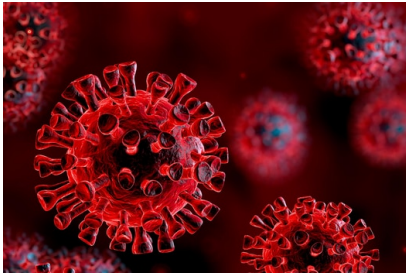


CLARK RETIRED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

August 2021

DELTA VARIANT DELAYS FULL OPENING OF NSEA BUILDING



It was hoped the Las Vegas NSEA building would be fully open once again by the week of August 16, but that was before

the COVID-19 Delta variant became more virulent and there did not seem to be as much vaccine hesitancy among the general public.

NSEA executive director Brian Lee has decided to delay the full opening of the building until the number of Corona virus cases decreases, and there is less chance that those inside the building can contract COVID-19 from each other.

For that reason, large gatherings like our monthly CREA meetings can't be held until infection rates decrease as more people get the vaccine.

For the past few months, most of the NSEA office staff have been working remotely, coming in only a couple of days a week to do work inside the building. Everyone inside must also wear a face mask.

Small groups are allowed inside the building, but no more than about 10, and those must be approved in advance by NSEA management.

NSEA-RETIRED REMEMBERS JULIE STAMPS OF NSEA



On August 6, 2021, NSEA's membership information specialist, Julie Stamps, who many of you probably know, passed away. A memorial service for her was scheduled for 10:00 on Friday, August 27, at Palm Boulder Highway Mortuary and Cemetery in Henderson.

She began working for NSEA in 2004 as a program assistant and became NSEA's information specialist about five years ago. She had worked for NSEA 17 years. She leaves behind her husband, Michael Stamps, and their 10-year-old son, Connor.

If you pay annual dues, you paid them to Julie. If you changed your address, email address, or phone number, it was Julie Stamps who took that information from you and changed the information in her rolls to reflect those changes. She was a valuable NSEA employee, and she will be greatly missed. She was 48.

NSEA-RETIRED WEBSITE WINS 1st PLACE AWARD!



The website for Nevada State Education Association-Retired has won a first-place award in its first year of operation!

Until last year, NSEA-Retired did not have a website, so NSEA-R leadership formed a committee consisting of Gerri North and Harry Beall from CREA, Susan Kaiser from WREA in Reno, and NSEA's Director of Communications, Alexander Marks.

The committee gathered ideas about what to include in the website, including pre-retirement information, and they helped organize the website's topics and headings. Based on that input, Alex Marks put the website together.

Current NSEA-R president Steve Horner and website committee chair Harry Beall thought the website was one of the best they had seen for retired educators, so they entered the website in NEA-R's annual competition, and it took the top prize. During the August NSEA board meeting, they forwarded the award to the website's designer, Alex Marks.

The certificate for the first place website award says, "This certificate is awarded for 2020-21 to Nevada State Education-Retired in recognition of extraordinary support of NEA-Retired and public education," and it is signed by NEA-Retired president, Sara Borgman.

You can view the NSEA-R website at www.nsea-r.org

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY TO BE DISCUSSED AT CREAT ZOOM MEETING

Since it may be some time before we can get together at the NSEA building here in Las Vegas, there will be several alternative get-together suggestions revealed at CREA's meeting on September 9.

Members recently received and completed an email survey asking if they would like to involve themselves in certain interest groups like a book club, a theatre group, and others.

CREA wants to make sure its members are not isolated from one another and that we remain connected. CREA is forming these activity groups with the hope that activities within these smaller groups will interest our members and keep them active and connected.

The Washoe Retired Education Association, for example, has already formed a hiking group with its members. We could do the same.

CREA could also form a group to view the various museums here, such as the Mob Museum, the National Atomic Testing Museum, the Neon Museum, and many, many others. Lots of our members have never seen them.

At the CREA Zoom meeting on September 9, our members' responses will not only be discussed, but we will also be able to offer further suggestions. Members will also be asked to lead those groups

DR. CHAD KINGSLEY TO SPEAK TO CREA AGAIN ON COVID-19



One of last year's most popular speakers will be with us to begin our new 2021–2022 CREA year. Dr. Chad Kingsley, the regional trauma coordinator for the Southern Nevada Health District, will speak to us once again about what the health

district is doing concerning COVID-19.

During his presentation last February, the vaccine rollout was just beginning, and our members had questions about the best vaccines for older Americans and when we will finally be able take off our masks.

The mask question is sure to come up again at Dr. Kingsley's presentation this month too, along with questions about vaccine booster shots, the Delta variant, and what the Southern Nevada Health District is doing to decrease COVID-19 cases and death.

It is very likely Dr. Kingsley will also explain breakthrough COVID cases when those vaccinated get a milder case than they would have received without a vaccination.

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" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>.

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 some CREA board members who have offered to assist you with installing Zoom on your computer or other device: Patricia Bynum, pbynum1020@yahoo.com or (702) 647-4858; Lynne Herman, lherman6@cox.net or (702) 647-4004; Harry Beall, sandreap@ix.netcom.com or (702) 521-3387; 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 September Zoom meeting. Remember, this month's meeting will begin at 10:00 on September 9.

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

NSEA ASSESSES PAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Although there were wins for education and for senior health care during the last Nevada legislative session ending on June 1, NSEA still has lots of work ahead in the next legislative session, beginning in February of 2023. That is according to Chris Daly, NSEA Deputy Executive Director of Government Relations, speaking recently to the NSEA Board of Directors.

On the positive side, the 81st legislature passed a new public health care option that will provide greater health access for retired members.

Nevada school districts also must more accurately report class sizes, which are the nation's largest, and accommodations must be made for evaluations of teachers who have those large class sizes.

Important education committees like the Regional Professional Development Programs and the Academic Standards Council were also preserved.

Another big win was the expansion of voting rights, including universal vote by mail for all Nevadans.

In addition, Daly said teachers who ran for legislative office and served during the last legislative session worked hard to improve education statewide. He also said more educators will be running for office in the 82nd legislature beginning in 2023.

That is good because on the negative side, Nevada schools still do not have the essential resources they need, and Nevada ranks 48th in the nation in per-pupil funding.

According to Daly, the state would need to add \$3307 per student to reach the rank of 25th, and we would need \$4288 per student to reach the national average in per-pupil funding. Altogether, Nevada chronically ranks as one of the worst educational systems in the nation.

NSEA and the Grassroots Task Force worked hard to pass Assembly Joint Resolution 1 to get more money from the mining industry to better fund education. NSEA estimated its passage would have increased the state's mining tax from five percent of net proceeds to 7.75 percent of gross proceeds, generating about 485 million dollars in new revenue for the state.

However, during the last Legislative Session, it failed to receive a hearing. Instead, the speaker negotiated a deal with mining and other special interests which would generate only an additional 85 million dollars per year, still far short of what is needed to help elevate Nevada education funding.

When the next legislative session convenes in 2023, NSEA will continue to fight for increased funding for K-12 education. They will also continue the fight against Senate Bill 543.

Ever since that bill was first introduced two years ago, NSEA has opposed it for several reasons: It was formulated without any input from educators. It was a giveaway to charter schools while freezing and squeezing school district budgets, and it also has an adverse effect on the rules of collective bargaining.