Sue Strand, a true powerhouse in Nevada Education, passed away from pneumonia on April 18. She had just turned 78 the month before.

She started teaching for the Clark County School District in 1974 and soon became an outspoken advocate for teachers’ rights and overall excellence in Nevada education.

Her obituary points out that Strand’s leadership roles spanned three decades, from the 1980s to 2003. She had been president of the Clark County Education Association, president of the Nevada State Education Association, and a director of the National Education Association. Additionally, Sue Strand was listed in “Who Are the Women of Las Vegas, 1984” and the “Who’s Who of Nevada Educators. 1989-1990.”

Following her retirement, she was president of her HOA board, and she remained an active member of the Clark Retired Education Association, rarely missing a meeting. In 2010, Sue was awarded the Nevada State Education Association’s Retired Achievement Award.

Current CREA President Brian Morgan remembered, “Sue always worked for the betterment of those who worked in the education field.” He added, “From the start of my time with CREA, I relied on Sue’s advice and direction. Although I did not always follow it, Sue was always supportive of the decisions I made. You always knew what Sue’s opinion was on any topic.”

NSEA-R President Tom Wellman added, “Sue Strand was truly a force to be reckoned with, both in the labor community and in Nevada’s education system. She was well versed on all of the issues and how they impacted membership. Sue was not afraid to offer you her opinion and to tell you why you were wrong. She left a lasting impression on Clark County School District and the state of Nevada. Sue will be missed, and we are a better place from her efforts.”

United States Congresswoman Dina Titus said, “She was a powerful force in the teachers’ union and remained at the forefront of educational policy making throughout her life. I respected her, feared her, admired her, and liked her very much.”

Political leader Chris Giunchigliani, who, like Strand, served both as president of the Clark County Education Association and president of the Nevada State Education Association said, “Sue was funny, fierce, and passionate about kids and teachers. She couldn’t be bullied and had a solid sense of right and wrong. She was a loyal friend and mentor to me, and I’m proud to have known her.”

Natha Anderson, President of the Washoe Education Association, remembered Sue Strand as someone who fought for what was right, not for personal power and that she “knew how important relationships are.”

Nevada State Senator Joyce Woodhouse said Sue Strand was, “one of the best as a friend, mentor, and union warrior. She was always prepared for the work ahead and just as passionate to accomplish the goals of that work.”

Others recalled Strand as “Nevada education’s resident historian” and “a keeper of democracy who always fought for education.”

A recent vote by the board of the Nevada State Education Association changed the name of their outstanding achievement award to the Sue Strand Outstanding Achievement Award.

If you would like to send a personal note to Sue Strand’s family, you can write to: Family of Sue Strand, 5525 West Flamingo Road, Unit 1031, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103.
A Message From CREA
President Brian Morgan

Fellow CREA members,

After the Governor’s stay at home order expires, we really have no idea what to expect. My personal hope is we will be back in the NSEA building for our September meeting. There are a lot of things to consider, especially for groups with demographics like CREA’s. If we are following the governor’s directions, I believe that those of us who are retired have an easier time dealing with the restrictions then those who are still working. Speaking personally, however, even if I leave the house to do something only once or twice a year, because I can’t leave the house, I want to do that thing right now. For example, I usually only go out for sushi only on certain family members’ birthdays, but last week I had a horrible desire for it!

Like a lot of us, I have been keeping busy. I have been doing a lot of the things, like cleaning out the garage, I should have done maybe 15 years ago. Our trash can has been overfilled by weight the last couple of weeks! Sandy has cleaned out her closet, and I should do the same thing. The dog (Molly) and the cat (Mike) can’t understand why we don’t leave the house so they can get a treat. No, the dog and the cat were not named after the television show.

I am still looking at the possibility of getting some small groups going. When we are able to get back to our lives, I believe we will be ready for some face-to-face time with our friends. I would love to hear from our members any ideas you have for small groups. I would also love to hear from people who would be willing to host a small group. The host gets to choose what type of group they host, of course. Again, the types of groups are limited only by your thoughts, likes, and hobbies. Please keep them legal.

I wish my fellow CREA members continued health and well being through these trying times. I look forward to our meetings next year when we can safely meet in person. When you can’t participate in your normal life, you do not know what you are missing. One of the things I miss is the time I have with my CREA family. To paraphrase a song from our youth, I hope to see you in September.

CREA Meetings Cancelled Until September

There will be no CREA general membership meeting this month. It would have been held on May 14, but Governor Sisolak’s stay-home-for-Nevada directive effectively cancelled it.

The CREA board, however, will still meet on May 13, but they will be using Zoom technology and conducting business through their computers.

CREA general membership meeting business for March, April, and May, such as CREA board elections, will be delayed and conducted, hopefully, in September or until such a time it is deemed safe to meet together once again.

CREA general membership meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of each month from September to May each school year.
PERS Benefits Not Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic

As we retirees see so many people unemployed and struggling for money in Nevada and around the nation because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is natural to be concerned about our PERS benefits.

PERS’ Director of Communication, Walter Zeron, reminds us, “It is important to remember that PERS has weathered periods of market volatility and uncertainty in the past.”

Zeron added, “While this event has been acute and has transpired over a short time period, at this point the magnitude of the declines in global stock markets are comparable with previous bear markets.”

The PERS spokesman reminds us that since the portfolio’s inception, PERS has endured and survived extreme market events stemming from terrorist attacks and global financial crises.

Zeron says, “PERS’ portfolio is performing as we would expect in this environment. We continue to manage the fund in the same disciplined manner as we have in the past.”

There have, however, been some changes in the PERS office. For the time being, NVPERS has decided to provide customer service only by phone or email.

