



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

Calendar of
Events



- Sept 5 Labor Day**
- Sept 8 Governing Board Meeting**
- Sept 13 Executive Board Meeting**
- Sept 20 Executive Board Meeting with the Superintendent**
- Sept 22 Governing Board Meeting**
- Sept 27 Rep Council Meeting**

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The Voice

Welcome Back for the new year.

www.wdea.net

September 2011

Volume 3

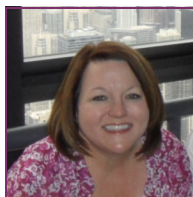
Publication of the Washington District Education Association

Message From Our WDEA President

Welcome Back to the 2011-2012 School Year

I am pleased to welcome you back to another exciting school year! Your decision to join WDEA and remain a member helps strengthen our collective voice at every level of the public education system. We know you have a choice to become or remain a member and we so appreciate your membership. Together we can stand strong for public education. I am proud of the commitment our members make each year to the children of the Washington District and to this esteemed profession. Together we have made a difference across the state and nation, but our work is not done. Many changes have been taking place in our state and across our nation that affect your work with our students. Our district will be taking the state evaluation framework which has been sent down from the Department of Education and several WDEA leaders along with teachers and administrators from every school and job title will be working on the district's Teacher and Principal Evaluation tools. This new evaluation system will be rolled out in the 2012-2013 school year.

On a positive note, last year we were able to pass the WESD Override with your help! We thank you for your assistance in walking neighborhoods and spreading the word. There will be no bonds or overrides this year, so we will be



gearing up for the next year. WDEA has a proud history of more than 50 years as a strong and active advocacy organization for employees and the children we serve. As a member, you join nearly 3 million of your colleagues throughout the nation who speak out and devote their time and energy to ensure a quality public education for all children.

Being an Association member continues to be one of the most important things you can do to support public education and Arizona's children. From this past legislative cycle you know that public education is under attack and we must stand strong together to prevent further assaults on our profession and the education of our students. I look forward to working with you throughout the year, and I encourage you to become actively involved in the Association. We hold monthly Representative Council Meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are held at the Palo Verde Middle School Library at 4:30pm. 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,

Mindy Whalen, WDEA President

Lamp of Learning Members

Congratulations to the following teachers, who were Lamp of Learning Recipients during the 2010-2011 school year! These teachers exemplify the vision and mission of the WESD and are also WDEA members! Keep up the good work!.

**Sandy Bogard, Joslyn Brown,
Delilah D. Carr, Linda Marsh
Cool, Janice L. Evans & Roger J.
Wakeford**

Advocacy

On August 5th, the WDEA partnered with WESD in providing training to members about advocacy. The training focused on district policy, discipline procedures, evaluation procedures, improvement plans and how to talk to members about concerns. Leadership from both the District and WDEA provided portions of the training. WESD Legal Council, Rex Schumway, provided information on the disciplinary process and board policy. The Director of Human Resources, Justin Wing, provided information on evaluations and improvement plans. WDEA

President ,Mindy Whalen, and WDEA Advocacy Chair ,Laurie Richards, provided information on the role of the advocate and how to interview employees. Dr. Susie Cook and Dr. Lyn Bailey participated in the training with information about the advocacy process. We were also assisted by Governing Board President Chris Maza who is also the President of PVEA and a member of the AEA Board of Directors. This was a true partnership between our association and district! We joined together in the common goal to protect employee rights and processes and do what is best for the students in our district.

The training was well attended and the majority of the participants were interested in becoming an employee advocate and in attending future trainings. There will be future trainings provided that involve how to write an improvement plan, how to navigate the disciplinary process and board policy, and how to read and understand evaluations. We are very excited that many participants are eager to observe the process and learn more about being an advocate. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an employee advocate, contact Laurie Richards at laurie.richards@wesdschools.org

Submitted by Laurie Richards



AEA Leadership Conference at the Wigwam Resort. Right to Left: Mindy Whalen, Sandy Bogard, Donna Maese, Laurie Richards and Sally Snader.

WDEA welcomed 85 bus drivers and bus aides to the Transportation Event. Karen Duncan, AEA Organizational Consultant, spoke to the staff about the

Transportation Event

value of being part of the WDEA. Present at the event were AEA organizers: Shirley Boswell, Je'Anna Boykin, Scott Boykin, Joe Carter and Robin Munck, as well as, Karen Duncan and Sally Truman.

The results of the event brought 3 new members aboard and several membership forms were handed out. The staff enjoyed pizza during the recruitment. Karen Duncan also told transportation folks that she

would be coming once a month to answer more questions and pick up membership forms. One of the Site Leaders for Transportation, **Debbie Hilmes**, will be collecting forms and continuing to discuss benefits for WDEA members. Thanks to all that participated!

Submitted by Sally Truman

Priority Learning

AEA Presents Priority Learning Professional Development Day & Professional Dress Fashion Show on Saturday, October 29th at:

Central High School

4525 N. Central, Phoenix

Priority Learning is the professional arm of the Arizona Education Association which supports teaching excellence and school

improvement. Each participant can attend one full day or two ½ day sessions. The cost is **\$35 for AEA members & \$50 for non members.**

Each participant will earn 5 professional development hours.

