

# WREA Winter 2021 Newsletter

## FEBRUARY 2021



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Kaiser

If you could see me right now you would notice that I am still smiling from ear to ear. Why? The pivotal events in January: the inauguration of our new President Biden, our first female Vice President, Kamala Harris, the inspiring words of Amanda Gorman the Youth Poet Laureate, a return to using science to manage the coronavirus pandemic and an actual press conference to communicate the policies of the executive branch. I think we are going to be OK!

However, it was a close call. A repeat performance of he-who-shall-not-be-named was avoided because key events happened. Americans showed up and voted during a pandemic, brave elected officials stood up to intimidation and certified the election results, and run-off elections in Georgia ended in two democratic victories in great part due to the work of Stacy Abrams. Those who acted include our own members as you will read who volunteered as poll workers, wrote postcards, and advocated for a change in the White House. Indeed, even though the outcome is to be celebrated this is not the time to stop being attentive, engaged, and active to sustain this momentum. I invite you to OPT IN! **Participate in our upcoming Survey Monkey (2/8-22)**, join in our advocacy and fundraising actions, volunteer your talents and your educator voice to maintain this trajectory. For now, distance activities will allow us to stay safe. In the future when we can gather again, we will have already forged new friendships. This effort takes us all, join in.

## WREA ADVOCACY

Some of our members were involved in the GOTV for the November election. Here is how two of our members did their part. Pictured below are Patty Dickens, left, and Sandy Curtis, right.

**Sandy wrote:** Facebook is good for sharing information, My friend, Debbie Cahill, posted that she was writing postcards to people in a swing state to encourage them to vote, stating things like the need for clean water, safe schools, etc. A message from Virginia Duran was also encouraging. After writing to the address that Debbie had given, I received a packet of 200 postcards, 200 names, and a sample message encouraging the person to vote in the Georgia election. 200 was daunting so I called a like-minded political friend and Patty Dickens became my willing partner. We weren't sure that the postcards would have any effect on voters, we sure would like to think so! Look at the results!

**Patty added:** I am so glad that my friend, Sandy Curtis, retired Fernley ES educator and still-active union member, contacted me last October inquiring of my interest in participating in this worthy effort. It felt so good to hand-write 100 postcards to undecided Georgia voters, and, as Sandy says, to feel a bit of pride in the outcome.



## Membership News by Fran McGregor

Just a reminder that as a member of WREA, you are entitled to discounts at many local businesses. WEA has negotiated agreements with these businesses and has extended those benefits to include WREA members.

Some of the businesses include Boulevard Pizza, Butcher Boy Meat Market, Claim Jumper, and Amy's Flowers and Gifts. A full list of participating businesses can be found on the WEA website. All you will need to do to receive your discount is show proof of your membership. If you no longer have an NSEA membership card, use the mailing label on your latest issue of NEA Today. Your membership number along with your name appears there.

In other membership news, our membership committee is growing. Carol Perrigo and Kit McCormick have agreed to serve on the committee. We are still looking for other members who might be interested in joining us. If interested, contact Fran McGregor at 775-544-3644 or [mcmgregor.gordon@att.net](mailto:mcmgregor.gordon@att.net). The committee is looking forward to the time when we can all be together to plan activities for our members. Please consider joining us.

# RED for ED

Here's another way to get involved. WREA President Susan Kaiser writes the following:

As we prepare for our next **RED for ED** rally in Nevada on February 15<sup>th</sup>, watch "What Red for Ed Means" and join millions of voices fighting for our nation's public school students and educators. Join the [#RedforED](http://neatoday.org/redford/) movement: <http://neatoday.org/redford/>

**RED FOR ED RALLY**  
**LINE THE STREET AT 6 FEET**  
**MONDAY, FEB. 15 @ NOON**  
**CARSON CITY: NV LEGISLATURE**  
**LAS VEGAS: GRANT SAWYER BUILDING**

**PLAN**  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
[www.planvada.org](http://www.planvada.org)

**six**  
STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE

**INDIVISIBLE**  
Northern Nevada

## NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION STATEMENT REGARDING THE 2021 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AT THE END OF THE 2019-20 FISCAL YEAR, LAWMAKERS HAD TO CLOSE AN \$812 MILLION BUDGET SHORTFALL AS THE RESULT OF THE DECREASE IN REVENUES FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. INCLUDED IN THAT BUDGET SHORTFALL WAS A \$265 MILLION SHORTFALL IN LOCAL REVENUE TO THE STATE DISTRIBUTIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNT (DSA). WHILE THE FY21 IMPACT HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED, PROJECTIONS BY APPLIED ANALYSIS AND OTHERS HAVE ESTIMATED THE SHORTFALL AT AROUND \$1 BILLION. THE BUDGET IMPACT OF COVID-19 IS LIKELY TO LAST FOR YEARS, IMPACTING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS FOR NEXT BIENNIUM. AS SUCH, NEVADA IS FACING THE MOST SEVERE BUDGET CRISIS IN ITS HISTORY.

