. Justin is really open to feedback and has shown an exceptional willingness to work together with us. We want to thank him for emphasizing the "human" side of Human Resources.

We will continue our partnerships to improve public education!

Submitted by Nina LaPine, Area Delegate