The registration deadline is Sept. 30.

Classes are taught by Nationally Board Certified teachers. Classes

include: Classroom Management, Bullying & Sexual Harassment, ELL: Culture & Equity Training, Professional Learning Communities, Evaluation Strategies, Preparing Your Classroom, Lesson Planning, & Response to Intervention. For more information contact: Roxanna Horine at Roxanna.horine@arizonaaea.org

Submitted by Joslyn Brown

WDEA New Hire Event

On Aug. 5, 2011, the WDEA hosted a luncheon at the district office for over 60 new hired certificated employees. They had been through several days of classes which were chalked full of information. Atlasta Catering, owned by Steve & Kristine Short, (Lamp of Learning recipients May 2011), provided a delicious array of deli style sandwiches, salads, and scrumptious cookies. Dr. Cook was so enthusiastic about the lunch that she was encouraging the “newbees” to join the event. The theme was, “It’s a Jungle Out There” and eye catching, jungle décor was on every table. Susie Smith, WDEA Social Secretary, welcomed our new staff, followed by an inspiring speech by our WDEA President, Mindy Whalen. Mindy gave several benefits to joining our professional organization, but said that’s not why they should join. She said they should join because it gives them a voice in every part of our district; at their schools, on committees, including IBN (Interest Based Negotiations). Next, Dr. Cook spoke about the fact that,

although they may not have come into teaching thinking that they would get involved with politics, our Arizona educational climate (and no, not the heat) has forced us to take a stand with our legislature for student and educator well-being. We can’t do this alone. Being part of WDEA and our state affiliate, Arizona Educational Association (AEA), gives us a stronger voice and better impact. Andrew Morrill, AEA President, whose speeches are always captivating, also gave encouraging words as we face the jungle. He inspired those present to not just sign their contract and teach, but to become part of the profession and part of the fight for public education. Our own Governing Board President, Chris Maza, spoke from his heart about beginning as a private school teacher and coming over to public education where we educate all children and give all children a chance for a quality education. Lastly, our own Nancy Putman (retired May 2011) spoke about the Washington Education

Foundation and the many grants that are available to WESD staff. After all the inspiring speeches, and being very mindful of not keeping the new teachers too long, WDEA members, AEA employees, retirees, and Governing Board members were on hand to help the new teachers sign-up for the WDEA. **Thirty** new teachers signed-up and many others wanted more information. Finally, door prizes, such as jungle themed bulletin board décor and other classroom supplies, were raffled off at the end of the event. All-in-all Dr. Cook, Andrew Morrill, Joe Thomas (AEA Vice President), other AEA employees, and our own WDEA Executive Board members, leaders and retirees felt that the luncheon was a huge success and look forward to following up with the new members as well as other potential members.

Submitted by Joslyn Brown

Melissa Lillie, a recent participant at the WDEA New Hire Event, is no stranger to WESD or Lookout Mt. School where she will be teaching kindergarten. Melissa, is married and taught for several years in another district before deciding to stay home with her children, Keith 19, Jeffrey 8, Bradley 6, and Elizabeth 4. She has been very involved in the Lookout community for many years as a parent volunteer and part of the PTO. As a matter of fact, she is a product of Lookout Mt. and so when the opportunity became available to teach kindergarten, she jumped on it. She had very little time to get her room put together, but with the help of her family, they managed to pull it off. Her room is adorable, organized, and ready to be a fun, inviting learning environment for her students. Lookout Mt., the WESD, and the WDEA all welcome new hire, Melissa Lillie and wish her all the best,

Submitted by Joslyn Brown



Melissa Lillie

NEA RA Chicago 2011

If being in the company of 11, 400 educators across the country was not moving enough, having the “Wisconsin 14” represented by Wisconsin State Senator, Mark Miller, the ESP of the Year, Jameel Williams, the Teacher of the Year, Michelle Shearer and America’s Greatest Education Governor, Governor of Kentucky, the Honorable Steven Beshear certainly made a memorable and powerful Representative Assembly as WDEA’s delegates stood proud to be in public education representing Arizona. The 12 hour days were amazing as delegates made amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules for the betterment of public education. Throughout the voting, voices were heard from fellow public educators from across the US as they shared strong support and viewpoints from their local associations. As inspiring and exciting as each of the speakers were to the assembly, the address to the RA from Vice President, Joe Biden was incredibly powerful and moving. As the Vice President commended educators for taking on the toughest job in America, he stated “Everyone of us in the world today have something in common and that is that none of us would be in the positions we’re in today were it literally not for the inspiration and love and guidance of our teachers.” He continued to inspire educators as he stated that he “knows of no family of means in America who would deny their own children preschool, child care, good nutrition, health care and other opportunities from soccer to music to dance to art. If this nation wants to remain strong and prosperous, why would we perpetuate a system that denies these opportunities to every child?” WDEA’s delegates felt inspired and proud to Stand Strong for Public Education.

Submitted by Susie Smith



Left to Right: Lori Fox, Susie Smith, Mindy Whalen, Nancy Putman & Joslyn Brown