

CLARK RETIRED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

February 2021

CREA MEMBERS BRIEFED ON UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION



At last month's CREA meeting on January 14, Chris Daly, the Nevada State Education Association's Deputy Executive Director of Government Relations and Alexander Marks, NSEA's Communications Specialist, gave members an overview of what to expect in the upcoming legislative session.

Lawmakers began meeting again on February 1 in Carson City for the state's 81st legislative session.

COVID-19 precautions have forced this legislative session to look quite different from previous sessions. Precautions will heavily restrict who can physically be in attendance. For the most part, legislative business will be handled through the legislature's existing streaming service, but the Nevada state legislature also will have a new YouTube channel.

Similarly, NSEA says COVID-19 guidelines need to be established for schools. Parents, students, and teachers would like to return to classroom learning, but there will continue be lots of apprehension until everyone is vaccinated.

The Nevada legislature's most important business during each legislative session is forging the state's budget. Education accounts for approximately one quarter of the state's revenue expenditure, but tax revenue will be down sharply this session because the COVID-19 pandemic has taken away so much of the state's tax base. Last July's special legislative session already trimmed 156 million dollars from the state's public education budget, and still more cuts are in the works.

A recent survey conducted by NSEA found that most respondents wanted to increase the state's revenue by increasing four main taxes: wealth taxes, millionaire taxes, gaming taxes, and mining taxes. NSEA supports Assembly Joint Resolution 1, which would increase the state's mining tax from five percent of net proceeds to 7.75 of gross proceeds. They believe it would generate about 485 million dollars in new revenue for the state. There is, however, a watered down version of the joint resolution, AJR2, which the legislature may want to pass as a compromise. It would generate only about \$147 million dollars.

NSEA will also continue voice its opposition to SB543, which was passed in 2019 and goes into effect on July first this year. They say it provides no new revenue for schools and will actually harm most of the state's school districts.

We retired educators have advocated in previous legislative sessions for quality, affordable health care for the state's seniors, especially in the rural areas, but the state's deep budget cuts will make those conversations nearly impossible during this session, so many retired educators are urging legislators to conduct a study this session looking into the need for better health care for seniors and for those in rural Nevada.

Since teachers and support staff work during most legislative hearings, we retired educators have been "the daytime face of educators" during legislative sessions, a role which we will continue to hold, but exactly how that will be accomplished is still unclear. It may be through virtual meetings, or it may be through calls, texting, and emails. It will not be in person. If you would like to help, contact CREA president Brian Morgan at (702) 324-3399 or sjmorgan@embarqmail.com or NSEA-Retired president Tom Wellman at (702) 525-9084 or wtazziemann@aol.com.

THIS PRESIDENT'S DAY, IT IS RED FOR ED

LINE THE STREET AT 6 FEET

RED FOR ED



FEBRUARY 15, 2021 AT NOON

NEVADA LEGISLATURE: 401 S CARSON STREET CARSON CITY, NV
GRANT SAWYER: 555 E WASHINGTON AVE, LAS VEGAS, NV



We retired educators are invited to two socially distanced rallies proclaiming support of public education this upcoming Presidents Day, February 15 at noon. The Nevada State Education Association is encouraging retirees, teachers, education support professionals, students, parents, and other concerned community members to wear red and to “Line the Street at 6 Feet.”

The rallies will take place here in Las Vegas at the Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, and at the Nevada Legislature in Carson City at 401 South Carson Street .

NSEA reminds you to make a sign, grab your mask, wear red, and join the rally at a socially distanced six feet to support public education -- its funding, its safety, and its priorities.

Although we will be well-represented, NSEA is not alone in sponsoring the rally. We will be joined by Battle Born Progress, the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Mi Familia Vota, Faith in Action, and the Culinary Workers Union, among many others.

If you would like, you can RSVP by [Clicking Here](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE WILL BE TOPIC AT CREA MEETING

We all know that the federal rollout of vaccines to states has been challenging and confusing. Not enough vaccines are getting into arms because states often are not told how many doses they will receive until a day or two before they are sent.

