

WREA February 2023

Website: <https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, March 11, 2023

Coney Island Bar & Grill

2644 Prater Way, Sparks, NV 11:45 A.M.

Join us for a great lunch!

RSVP on our website or see flyer on page 5 of this newsletter

WREA BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the WREA book club is Tuesday, February 28 at 10:00 A.M. upstairs at the WEA office. This month's book was The Many Daughters of Afong Moy, Join us for a lively discussion.



WREA BOOK CLUB

The March meeting of the WREA book club is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 at 10:00 A.M. upstairs at the WEA office. This month's book is The Lincoln Highway, Consider joining us for some enlightening conversation.

Museum events and dates are pending. Stay up to date on our website:

<https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com>

Movie & Lunch

Our next movie date is Friday, March 3

Keep updated on our webpage or on our Facebook page. The exact time will be posted as soon as we can get the information from the theater!

Bingo returns April 17th, 4:30-6:00 P.M. Watch website!

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President's message

By Susan Kaiser



Tik Tok Videos, apps, memes! They are a bit of a mystery but these days they are how most people get their information. As retirees, we can choose to learn these new tools which allow us to keep using our voices to champion changes in our community. In February, a small but mighty group of us learned how to Tweet with help from Alex Marks from NSEA (photo). We learned this skill to engage Nevada Legislators directly

but, this is just the beginning. In this newsletter you will read about memes focused on the improving education funding in Nevada and what to do when you see one on your Facebook or Instagram feed. stay in-the-know about current activities at the Legislature this session by visiting NSEA Powerline website. Join us in this effort. If you would like a crash course using Twitter contact me directly at: kaiserkasa@gmail.com Keep reading to learn about the other fun activities in the works, the Bernie Anderson WREA Scholarship for Early Educators and more.

Spring is Election Season

by Susan Kaiser

As of press time we do not have details of the upcoming elections. However, we are using this space to alert you. Please watch your email message box for more information coming in March.

Announcements will also be posted on the **WREA website** and our **private Facebook page**.

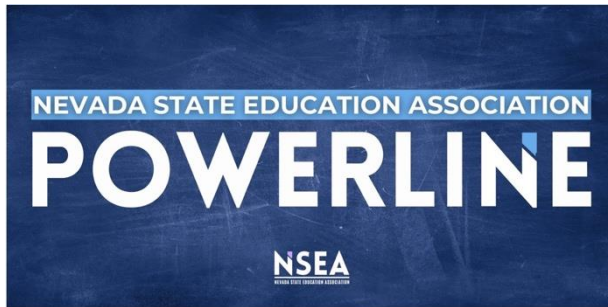
If you aren't already following us, please don't wait any longer to join. We are "Washoe Retired Education Association" on Facebook.

Our website is: <https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com>



Resources at your Fingertips!

By Susan Kaiser



+



Help policy makers in Carson City understand the impacts of their decisions on the citizens of Nevada and use data to make your case. Valuable information is pooled at the NSEA website under two tabs that are easy to find and navigate. All you need to do is visit the web page. In fact, if you have a Twitter account you can Tweet ready-made messaging from the **Time for 20** tab directly to ALL Nevada Legislators by clicking "tweet this" and adding hashtag #nvleg. You can trust this information and know it is as up to date as possible. From the comfort of your own home, you can advocate alongside educators in Carson City. They need our help! Use the following links to access:

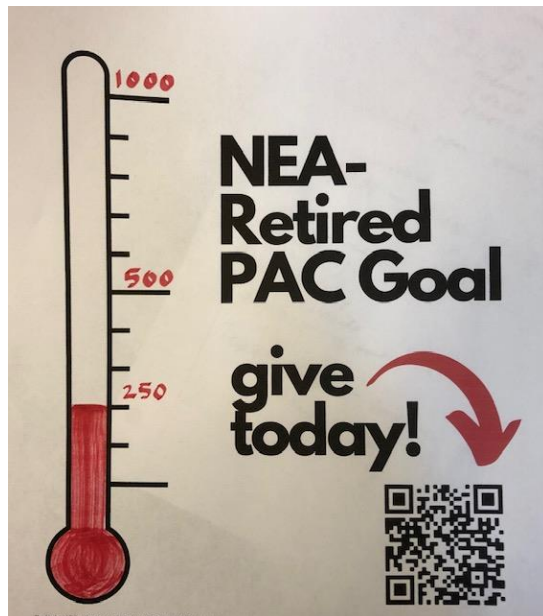
NSEA Powerline: <http://bit.ly/3kk2Nar>

Time for 20: <https://www.nsea-nv.org/TimeFor20>

You can send a letter to Governor Lombardo asking him to invest in Nevada educators at the bottom of the **Time for 20** web page. Thanks for using your educator voices to help the cause!

