



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

Calendar of Events



**October 3 Advocacy
Training at AEA**

**October 8 School
Board Meeting**

**October 12-16 Fall
Break**

**October 20 WDEA Rep
Council Meeting**

**October 21 Grading
Day**

**October 22 School
Board Meeting**

**October 26-30 Parent
Teacher Conferences**

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The Voice

www.wdea.net

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Membership Changes

Associate Membership

Associate Membership is for any person who is interested in advancing the cause of public education, but who is not eligible for any other category of membership. The Arizona Education Association believes that strong public schools create strong communities. One of our core values is Learning as a Community Commitment. Ask your family members, neighbors, friends and community members to become a supporter of your public school and further the cause of public education by joining the AEA. Annual Associate member dues are \$48. Ask your Building Rep for an application form or find the form at www.arizonaaea.org.

Every Member Option

On April 24, 2009, the AEA Delegate Assembly voted to establish an annual dues assessment, called the Every Member Option (EMO), in the amount of \$12. Monies collected through the Every Member Option assessment will go towards three funds – the AEA Foundation for Teaching and Learning, AEA Fund for Public Education, and AEA Education Improvement Fund.

Members have the option of receiving a rebate for this assessment at the beginning of each membership year. You can request the EMO Rebate Request Form at any time by contacting the AEA at 602-264-1774 or 800-352-5411. A rebate must be requested each year by October 31 in order to receive a rebate of the EMO assessment from your annual dues. Also, AEA will publish this form in the fall issue of the *AEA Advocate* each year.

District Policy

Every year, and nearly every week, we get questions about District Policy. Do you know where it is?

Go to www.azsba.org.

On the left, click on "School District Policy Manuals".

Under "Free Public Access" click on the link that says "Click Here".

On the left side, scroll all the way down.

You will need to click on "Next" a few times before reaching Washington Elementary.

On the left, click on the red cross.

On the left, scroll down to see a list of policies.

Click on **Section G** to read the policies that effect your every day working environment.

Information is power! WDEA wants you to be as informed as possible, so if you have questions, please contact the Human Resources Department or your WDEA Site Leader (aka Building Representative).

Representative of the Month

Meet September Representative of the Month Melissa Sire!

As part of our campaign to increase site visibility and membership, last year WDEA started site visits to every school and to transportation. Since I was the membership specialist, a lot of the visiting fell on my shoulders. Of course, I always had our AEA Organizational Consultant ,Raquel Altreche, with me, but sometimes we felt as if we were wasting time. There were sites that would lunch somewhere else to avoid us, sites where we were told what a horrible organization we were, and sites where we never saw a single staff member. As the visits were winding down, we came to Alta Vista with cookies one afternoon. No one came. Raquel and I felt disheartened to say the least, but were determined to wait until the second dismissal. It's a good thing we did. Five minutes after the bell, Melissa Sire arrived with three people who wanted to join, another person who was already a member, and two other people who had some questions. I knew then that Alta Vista was a lucky site that would flourish as long as Melissa was there. This summer, she has attended both WDEA and AEA trainings to be more beneficial to employees at her site. She has recruited even more members since school has started and has been attending the monthly Rep Council Meetings at Cholla. Melissa may be new, but she has certainly hit the ground running. Thank you for reminding me what a strong Association we are!

Thank you for all you do for students and staff Melissa!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Area Delegate, Membership Specialist and Voice Editor

**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!

Member Benefit Spotlight

Attorney Referral Program

As a site leader, the membership benefit I get asked about the most is the Attorney Referral Program. This benefit can save you hundreds of dollars and is incredibly easy to use.

What is it? The Attorney Referral Program is a list of 20 attorneys/law firms throughout Arizona providing two **free 30-minute consultations** per year in different areas for personal matters and **30% off normal fees** for continued visits. The attorneys on the list are polite and always ready to help you out, even if it's just through a phone call.

To see the list of lawyers, please visit the Program Website: <https://az.nea.org/membersonly/images/attorney.pdf> (Thank you Debby for finding it!) You have to log in to the AEA website first,. It's quick and easy to do.

If you have any questions about the Program, please call or email Nancy Hall at the AEA at 602-264-1774 or 800-352-5411 ext. 139 or nancy.hall@arizonaaea.org

If you have a success story from using the Attorney Referral Program, please send me an email so I can use it in the next edition of the Voice!