THE STATE'S APPROACH TO REVENUE IN THE PAST WAS NEVER SUFFICIENT, AND IT CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE MOVING FORWARD IN A POST-COVID-19 WORLD. FURTHER DEFUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION WITHOUT A PLAN FOR NEW REVENUE IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER. AS SUCH, THE NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION IS CALLING ON ANY BUDGET BALANCING PLAN, FOR THIS BIENNIUM OR NEXT, TO INCLUDE AT LEAST A DOLLAR OF NEW REVENUE FOR ANY DOLLAR CUT FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION—A SHARED SACRIFICE.

### NSEA SUPPORTS:

- STOPPING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FUNDING PLAN UNTIL AFTER THE COVID-19 ECONOMIC CRISIS.
- AT LEAST ONE DOLLAR OF NEW STATE REVENUE FOR EVERY DOLLAR CUT FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING.
- ENSURING ANY NEW FUNDING PLAN MOVING FORWARD ADDRESSES CONCERNS OF EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS.
- ACCESS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR 9 TO 11-MONTH EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS.
- MAINTENANCE OF NEVADA'S SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION EQUITY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ZOOM AND VICTORY SCHOOLS.



## Advocacy for Education by Susan Kaiser

The budget proposed by Governor Sisolak includes drastic cuts to an already underfunded budget for our public schools. This is on top of monies that must be repaid to property owners at Incline Village for a property tax error. This will be devastating, To illustrate, think about the staff from your school site lines up around the library walls. Every 8<sup>th</sup> person will lose their job if this funding model is adopted in this legislature! This just won't work. Citizens of the state should be aware and send a message that school funding must be increased.

It is never too late to use your skills to advocate for education issues. Volunteer your time like Marlene Hanson, our Vice President, who worked the polls during early voting or like our members who not only wrote post cards but paid the postage to get the message3 out to voters in Georgia. Make a donation to the NEA PAC Fund or contribute an item to upcoming auction being held during the NEA Leadership Seminar in March. You can even support the education funding efforts by shopping the auction! Locally, plan to attend the education rally in Carson City on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Can't make the trip? Volunteer to contact your legislators in Carson City about education issues. Email me for more information and to sign up to use your educator voice. [kaiserkasa@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserkasa@gmail.com) . I in 8 educator jobs in Washoe County School District are on the line!

## NV PAC Captain's Report by Susan Kaiser

Spreading JOY, last year retirees in Nevada contributed a total of \$4,791 to the NEA PAC to help elect officials that recognize the important work accomplished in America's public schools. The coffers are empty now, but it is a new year! Please take a moment today to make a single check contribution. You can give a dollar a week using your credit card or make a single check donation. You choose. Any amount you can comfortably give is appreciated.

**To donate online and give securely visit:**

<https://www.ewfund.org/Donate/#>

OR

**Make your check out and mail it to:**

**NEA Fund**

**P.O. Box 96225**

**Washington, D.C. 20077-7501**

Please include the following:

Full name and address

Occupation: none

Employer: none

NEA member # (if known)



**Help us reach a new fundraising GOAL of \$5000 in 2021! Thank YOU!**

For a little laugh...



*You are*  
**brave bold**  
**kind proud**  
**courageous**  
**fierce strong**  
**determined**  
**inspiring**  
**loved** =

## **Bernie Anderson WREA Scholarship Update**

We have set in motion the process of sending out applications for the scholarship. I am confident that we will find a worthy individual to award the scholarship to this year. If you know of any student who is serving as an intern and who plans on teaching in Nevada next year, please encourage them to watch for an email from Lisa Romero of NSEA. This email will contain the information they need to know in order to apply.

As you may already know, we have decided to carry over our raffle of the lovely throw (quilt) that Ramona Carlos made for us until we are able to have another in person function and can have a drawing. WE still have the tickets already purchased and would be happy to sell more. If we raise enough money, we are considering awarding either two scholarships or awarding money to a first year teacher who did not get the chance to apply last year.

The raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. You may purchase them by mailing your contribution to Gordon McGregor at 2161 Tangerine St., Sparks, NV 89434. You could also just drop it off at the front desk at the WEA offices. Be sure to put your contribution in an envelope with your first and last name and your best phone number so we can contact you if you are the lucky winner. I will fill out your tickets with your information on them and put them with the others. If you would like to make a contribution and not buy tickets, our committee is asking for \$60.00 from members each year. If that is more than you can give this year, we would be happy to accept any amount you feel is appropriate.

Stay healthy and safe.  
Gordy McGregor

## **February Fitness Tip by Melissa Sewell**

January is traditionally the month of “New Year’s Resolutions”. It’s the month when we decide to eat healthier, get more exercise, and shed the holiday weight, right? I find that retirement has been great for getting more exercise, even with the pandemic and subsequent time spent at home.

In my pre-retired life, I was a fitness and Pilates instructor. Three years ago, I decided to become a yoga instructor. I am anything but super flexible, but the breathing, strengthening, and stretching are so lovely. Here is a basic stretch you can do after any activity or right before you go to bed. It will stretch out your lower back and hips. Disclaimer: always start easy when stretching and don’t push too hard. It’s not a competition.

**SUPINE TWIST:** Lie on your back and draw both knees in toward your chest. Breathe deeply through your nose for 2-3 breaths. Extend your left leg long on the mat and gently hug your right knee to your chest. With your left hand on your knee, pull it across your body to the left. Leave your right arm out to the side keeping both shoulder blades on the mat. You will feel a stretch across your lower back and right hip. Hold this stretch for 4-5 breaths. Return to center and repeat using the right hand to draw the left knee across your body, extending your left arm. End this stretch by lying flat on your back and breathing for a few breaths.

Namaste

## Stay Connected...

Are you a FACEBOOK user?  
Watch for an invitation to join our PRIVATE  
Facebook Page. Or look for us...

If you have changed your mailing address or  
Email please let us know your new  
information. Contact: Susan Kaiser at  
[kaiserkasa@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserkasa@gmail.com) or 775-233-6157



Group by NV State Education Association - Retired Public Page

## Washoe Retired Education Association

### OPEB Trustee Committee

Congratulations to our own Fran McGregor  
who has been appointed to the committee and  
attended the first meeting on Wednesday,  
January 27. Yay!! Thank you, Fran for stepping  
up and joining this committee!!

They do not have enough members to schedule  
their next meeting; however, Susan Kaiser has  
received confirmation that two others have  
expressed interest in being on the committee.





NEA today January 2021  
by Patty Dickens

Our own Natha  
Anderson was featured  
in this issue.



## More than **120** NEA members ran and won in November!

After California elementary teacher Kenneth Tang retired, it was his mission to continue helping students. When a spot on his local school board came open, his now-adult former students urged him to run.

"In this political environment, it is even more critical for educators to step into the political arena, especially running for office, because often decisions are being made for us," Tang says.

He ran and won a seat on the board of the Alhambra Unified School District—the very district where he attended school.

Tang is one of more than 120 NEA members who won races in the 2020 general election. He used his experience as a participant in See Educators Run—NEA's nonpartisan political candidate training program designed especially for educators—to propel his campaign to victory. There, he learned about voter databases, phone banking, and developing graphics.

Natha Anderson, who won a seat in the Nevada State Assembly, says the program helped her navigate the challenges of campaigning during a global pandemic.

"See Educators Run helped me think about different ways to talk to our voters without asking people to go door-to-door," says Anderson, a high school English teacher and president of the Washoe Education Association.

It also provides a forum for educators to talk to peers who are running for office, too.

"We have so many of the same issues, whether we're running for school board or state legislature," Anderson says. "We're all having the same experiences, so learning from each other was a huge help." ✨

—AMANDA MENAS

For a full list of NEA members  
and staff who won, go to  
[nea.org/2020MemberWins](https://nea.org/2020MemberWins).

