



# The VOICE

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*A publication of the Washington District Education Association*

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## A Note From the President

Dear Colleagues:

My name is Sheryl Kronenberg and I am the new WDEA President. I hope you had a restful summer and are coming back energized and ready for the 2008-2009 school year.

This year we are facing elections at every level of our system: a presidential election, state legislative elections, and school board elections. Your powerful decision to join and remain a member helps strengthen our collective voice at every level of the public school system and is the first step to getting pro-education candidates elected. With your help, we can make a difference for all students!

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and I encourage you to become more actively involved in the Association. We have many volunteer opportunities ranging from providing leadership at your building to helping with Read Across America and Literacy Night in conjunction with city libraries. Being involved in the WDEA provides many opportunities for personal, professional, and leadership development, including networking with colleagues and experts in the field. Together we will make a difference for employees, for students, and for public education!

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kronenberg

## Did You Know?

When you signed your contract with the Washington Elementary School District (WESD), you agreed to abide by the policies adopted by the WESD Governing Board.

Section G of the policies pertain to the Terms and Conditions of employment. In Section G, policies such as Staff Conduct, Staff Ethics and Evaluation of Professional and Classified Staff can be found.

The Governing Board Policy book can usually be found in your library or principal's office. However, policies can also now be found on the Internet.

Here is how you can find them on the Internet:

Go to [www.azsba.org](http://www.azsba.org).

Scroll down and on the left click on "School District Policy Manuals".

Under "Publicly Available Policy Manuals 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" on the first two pages before reaching the Washington Elementary link.

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).

**Remember: Knowledge Is Power!**



# The Voice Continued



## New Teacher Luncheon

Meet Everyone!

On the Friday before teachers reported back to work, the WDEA held it's annual New Teacher Luncheon. This is our way of introducing ourselves to all of the wonderful new hires! In order to make the event run smoothly, we rely on a lot of the volunteers. This month, we would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's lunch a success:

Nancy Putman	Sara Hester	Peggy Pitts-Miller	Sheryl Kronenburg
Lori Fox and Her Student Teacher, Lisa	Joslyn Brown	Mindy Whalen	Chandra Beck
Darrin Squires	Mike Scantlin	Caren Oliver	Laurie Richards
Penny Lee	Sally Abbey	Judy Wells	Lyndy McKay
	Wren Schultz	Carolyn Hines	Becky Seigel

Thanks for all you do for members everyone!

Submitted by Nancy Putman, Membership Chair

## NEA Representative Assembly

This year I had the honor of being one of the WDEA's delegates to the National Education Association's Annual Representative Assembly, the largest elected voting body in the world. I could never accurately describe the feeling of being in a huge convention center surrounded by over 10,000 educators from across the country. It was awe-inspiring to say the least, especially given that we were in Washington DC. Few people can say that they have directly affected the policies and procedures of an association with over 3.2 million members down the street from the President and Congress.

My fellow educators and I voted on everything from retirement benefits to performance pay, and had a great time doing it. I never realized that that many people could calmly and respectfully discuss very emotional topics. We all, Democrat and Republican alike, seemed to agree that without education, our country, or any country, stands little chance of moving ahead and making positive changes.

Being part of something that binds every educator in his or her work with children is something I will never forget.

Submitted by Sara Hester, Voice Editor

## Calendar

### Dates:

August 28	Governing Board Meeting
September 1	No School, Labor Day
September 11	Governing Board Meeting
September 23	Representative Council
September 25	Governing Board Meeting

If you would like more information on any of these events, please contact your Site Leader (aka Building Representative).



## Dennis Van Roekel Elected NEA President

Dennis Van Roekel, currently finishing his second term as NEA Vice President, assumes his new duties on September 1, 2008. The math teacher from Paradise Valley High School has served in numerous key association offices, including NEA Secretary-Treasurer, AEA President, and PVEA President.

As NEA president, Van Roekel will serve as Chief Executive Officer, lead the organization's efforts on Capitol Hill and preside over meetings of the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

His accomplishments include dramatic increases in membership and voluntary political action committee contributions while President of the AEA. As NEA Vice President, he oversees the NEA Advisory Committee on Membership and serves on the NEA Strategic Planning and Budget Committee and on the Board of Directors of NEA Member Benefits.