



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

Calendar of  
Events



- SEP 7 Labor Day  
No School
- SEP 10 Governing  
Board Meeting
- SEP 19 Membership  
Night at the  
Ballpark
- SEP 22 Rep Council  
Meeting
- SEP 24 Governing  
Board Meeting

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# The Voice

[www.wdea.net](http://www.wdea.net)

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## Back to School!

Before any students ever showed up, WDEA was hard at work to make this school year the best one yet. On July 31, WDEA President Squire and several other members welcomed several new employees. Because of the RIFs and excessing last year, many of the “new” teachers are actually returning teachers. After a morning of learning about district services and policies, WDEA provided a wonderful lunch at the District Office. At the lunch, the new employees heard from WDEA President Squire and Superintendent Cook about the importance of “belonging” and a collective voice. We are proud to announce several new employees have joined our Association, making us that much stronger. Welcome (and for some, welcome back) to the District!

As we all started to wake up early again, WDEA made sure to wake up extra early on August 6 to welcome back our fabulous bus drivers and bus assistants. They had an early breakfast, 6am, and then proceeded through a day full of information and changes. While enjoying breakfast, they were able to listen to both AEA President John Wright and WDEA President Darrin Squire talk about the importance of getting our kids to and from school safely and the importance of “belonging.” We are again proud to announce that several Transportation staff are new members of our Association, helping us make more of a difference in the lives of our students.

Both events were attended by several WDEA members, including our fabulous Representatives of the Summer (see page 2). Thank you all for making Back To School fun and informative. Have a great year!

### WDEA is on Facebook!

Look us up and become our “friend” This is a great way to learn more about things that cannot be discussed using District computers and mailboxes

## 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 acquire 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.



Lori Fox and Randal Rudder serve up some fun at the Transportation Breakfast

\*\*Want to know more about your benefits? Surf on over to these websites:

**WDEA Member Assistance:** [wdea.net](http://wdea.net), learn about your Area Delegates and Advocacy Members

**AEA Members Only:** [arizonaaea.org](http://arizonaaea.org), click on the green membership card for coupons and discounts.

**NEA Member Benefits:** [neamb.com](http://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!

## Representatives of the Summer

### Meet June Representative of the Month Caren Oliver!

As you know, it was a crazy summer down at the Capitol. Luckily, we had Caren Oliver, Building Representative at Arroyo, looking out for us! Throughout the month of June, Caren was at the Capitol whenever we needed her. She even made an appearance on the local news. State and Local Association leaders were at the NEA Representative Assembly in San Diego when our legislators tried to push through a budget that was bad for students and employees. We sent e-mails and posted on Facebook to get WDEA downtown because we couldn't. Caren, along with others, answered the call. Caren also answered the call to come to the New Teacher Lunch the week before school started and the Transportation Breakfast the first week back. Whenever WDEA needs her, Caren is there. Thanks for all you do for our students and staff Caren!

Submitted by Sara Hester, Area Delegate and Voice Editor

### Meet July Representative of the Month Patricia Reeves!

Patricia Reeves is the Library Tech and Building Representative at Acacia. Patricia helped out with several WDEA events this summer. She attended the WDEA Leadership Retreat, membership training at AEA, more training at Chase Field followed by the Diamondback Game, filled out the membership forms prior to the Transportation Breakfast, and was a volunteer at the Transportation Breakfast. Patricia has served on the Read Across America Committee for the past two years, helping to make the event a district-wide success. Patricia has worked very hard this summer and certainly deserves being one of our Representatives of the Summer. Thanks for all you do for our students and staff Patricia!

Submitted by Nancy Putman, Area Delegate and Membership Chair

## Whirlpool Offers Member Savings

Whirlpool, the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances, will soon be offering NEA members substantial discounts on Whirlpool, Maytag, KitchenAid, Jenn-Air, Amana, and Gladiator appliances and other products.

Whirlpool's VIPLink program offers members the opportunity to purchase up to 12 appliances every year at prices close to actual cost. For more information about these programs, please visit [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) or e-mail Mr. Rick Davis, Program Manager, at [rdavis@neamb.com](mailto:rdavis@neamb.com).