Jan 2021  
NEA Today

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Natha Anderson



Kenneth Tang

## Book Review for this issue

by Michele DeLano

### Caste

### The Origins of our Discontents

By Isabel Wilkerson

Isabel Wilkerson is an American journalist and author who was the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism. She won her Pulitzer at the age of 33 when she was a journalist for the New York Times. Along with the book *Caste*, she is also the author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. To be honest, I had never read anything by her until I picked up this book last Fall right before the Presidential election. I had seen an interview with her on one of the evening news shows and found her to be intelligent, engaging, and relevant to the times we were living through at that moment. This book was also on Oprah's Book Club list and having read numerous other books from the list over the past few years, I felt comfortable and assured that this would be a book worth my time. Sure, as a retiree I have more time to read now than when I was teaching three different World Languages with up to 5 or 7 different preps a semester, but as we all know, we retirees often wonder how we had time for anything before retirement because we can always find something to occupy our lives. But enough about the joys of retirement, here's my review of this read.

Ms. Wilkerson begins her book with two quotes, one by the famous African-American author James Baldwin and the other by Albert Einstein. These two men could not have been more different, yet the two quotes are related in their assessment of humankind as it relates to the biases and hatred that has enveloped man throughout history. While she begins her book discussing the Third Reich, she clearly intertwines the devastation from the Nazis, the massacre and genocide of Native Americans, the caste system still so palpable in India, and the rise of White Nationalism and White Supremacy during the last few years in the United States. There are 400 pages devoted to showing us who we really are and what malice and evils we are willing to exploit over our own.

As you progress through the book, you begin to realize how relevant her writing is to our American history, 400 years ago and yesterday. She compares America to an old house which always needs repair and will never be finished because there will always be another project to begin and hopefully finish. She states, "Like other old houses, America has an unseen skeleton, a caste system that is as central to its operation as are the studs and joists that we cannot see in the physical buildings we call home." (pg. 16) In the case of America, she declares that the caste system is one of race. This is often not a conscious declaration, but more an unconscious one that has been developed over time from the time we are born to the time we die, or until that time when we are able to look at ourselves and say this is not right or just.

I have always considered myself a liberal, a just person, not a racist or prejudiced about other cultures, races, creeds, or ethnicities. As a first generation European American, I felt minor discriminations from others because I had an ethnic last name or because my father spoke with a very strong European accent; however, because I was white, I could go wherever I

wanted, I could enter any establishment, or ride any public transportation. As I grew, I saw discrimination from afar but I never truly understood it until high school where I met students from other races who came from a different place than I did. They had lived their entire lives with the knowledge that they were “different” or “not allowed” in many situations. This was in the 1960s when the Civil Rights riots and marches were taking place all across this country. Since then, I have tried to create compassion and tolerance for the differences among us, often without success, but I never stopped trying.

After reading this book which outlines the marginalization of the American minorities and the “legal caste system that grew out of enslavement and lasted into the early 1970s”, I found myself almost feeling guilty that I hadn’t done more to work on the side of equality and how to destigmatize a group of people. If you believe yourself to be a just person, someone who carries no preconceptions about others and who believes in fairness, you will find yourself questioning much of your existence after reading this eye-opening and riveting book about that which we call the United States of America. James Baldwin once said, “No one was white before he/she came to America” (pg. 49). People just were, just existed, lived and died without the label of color. As educators, how many of us knew that for five years in Prince Edward County, Virginia, from 1959-1964, there were no public schools because rather than integrate the schools, the school board chose to shut them down completely? These atrocities continue to occur today because good people remain silent and allow this to happen. In this respect, we may all be guilty of not speaking up enough, of not being willing to put ourselves out there in defense of someone else, or of simply ignoring the behavior. As Ms. Wilkerson also explains, the results of discrimination may seriously impact the health and well-being of people as well, no matter how educated or successful they are.

As you read through this historical account of discrimination around the world, not just in the United States, you will discover much about people in general, but perhaps more about yourself. It is a heavy read due to the subject matter, but I found it to be enlightening and more educational than I had expected. I recommend it to you if you are willing to take a long, hard look at racism and inequality in our country.

**“In this unfolding  
conundrum of life and  
history, there is such a  
thing as being too late....  
This is a time for vigorous  
and positive action.”**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**



## Let's go shopping!

Here is a chance to contribute items for the NEA PAC auction! 100% of the auction proceeds go to the NEA Fund for Children.

Once you've identified or purchased your auction item, please go to this link to fill out your auction item form: <https://forms.gle/vrwC7EkQQRNDKsCb7>  
For any challenges you encounter with the form, please email the auction coordinator, Julie Horwin at [julie.horwin@gmail.com](mailto:julie.horwin@gmail.com)  
Susan Kaiser, your local PAC Captain, can also answer questions about auction donations. Reach her at [kaiserkasa@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserkasa@gmail.com) or 775-233-6157.



