**Find Out About Recreation Programs for Seniors**

There are at least ten (10) senior centers located in and around the Las Vegas area, and there are many other recreation facilities that do not have “senior center” in their title that are open to us older residents.

Find out more about them when we will be visited by representatives from the Cora Coleman Sunrise Senior Center who will tell us about the extensive programs available to seniors throughout the valley!

Just at the Cora Coleman Center, you can find line dancing and tap dancing classes. They also have exercise classes, including tai chi. If you are interested in art, there are classes in drawing, watercolor, and chalk art, and there are also jewelry workshops. They also have crochet, craft, and sewing classes. There are also classes in guitar, including electric, and classes to help you with your computer.

**Join us for our next CREA meeting on Thursday, February 13, at 11:00a.** If you would like, you could also come a little earlier at 10:30a and take part in a political discussion led by Steve Horner. To RSVP, call Harry Beall at (702) 521-3387, or you can send him an email at sandreap@ix.netcom.com. Please do so by Monday evening, February 10, to secure your reservation. Members are free, but guests and spouses will be charged $5.00.

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**Take Part in Nevada Caucus 2020**

Nevada will be the first state in the West to select a presidential candidate! Since Nevada has such a diverse population, it will also show which candidate our very diverse electorate supports. This year’s Nevada presidential caucus is only for Democrats. If you are a Republican, you have no caucus because it has been cancelled since Donald Trump is running against no other Republican candidate.

Democrats will get a chance to choose whoever is still a presidential candidate on noon Saturday, February 22, 2020. Registration will begin two hours earlier at 10:00 a.m. There are more than 130 caucus locations in Clark County. Finding your caucus area is as simple as typing in your address! You can find your own caucus area online at [http://caucus.nvdems.com](http://caucus.nvdems.com).

Caucusing is very different from voting. When you caucus, you will be with people from your own neighborhood speaking about choices for Democratic presidential candidates, and you might have an opportunity to change opinions during the process, which generally takes an hour to an hour and a half. If you cannot caucus on the February 22, there are several early voting locations from February 15 to 18, including the NSEA office! Find other locations here: [http://caucus.nvdems.com](http://caucus.nvdems.com).

Click [here](http://caucus.nvdems.com) if you are interested in volunteering for the caucus or [here](http://caucus.nvdems.com) if interested in being a party delegate! This is a great way to get involved!
CREA Advocates for You!

The Clark Retired Education Association and the Nevada State Education Association work hard with the state legislature to advocate for you. This month, CREA members spoke before the Interim Retirement Benefits Committee about the need for more and better retiree health care. CREA has a strong legislative presence forged through years of legislative contact.

As retired educators, our main emphasis should be on improving our retirement and improving education. NSEA does a great job forming coalitions with other organizations, including the Retired Public Employees of Nevada (RPEN), so there is no need to join or advocate for any other retirement organization except CREA. Find out how you can become more involved in CREA by speaking with our president, Brian Morgan, or with any board member.

NSEA Makes Plans for Next Legislative Session

We all know education needs more funding. Teacher salaries are too low, class sizes are too large, and our per-pupil funding is among the lowest in the nation. According to World Population Revue, Nevada’s per-pupil spending for 2020 is $9,320, ranking Nevada ninth from the bottom nationally.

Their statistics say Utah is last in per-pupil funding with $7,179, and New York provides the most with $23,091, but in Connecticut, which has approximately the same population as Nevada, per-pupil spending is $19,322, over twice the amount Nevada students receive.

NSEA’s Deputy director of Government Relations, Chris Daly, says during the next legislative session, NSEA will be focused on putting more money into education by building a winning coalition with other organizations like Fund Our Future Nevada and America Votes and by being in constant communication with the governor’s office, legislative leaders, business representatives, and strategic partners about finding new, additional revenue.

In January, a sales tax increase of one-eighth of one cent enacted by the Clark County Commission went into effect. It is projected to put 54 million more dollars into education and social services programs. Similarly related, the Clark County Education Association recently proposed a voter initiative petition that would increase the local school support tax by 1.5 percentage points, raising over a billion dollars for the state’s schools. NSEA has not taken a position on that initiative, as has expressed concern that CCEA has not built the coalitions necessary to pass the measure.

It would be good to have more revenue, but NSEA and our coalition partners know there is a better way than going at it alone. Sales taxes are regressive. Those with less money like low wage earners and retirees pay a larger percentage of their income into the tax. It would also give Nevada one of the highest sales taxes in the country.

NSEA will also work hard during the next legislative session to fix Senate Bill 543 (#FIX543), which was passed late in the last legislative session. The bill, now law, does not have new or additional revenue, will freeze and squeeze the budgets of most school districts, give millions to charter schools, water down zoom and victory schools, and will wall of millions of dollars though an anti-union/anti-collective bargaining provisions. We must help fix 543!
Last week, the NSEA launched the “We Count” campaign to officially kick off a major effort to promote participation in the 2020 census through activation of its members, including CREA! An accurate census count of our vibrant and diverse communities brings critical funding and resources our schools and communities deserve.

NSEA President Brian Rippet stated, “Nevada educators, current or retired, know how important the 2020 census is for their communities and their schools. Not only does the census makes visible the strength of our communities by counting every student, parent, and family in our country, but an accurate census is critical to ensure our Nevada’s public schools and communities get the resources they need.”

The We Count campaign has various ways that you can help raise awareness of this once-in-a-decade process mandated by the U.S. Constitution. You can visit nea.org/Census to find various resources, order free posters to distribute to friends and family, and graphics to download for your social media! Make sure to check the NSEA social media pages for updates, reminders, and new graphics you can share!

Also remember that the Census Bureau is still hiring for temporary positions! There are many well-paying census jobs available. You can apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs.

We are attaching an informative flyer to this newsletter that you can read, print, and share with anyone you’re talking to about the 2020 Census!
Young people were drastically undercounted in the 2010 U.S. Census—which missed more than 1 in 10 children under the age of five. When we fail to count children, the programs that support their well-being—such as childcare, schools, health insurance, housing, and public transportation—lose out on needed funds for the next 10 years, an entire childhood.

**What is the census?**
The U.S. Constitution requires the government to count everyone who lives in the United States every ten years. To start the count, each household will receive a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau by mid-March. If households don’t reply by late April, a Census employee will follow up in person.

**Why is the census important?**
- Census information is used to distribute more than $1.5 trillion in federal funds, including funding for schools, hospitals, and roads in every community.
- The census is used to determine how communities are represented in the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, and even on school boards.
- The census helps determine how much money your school receives to reduce class size, support educators, offer free and reduced meals, and help students with special needs. All children gain when they and their friends are counted.

**The census is safe.**
- Census information is used for statistical purposes only, to better understand our population and communities.
- Federal law strictly prohibits using census information for law enforcement, immigration enforcement, or any reason related to an individual or family. Census employees who disclose confidential information can be punished by 5 years in prison and $250,000 in fines.

**How to get counted?**
- Count everyone who stays in your home, whatever their age or relationship, especially if they might not be counted somewhere else. Babies count (even if still in the hospital), and so does your nephew, stepdaughter, grandmother, or grandchild who stays with you.
- The census is easy. Households can complete the form by return mail, by phone, or online. Forms are available in English and 12 other languages. Census guides are available in 60 languages.

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**Safe. Important. Necessary.**

**Fill Out Your Census Today**
- At [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)
- By Phone, toll free
- By Mail, postage paid