WREA NEWS AND EVENTS
FEBRUARY 2020

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Melissa Sewell, President WREA

Hello! It’s a new decade. You may have noticed that there is a presidential election this year. It’s also a state election year. All of these things are important to us as retirees.

The biggest topic that seems to come up for retirees is health insurance. Regardless of your feelings on Medicare for all, single-payer insurance, Affordable Care Act, etc. it’s a huge topic. Your NSEA-R board and WREA officers are aware of the concerns. First, WREA suffered a big loss with the death of Dani Kitts. Dani worked very hard for retirees as our representative on the WCSD Insurance Committee, among many other things. Her loss leaves a vacancy on that committee. We are looking to fill this vacancy with one of our members who is willing to be on the committee and be a voice for retirees who are covered by the WCSD health insurance plan. If this is something you feel called to do, please email me at longglegs@sbcglobal.net and I will send you the link to apply.

Second, NSEA-R began the discussion on health insurance for retired teachers and education support professionals at the 2019 legislature. While nothing came of these discussions, legislators became aware of the issue. The legislative session of 2021 will see us in the legislature again, making a case for a statewide insurance system. We will need people willing to contact their assembly members and senators. And I can’t stress it enough: VOTE. Be aware of the candidates’ positions on issues like insurance, Medicare, and education.

In other WREA news, it was wonderful to see some new faces at our holiday luncheon at the Gold ‘N Silver Inn. Our next event is our Leap Year Event on February 27. More information is in this newsletter.

I would like to also acknowledge the WREA Board of Directors for everything they do. Our luncheon was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Janet Carnes and Susan Kaiser. The rest of the Board, VP Gordon McGregor, Secretary Patty Dickens, Treasurer Fred Dailey and Board members Ellen Townsend, Marlene Hansen, Michele Delano, and Laurie Edgington are enthusiastic and ready to help in any way. I couldn’t do this without them.
Critical Needs Hiring

You may have heard that there is a teacher shortage in WCSD. They are looking to hire retired teachers to fill some of those critical positions. You will still be able to draw your pension and they will pay your health insurance as well as your salary. Those who may be interested should go to the Washoe County School District link here: [https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/14147](https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/14147).

EMAIL/ADDRESS UPDATE

Please update your email and address if you have not already done so in order for us to send the newsletters to you digitally. This really helps keep down the cost and allows us to communicate with you more efficiently. As always, we thank you in advance. Please send your updated information to Julie Stamps at Julie.Stamps@nsea-nv.org

Past Events

As mentioned in the Board Minutes update to the left, the past events have been received with much success. Our first ever Bingo Night was attended by many new participants and we were able to make a profit which was donated to the Bernie Anderson Scholarship Fund. Also, our Christmas holiday luncheon at the Gold ‘N Silver Inn was well-attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Susan Kaiser and Janet Carnes worked very hard to make the day a success. Those who attended were treated to good food, great conversations, and beautiful harp music by our own Patty Dickens. We also wrote holiday cards to our National Guard Service personnel which Susan delivered along with treats.
There was a little discussion about the cost of our luncheons and dinners but we have already been notified by many of our local restaurants that prices will increase this year and next due to their costs. While we strive to keep the cost as low as possible, we also realize that business must do what is necessary for them to survive as well.

Please see a few pictures this page and the next from our holiday luncheon.

A smiling Laurie Edgington greets our guests while Melissa Sewell and Fred Dailey take care of business.
Beautiful Christmas harp music by Patty Dickens was enjoyed by all. Melissa Sewell and Fred Dailey were selling tickets and taking money as they welcomed our guests.
UPCOMING EVENTS

✓ **Leap Into Spring**

Our next event will be another new one this year. We are going to have a Leap Year dinner. Since it only comes once every four years, we are going to meet at Louie’s Basque Corner for dinner on Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. We are hoping that many of you will join us to celebrate this day. Please see the flyer on the next page with all the information you will need. As noted earlier, some prices have increased and since this is a dinner rather than a luncheon, the cost is higher; however, if you’ve ever eaten at Louie’s you know that the food is wonderful and plentiful and you will definitely not leave hungry. Please see the flyer on page 6.

✓ **Bakers and Books**

In April, we will be having another new event, Bakers and Books. Thursday, April 16, from 4:00-6:00 P.M. we will have a baking contest and book exchange. All proceeds will go to benefit our Scholarship Fund so please consider joining us for a fun afternoon. Please see the flyer later in this newsletter for rules and information.

✓ **WREA Awards Banquet**: This is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2020. Time and place TBD.

✓ **WREA End of Year Luncheon & General Membership Meeting**: Thurs., June 11, 2020. TBD

LEAP INTO SPRING
COME ONE COME ALL TO OUR 1st LEAP YEAR

DINNER. IT WILL BE FOUR MORE YEARS UNTIL THE NEXT ONE!!!!!!
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: Raffle tickets are still available for this gorgeous quilt made and donated by Ramona Carlos.

Please see more information on the following page.
Scholarship for New Educators

Scholarships are often awarded at the beginning of college but how often do you hear of a scholarship for the beginning of a career? WREA offers a scholarship to students who are about to graduate from college and start teaching.