**Who can donate and who can bid?** We are always looking for additional contributions when any of our members wish to join the fun. Any membership group - Students, Actives, ESP, or Higher Ed. is welcome! Any family member of an NEA member is included, too.

## Here are the basics for how the auction works.

- You will keep at home your contribution to the auction and then once a member wins your item - and donates the \$ to the NEA Fund, the name and address will be released to you. **Part of your donation will be shipping the item to the winner. Thank you!**
- We will begin sending out the link to the auction site as soon as it is ready and loaded up with photos of your wonderful contributions - so stay tuned to the fabulous steals you will be getting for your donor dollars!
- Contributed items are asked to be a minimum of \$50.
- Consider the challenges of shipping your auction donation and opt for small items that are light and fit into standard size boxes offered by USPS

# Thank you!

## Happy Birthday to all our January and February Birthdays!

(If we do not have your birthday, or if we have your birthday in the incorrect month, please send it to Michele DeLano at [michelep@prodigy.net](mailto:michelep@prodigy.net) or Susan Kaiser at [kaiserkasa@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserkasa@gmail.com) so that we can recognize you in the future. Thank you )

### January

Judith Armstrong	Elaine Bishop	William Burr
Bob Cahill	Marian Conrad	Eda Hatfield
Susan Jacox	Ronald Legg	Alice Lemons
Jacqueline Lopez	John Mueller	Lynn Ossolinski
Shirley Perkins	Rachel Rice	Margaret Shepperson
Sharlee Summers Springmeyer	Carl Vinci	Shirley Westbrook
Natha Anderson	Richard Carr	Sally Warthan
Clyda Anderson	Celana Wasson	Ursula Lorring
Maria Munoz	Sharon Wilcox	Yolanda Dechert
Judith Strasser	Dorreen Borja	Pamela Miller
Michael Barrow	Mary Leman	Richard Matthie
Kathryn Pugh	Lorraine Hiatt	Shannon Quinn
Vernon Casci	Karen Ellis	Michele Sanchez-Boyce
Madelon DeVaul	Traci Loftin	Larry Coffman
Terence Terras	Kathryn Howard	Maria Macaluso
Margaret Spence	Ladonna Delsoldato	Frances Edison
Diana Ghio	Kathleen Rice	Suzann Bennett

### February

Gaylyn Anderson	Marie Bingham	Wendy Boszak
Sue Dailey	Prella Fordham	James Geil
Jeff Haliczzer	Kay Henjum	Rebecca Hess
Jill Hutchings	SusanKaiser	Karen Karst-Hoskin
Martha Kernecker	Kay Kurvers	Rhonda LaFountaine

Joseph Monfalcone

Darcy O'Loughlin

Linda Pedersen

Gayla Pincolini

Susan Reed

Virginia Ryan

Janis Smith

Carole Thomas

Louella Thomas

Truby Uithoven

DeeAnn Verdi

Nia Waters

## MEMBER SURVEY

**As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, a survey is coming. Please participate in the survey as we always need your voices. If you do so, you will have a chance to win a \$10.00 Starbucks card. You must complete your survey by February 22, 2021 in order to be eligible to win.**



## A snapshot of the WREA Board Members

Can you match the correct answers to the current WREA Board members? Give it a try! The contest will be open until March 1, 2021 so you have some time to get your answers in. Send your responses to Michele DeLano at [michelep@prodigy.net](mailto:michelep@prodigy.net) The top five (5) correct responders will receive a \$5.00 Starbucks gift card. Have some fun!

The game has 10 questions about our board members How well do you know them?

### Who is it?

1. Whose favorite international food is crêpes?
2. Who would have liked to meet Nelson Mandela?
3. Which of our Board members speaks five languages?
4. Who would like to sail the Chesapeake?
5. Which member swam across Lahontan in high school?
6. Which member was an extra in the film "The Way We Were"?
7. Which of our members misses the "freedom" of childhood and being able to do anything he/she wanted?
8. Who ran in the Boston Marathon in his/her younger days?
9. Which of our members is related to Proctor Hug?
10. Who makes wheel thrown pottery?

### WREA Board Members 2020-2021



Janet Carnes



Michele DeLano



Patty Dickens



**Marlene Hansen**



**Susan Kaiser**



**Fran McGregor**



**Gordy McGregor**



**Melissa Sewell**



**Ellen Townsend**