Worse, Nevada ranks near the bottom in the federal government's per-capita vaccine allocation. The Biden administration has plans for a massive new vaccination program, but many people, especially our vulnerable seniors, have lots of questions, like when and how can we get our vaccines? Once we are vaccinated, how long will the protection last, and when will we be able to stop wearing masks in public?



Fortunately, we have the perfect person to answer those questions and any others you may have, Dr. Chad Kingsley, the regional trauma coordinator for the Southern Nevada Health District.

If you want to know more about COVID-19 and the Southern Nevada Health District's vaccination program, Dr. Kingsley will be with us on Zoom to tell us what he knows. That meeting will be Thursday, February 11, at 10:00.

If you have not already, please download and install zoom. If you encounter any problems, contact a board member and ask for their help. Their contact information is listed below.

You can find the Zoom download at <https://zoom.us/support/download>. A window will pop up for opening ZoomInstaller.exe. Click "save file" and Zoom will begin downloading to "downloads" in your computer. In downloads you will see "ZoomInstaller." To the left of that word will be a

small icon of a white camera on a blue background. Click it and Zoom will begin installing on your device.

If you are new to Zoom and would like to see a tutorial on how to use it, there are plenty on YouTube such as "Joining a Zoom Call for the First Time" by [clicking here](#).

Many people believe that they cannot use Zoom unless they have a video camera on their home computer, laptop, or other device, but cameras are not necessary. With no camera, no one will be able to see you, but you can still see and hear everyone else. You can even dial a number on your phone and join the meeting that way.

If you would like to practice a bit and practice with some of Zoom's features, there is also a link to join a meeting with just yourself. You can find it at <https://zoom.us/test>.

Here are the CREA board members who have offered to assist you with Zoom: Kathleen Bagley, bagleylv@cox.net or (702) 646-2712; Harry Beall, sandreap@ix.netcom.com or (702) 521-3387; Patricia Bynum, pbynum1020@yahoo.com or (702) 647-4858; Lynne Herman, lherman6@cox.net or (702) 647-4004; Steve Horner, sjhorner5107@gmail.com or (702) 767-0740; Sylvia Villalva, sylvillalva@gmail.com or (702) 256-0182; and Brian Morgan, sjmorgan@embarqmail.com or (702) 452-5915.

We really hope you join us for our February Zoom meeting. Remember, this month's meeting will begin at 10:00 on February 11.

Contact Harry Beall at sandreap@ix.netcom.com or (702) 521-3387, and he will give you the Zoom information you will need to log on.

FOOD DRIVE PLANNED FOR MARCH CREA MEETING



The lines of people in their cars going through food distribution centers here in Las Vegas is reminiscent of the bread lines of the Great Depression in the 1930s. It is the same situation, just updated 90 years with better technology and necessary social distancing. People here are out of work; their money is drying up, and they need to feed their families.

CREA will be collecting donated food from our members and their friends at the March 11 CREA meeting instead of conducting a meeting over Zoom as we have been doing. March's CREA meeting will be like our meeting in December, only instead of collecting donated toys from our members, we will be collecting donated food.

It will be done much the same way as the December toy drive. Members will drive into the Las Vegas NSEA parking lot at 3511 East Harmon Avenue where they will be greeted by masked members of the CREA board who will receive their food donations.

CREA members can donate canned goods, non-perishables, or money. Cash allows food banks purchase items they do not have. Organizations like Feeding America and food bank volunteers have suggestions for donations that are really appreciated:

- Low sodium canned or water packed meats like fish, turkey, and chicken
- Canned vegetables in low sodium liquids or water
- Low sodium canned beans like chickpeas, kidney beans, and cannellini beans
- Low sodium nuts and net butters
- Boxed milk
- Cake mix and frosting for a family birthday
- Coffee
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Dried beans, peas, and lentils
- Sugar
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Spices and salt and pepper
- Dishwashing detergent

You have five or six more weeks to plan, and several ideas and suggestions. We can't wait to see you and what you will donate.