



The Capitol Reporter

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2009 LEGISLATURE

www.nsea-nv.org

Important Dates:

April 2, 2009
Half-way point—Day 60
of Session

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NSEA... Advocating for You in Carson City

Share this with your members and peers!

NSEA's team of lobbyists continues to be in Carson City working for you each and every day. The team, comprised of leaders from all around the state that members like you have elected to represent them, meet on a daily basis with lawmakers, attend hearings, and advocate on your behalf. They are also on this team with staff employees experienced in lobbying the Nevada Legislature.

This session, almost half way over, has been a challenging one as the governor has proposed drastic and irresponsible cuts to the education budget. Additionally, the Lobby Team is tracking nearly 200 bills, including a number of policy issues that impact your profession.

AB 391—Educator Bill of Rights—ensures that a school employee has certain rights with regard to matters involving the discussion of that employee's conduct, performance, employment status, discipline or transfer. This bill provides rights if the employee has a complaint or concern about working conditions. **NSEA SUPPORTS AB 391.**

IP 1—Raises the room tax on hotels in Clark and Washoe County by as much as 3 percent. Starting in 2011, all the money raised from this increased tax will go directly to education. The measure passed both houses of the legislature and became law early this month. **NSEA SUPPORTS IP 1.**

PERS—There are a number of measures impacting the Public Employee Retirement System—your retirement. Most of the changes you can expect will affect only new employees and include lowering the multiplier and increasing the years of service before retirement. The NSEA Lobby Team is weighing each of the many measures carefully and will not support anything that makes negative changes to current employees or any measure that would change the system from a defined contribution to a defined benefit.

We have many systems in place in which you can stay informed and involved. It is extremely important the legislators hear from you, first hand, how the proposed cuts would negatively impact the work you do.

The Legislative Action Center—on our website, www.nsea-nv.org/LAC, you can get all the updates you need. You can also contact your legislators directly from our site. Track bills, download talking points, and contact your legislators on the different issues.

Member Matters, NSEA's E-Newsletter—this is a bi-weekly publication that is delivered directly to your e-mail inbox. You will find all the latest developments in this easy to read E-Newsletter.

Capitol Watch—these are video updates directly from Carson City. NSEA President Lynn Warne will be telling you all about the week's events.

Become our fan on **Facebook**—just search “Nevada State Education Association” and stay up to date with late-breaking developments. Check out all the other helpful tools posted on our Facebook page.

The legislative session is a long way from over—education budgets have not been finalized and won't be for many weeks. It's the position of your Lobby Team to protect the contract and fight hard to fully fund salary increases, including step increases. **Don't make any concessions or agreements with your contract until the Legislative Session is over and you know exactly what is in the budget.**

We look forward to a productive session as we work to preserve the education budget and fight bad legislation that impacts our profession. We're confident our presence, and your support, will get us the results we're looking for—\$ay NO to Education Cuts!

If you have any questions regarding the Legislative Session please feel free to contact UCN President Gaylea Manning: gaylea.manning@lycos.com, NSEA President Lynn Warne: lynn.warne@nsea-nv.org, or NSEA Government Relations Director Julie Whitacre: julie.whitacre@nsea-nv.org.

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Lawmakers Preparing to Make Funding Decisions

The DSA was heard again in Carson City this week. It is evident the K-12 subcommittee is starting to make decisions about programs, salaries, health benefits, and incentives. While there are not any proposals on the table, they're headed in that direction.

It is imperative that you contact your legislators today and urge them to Say NO to Education Cuts! Go to www.nsea-nv.org and click on the “Say NO” graphic.

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Postcard-Writing Campaign Suggested

NSEA has produced blank postcards in order for local affiliates to engage in postcard-writing campaigns. The cards should focus on saying NO to cuts. Please contact Julie Whitacre at julie.whitacre@nsea-nv.org if you would like to participate. We can provide you with talking points on a variety of issues.

It is imperative that lawmakers begin to feel the heat that our 28,000-member organization can deliver. Organize your postcard-writing campaign today!