To protect their members and staff, all scheduled appointments have been cancelled, and walk-in appointments, programs, and rural counseling appointments have been discontinued. People have been urged to submit documents by mail, email, or fax.

Zeron adds that the temporary changes to NVPERS business operations will not impact payment of and NVPERS monthly benefits and that members will continue to receive their monthly benefit checks without interruption.

NVPERS says they will continue to monitor the developments and safety recommendations related to COVID-19, and if their business is more directly impacted, they say they will provide updates.

COVID-19 Impacting Nevada Census Information

CREA member Nathan Bassing says the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the gathering of Nevada’s census information. Bassing until recently had been working as a local census coordinator, and he spoke to us at December’s general membership meeting about the census. Currently, he says only about 51 percent of those who were asked to complete the census form online have done so.

Normally by this time, Bassing said, field workers would be knocking on the doors of those households that did not complete their census information online, but, like everyone else, census field workers are currently staying home for Nevada.

Bassing says that even though the deadline to complete the online census has passed, he urges people fill out and submit the information anyway. Those people will need the 12-digit census number that was on material mailed to them. The online census portal can be found at https://my2020census.gov. There is also a phone number those who have not completed the census can call. It is (844) 330-2020.

Completing the census now will help lower the burden census field workers will have once they do start going door to door. Bassing indicated it may be late this year or early next year before our nation’s census will be complete.
People who live in District A of the Clark County School District will see a familiar name on their primary ballot, Lisa Guzman, NSEA’s assistant executive director. Guzman is running for Clark County School Board Trustee for the first time. Not surprisingly, she is also endorsed by NSEA. Other NSEA endorsement for positions on the Clark County School Board include Jeffery Proffitt in district B and NEA of Southern Nevada member, Alexis Salt in district E.

Those who would like to see the entire list of NSEA primary candidate endorsements can view them on the last page of this newsletter or online by clicking here.

For the safety of all Nevadans, and as a temporary measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the 2020 Nevada primary election will be conducted through mail-in ballots. Although there have been legal challenges to having a Nevada vote by mail primary, so far, the courts have decided to let the election proceed.

According to Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, “Because of the many uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the immediate need to begin preparations for the 2020 primary election, it became necessary for me to take action regarding how the election will be conducted.”

A recent press release from her office says all active registered voters in the state will be mailed an absentee ballot, and no actions, such as submitting an absentee ballot request application, will be required by individual voters to receive a ballot in the mail.

Voters will be able to mark their ballots at home and return them using postage-prepaid envelopes, or they can drop off the ballots in person at a designated county location.

However, to accommodate same-day voter registration, and to help voters who have issues with the ballot that was mailed to them, at least one in-person polling location will be available in each county for the June 9, 2020 primary election.

The Nevada Secretary of State’s office says the polling locations will be set up to ensure the safety both the voters and the poll workers. Even so, Nevadans are encouraged to register to vote now and not rely on the same-day registration process.

Voters are also encouraged to confirm their voter registration information is correct, including mailing address and political party affiliation. Visit www.RegisterToVoteNV.gov to register to vote online or to make updates to your existing voter record.

All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, and all ballots that are dropped off in person must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day. The Secretary of State’s Office has set up a very helpful website with lots of information if you have any questions: Mail It In Nevada
2020 NSEA PRIMARY CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

The candidates listed below have gone through the Nevada State Education Association endorsement process. Please consider these recommended candidates in the 2020 Primary Election. These candidates are committed to fighting for K-12 public education.

**U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (CD)**
- CD 1... Dina Titus (D)
- CD 3... Susie Lee (D)
- CD 4... Steven Horsford (D)

**SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA**
- Seat D... Ozzie Fumo

**STATE SENATE DISTRICT (SD)**
- SD 3... Chris Brooks (D)
- SD 4... Dina Neal (D)
- SD 5... Kristee Watson (D)
- SD 7... Roberta Lange (D)
- SD 15... Wendy Jauregui-Jackins (D)

**STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT (AD)**
- AD 1... Daniele Monroe-Moreno (D)
- AD 3... Selena Torres (D)
- AD 4... Connie Munk (D)
- AD 5... Brittney Miller (D)
- AD 6... Shondra Summers-Armstrong (D)
- AD 7... Cameron Miller (D)
- AD 8... Jason Frierson (D)
- AD 9... Steve Yeager (D)
- AD 10... Rochelle Nguyen (D)
- AD 11... Beatrice Duran (D)
- AD 12... Susan Martinez (D)
- AD 14... Maggie Carlton (D)
- AD 15... Howard Watts (D)
- AD 16... Cecelia Gonzales (D)
- AD 17... Clara Thomas (D)
- AD 18... Venicia Considine (D)
- AD 20... David Orentlicher (D)
- AD 21... David Bagley (D)
- AD 24... Sarah Peters (D)
- AD 27... Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D)
- AD 28... Edgar Flores (D)
- AD 29... Lesley Cohen (D)
- AD 30... Natha Anderson (D)
- AD 34... Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod (D)
- AD 35... Michelle Gorelow (D)
- AD 37... Shea Backus (D)
- AD 41... Sandra Jauregui (D)
- AD 42... Alexander Asseffa (D)

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
- District 2... Katie Coombs
- District 4... Mark Newburn

**UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS**
- District 3... Swadeep Nigam
- District 5... Sam Lieberman
- District 10... Andrew Dias

**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**
- Trustee District A... Lisa Guzman
- Trustee District B... Jeffrey Proffitt
- Trustee District E... Alexis Salt

**DISTRICT COURT**
- District 21... Caesar Almase

VOTE BY MAIL
JUNE 9