



The VOICE

October 2007

The Washington District Education Association

An affiliate of Arizona Education Association and National Education Association

Sara Hester, Editor 602 347-4254

Letter From Our Organizational Consultant

Dear Member,

I would like to introduce myself to you as your new Organizational Consultant (OC) with the Arizona Education Association (AEA). I have worked as an OC for the past 16 years with several local education associations. In this capacity, I work with the leaders of local organizations to provide needed information, training, and AEA resources. I am especially involved in assisting with member concerns, membership, and political action.

I am a native of New York and have lived in Arizona for the past 18 years. I have three children and three grandchildren. Besides my current position, I am a life coach and enjoy working with people and assisting them in reaching their goals. I love to dance, read, and enjoy the outdoors. I am extremely excited about working with the Washington District Education Association (WDEA). I know that WDEA has a reputation at AEA of being a powerful local with great leadership. WDEA's commitment to its members and to a quality public education is inspiring! I look forward to meeting and working with as many members as possible. If you see me around, please stop to introduce yourself.

Sincerely,

Raquel Altreche

WDEA's Organizational Consultant

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Did You Know?

The Arizona Education Association (AEA) has created a website just for new teachers! You can access information about discipline, managing stress, and the evaluation process. Here is how you can find it on the Internet:

Go to www.arizonaaea.org .

Click on the Careers in Education tab on the left hand side.

Select AEA New Teacher Page.

If you have not already created a password to login to the member's only section, you can do so by clicking on the Join Online Today link.

If you do have a password, login to enjoy other New Teacher information.

You can also click on the Related Information links on the right hand side.

Another new feature of the website is the AEA blog. Here you can get news and information on education issues and you are welcome and encouraged to leave comments. One of AEA's core values is to promote learning as a community commitment and this blog is a way of using new technology to accomplish this long-held, traditional goal.

To find the blog, simply go to www.arizonaaea.org/blog .

There are many other features and resources available on the AEA's webpage. Many questions about membership, legal resources, and political action can be answered by visiting www.arizonaaea.org .



The Voice Continued



August Representative of the Month

Meet Caren Oliver!

Caren Oliver is the Building Representative at Arroyo. Even though last year was her first year at a new school, she jumped right in as the Building Rep. and has never looked back. To make sure her voice and the voices of her colleagues are heard, she has gradually taken on more responsibility. Last April, she attended the AEA Representative Assembly as a delegate from our district and was able to ask Janet Napolitano a question. This summer, she went to the AEA Leadership Conference. The Friday before we all reported for work, Caren helped out greeting new teachers at the New Teacher Luncheon that the WDEA put on at Sweetwater School. This year, Caren hopes to increase awareness about all of the wonderful things WDEA does for its members, especially at her school. Thanks for all you do for members Caren!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Building Rep. at Shaw Butte

September Representative of the Month

Meet Judy Wells!

Judy Wells is one of the Building Representatives at Washington. Judy has been a Washington Elementary School employee for over 20 years. She is the "master" of many hats. Whatever needs to be done you will find Judy in the middle of it. Judy is a great friend and co-worker. She is now working in the Literacy Enrichment Center. She glows because she is so happy to be there. The students love her and rush to be in her groups because she makes learning so much fun for them. WDEA is important to Judy and she doesn't need to approach co-workers about membership - they seek her out and ask her about it. She is positive and adamant about the power of a strong Association. Judy is a wonderful Representative for WDEA. Thanks for all you do for members Judy!

Submitted by Lyndy McKay, Building Rep. at Washington

Membership Cards FYI

Since the current member cards are two year cards (good until December 2008) we *will not* be issuing new cards this fall. Temporary cards should have already been sent to the spring members with permanent cards going out in September. Remember, your membership card is the red Access card you can use to get discounts and coupons with off of the Internet.

If you have not received your permanent card by the end of September and you are a continuing member, please contact your Building Rep.

Calendar

Dates:

October 11	Governing Board Meeting
October 15-19	Fall Break!
October 23	Rep Council Meeting (Palo Verde)
October 25	Governing Board Meeting
November 3	Effective Locals Conference

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



Notes from the NEA

Members are the heart and backbone of our organization. It is our responsibility to equip them with information about association services and programs, recruit and nurture new members, and advocate issues and concerns. NEA Now is an online publication that is dedicated to these goals. You can access it by visiting <https://www.nea.org/neanow/index.html>.

Many members have expressed concern about a new I.R.S regulation that imposes a penalty on income deferred to a future year. When school employees opt to have 26 pays, they are deferring some pay until the summer of a future calendar year. The good news is 1) the new regulation goes into effect *next* year; 2) there is NO penalty for those who select 26 pays BEFORE starting work in the fall; 3) if school employees do not select 26 pays before they start work, then the district should pay them during the months they work (usually 20 pays) to avoid the tax penalty. For more information about the new IRS regulation, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=172884,00.html>.