The Bernie Anderson Scholarship is named after a man who was dedicated to education in the classroom, in the local and state education associations, and in the Nevada Legislature. To continue his legacy, this scholarship for $1500.00 is open to a graduating University of Nevada student who will continue on to a career in public education. There are no stipulations on how the money can be spent. What a boost for a new teacher setting up a classroom, traveling for interviews, or enhancing a wardrobe.

The application process is very easy and starts in January. The scholarship is awarded at our WREA June meeting when the recipient is invited to share her or his story. Members are encouraged to tell students they know about this opportunity. The fund for this scholarship is dependent on WREA member donations. Each member is asked to give $60 a year or $5.00 month to the scholarship. Please fill out the pledge form and send it in TODAY. Fund raising events during the year will supplement your donations. Ramona Carlos gave the beautiful quilt in the photo for a raffle toward the fund. Thank you Ramona. If you have any questions or ideas about the scholarship please contact Gordy McGregor, gordonmcgregor@gmail.com or Janet Carnes, jkcarnes.jc@gmail.com.

WREA BERNIE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP PLEDGE

NAME ________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS _____________________________________________________________________________
PHONE # _____________________
EMAIL ________________________________________________________________

DONATION AMOUNT- PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

A. $60.00 for the year     B. $5.00 a month for 1 year     C. other

Please mail your pledge to:

WREA BERNIE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
C/O Gordy McGregor
1890 Donald Street
Reno, NV 89502
Nominations are now open for two (2) vacant seats as WREA delegates to the NSEA Delegate Assembly to be held in Elko from Friday April 24th through Sunday April 26th in Elko, NV. The term of office is for two (2) years; Melissa Sewell is a returning delegate by virtue of the office of President and Gordy McGregor and Michele DeLano are returning delegates for their second year, thus leaving two delegate vacancies open for a total for five (5) WREA delegates. Expenses for hotel (2 night/ room only) will be paid by NSEA.

You may nominate yourself or another WREA member with permission. All candidates who are nominated by another member must signify permission to the WREA. Pre-subscribers may not nominate or vote as they are represented by WEA.

Return this form and a short biography stating why you are interesting in being a delegate by email to: Michele DeLano at michelep@prodigy.net or mail to

WREA Retired/Nominations
1890 Donald Street
Reno, NV 89502

The DEADLINE is February 17, 2020 at 4 P.M

Delegate: ___________________________ Phone#______________

Nominator: ___________________________ Phone#______________
(Required)
BAKERS & BOOKS
Looking for the best bakers to participate in our 1st annual Bakers & Books Event

This will be a fundraising event to aid with our scholarship fund.

When: Thursday, April 16, 2020
Where: WEA office upstairs
Time: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Cost: $10.00 to enter 2 dozen of your best cookies, brownies or bars and enjoy some sweet snacks and vote in the contest.
$15.00 if you just want to come and enjoy the goodies without baking.
There will be a People’s Choice vote. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners so get your aprons and spoons ready and come have a fun afternoon.
We are hoping to have a local author or two who can speak with us at this time as well.
Stay tuned!
Bring your recently read books to exchange with others and find a new favorite author as well!
Looking for activities to stay active and engaged?

Check out these local groups in addition to WREA!

They offer fun & stimulation to keep you SHARP!

[https://olli.unr.edu](https://olli.unr.edu)
Offers outdoor activities, lectures, discussion groups, fieldtrips and more.

[https://www.newcomersclubofreno-sparks.org](https://www.newcomersclubofreno-sparks.org)
Learn more at their informational coffee the first Tuesday each month or check out their web page.

Help the WEA Together in Politics (TIP) Committee. Contact Phil Kaiser for more information. 775-848-1743

If you have an interest in volunteering to develop training for
You made a difference in the classroom. You can still impact the future. Donate TODAY!

Any amount is appreciated. You can give a dollar a week using your credit card or make a single check donation.

Give securely at: https://www.neafund.org/Donate/

“Studies have shown a link between generosity and happiness. For example, one survey of 632 Americans found that spending money on other people was associated with significantly greater happiness, regardless of income; conversely, there was no association between spending on oneself and happiness.”

(Source: https://www.templeton.org/discoveries/the-science-of-generosity)

There you have it…

need for the job.

giving not only
benefits the receiver.

As Northern Nevada’s NEA-PAC Captain, I am asking You to make a contribution. Thank you!

Susan Kaiser
kaiserkasa@gmail.com
775-233-6157
Delegate Assembly Nomination Biographies

Biography for Janet Carnes

My experience as a representative for teachers extends back to my 49 years as an educator in New York, Colorado, Montana, and Nevada. I spent 46 years in the classroom, pre-k to high school. I continue as a substitute. I served as building rep, officer, negotiator, and now as a WREA board member. I represented WEA at DA and RA. I ask for your vote to continue to advocate for you.

Biography for Susan Kaiser, NBCT

After 25 years working as a middle school science educator, I recently joined the retired ranks! During my career I served our profession as Building Rep, Middle School Director for the WEA Board of Directors and as a delegate DA and RA. I was also appointed to the Governor’s Educator Ethics Panel. My activism for educators continues as I serve on the WREA Board of Directors and as NEA Pac Captain for Northern Nevada. I would appreciate your vote.