WREA SUPPORTS NEA PAC FUND for CHILDREN

by Susan Kaiser



Our "Romantic Dinner Basket" fundraiser at the February Bingo Event raised \$250 toward our 2022-2023 donation goal of \$1000. Another basket will be offered as a fundraiser at the St. Paddy's Day Luncheon. The truth is it takes money to change laws that impact us negatively. GPO-WEP must go!

Help us earn the rest of our campaign goal. Scan the QR code in the image to be taken directly to a secure website to make your personal contribution. No donation is too small. Thank you!!



Tell Us How GPO-WEP Impacts Your Retirement

by Susan Kaiser

Nevada's educators are directly impacted by this law and not in a good way. This May, two representatives from each of the affected states including Nevada will travel to Washington DC to talk to policy makers about

the harm caused by this law. We need your stories as ammunition. Our partners at the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) will support this effort to gather your personal stories. **All we need is for you to respond to the survey questions when they are released sometime in March.** The survey will come from the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) to your personal email address. Once the message is sent, reminders will be posted on the WREA Facebook page and on our website: <https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com> to prompt you to complete the survey. Arming Brian Wallace and me with your examples of the hardships caused by GPO-WEP will help us make the argument to repeal these laws. If you have any questions about this survey or need help to access it please contact Susan Kaiser at 775-233-6157 or kaiserkasa@gmail.com I am happy to help!

To learn more about GPO-WEP visit NEA's website: <http://bit.ly/3YU4U3V>

WREA announces the return of our annual ...

WREA announces the return of our annual ...



St. Patrick's Celebration

Luncheon

Saturday, March 11th 11:45 - 1 pm

One lucky ticket holder will take home a themed basket valued at \$75. Proceeds will be donated to the NEA PAC Fund for Children!

Coney Island Bar
2644 Prater Way
Sparks

\$22 for Corned Beef 'n Cabbage
OR you can order from the menu.
It is great food!

Join us for fun and friendship!

RSVP by 3/8 <https://bit.ly/3k1Nort>



Scholarship for Rookie Teachers

Launching their career... 3, 2, 1 BLAST OFF!!!

The Washoe Retired Education Association (WREA) supports public education teachers. We award the WREA/Bernie Anderson Scholarship to a University of Nevada – Reno student who is beginning a career in teaching in Nevada.

The \$1500 prize can be used for any expense that assists the rookie teacher in launching a successful career as an educator. Applicants must meet the following requirements and will have completed their Education Internship Program during the 2022-2023 school year.

- **Maintain membership in U of NV Education Association (UNEA)**
- **Pursuing a career in PUBLIC EDUCATION**
- **Complete the Education Internship Program during the 2022-2023 school year**
- **Present a current transcript with GPA**
- **Provide two letters of recommendation**
- **Write a short essay about becoming a teacher**
- **Submit application on or before April 28, 2023**

For an application and additional information

email Lisa Romero

lisa.romero@nsea-nv.org



WREA

Bernie Anderson Scholarship

by Fran McGregor

Every year, the Washoe Retired Education Association awards a scholarship to an aspiring educator from the University of Nevada, Reno. This scholarship is named after longtime Sparks educator and Nevada Assemblyman, Bernie Anderson.

Bernie was born in Sparks, NV, in 1942. He was considered a “miracle baby” because his mother was over 40. Like any good Catholic family at that time, they hoped Bernie, the miracle baby, would enter the priesthood. Alas, Bernie had other plans. But for years, Bernie’s wife, Clyda, was often referred to by family members as “the woman who kept Bernie from the priesthood.” Don’t believe Clyda should take that blame!

Bernie attended St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary and Manogue High School, although he did have to spend two years in kindergarten. He was a “bit active.” During his time at both schools, Bernie discovered who he was by simply talking to people. It was a skill that would serve him well in the years to come.

Bernie joined the National Guard, inspired by a cousin he looked up to, Danny Keough, who was killed in Korea. This impacted Bernie deeply. Bernie’s family had sponsored many families like Danny’s to come from Ireland to the United States. In fact, Longford Park in Sparks is named after the town in Ireland from where the family originated.

Bernie attended the University of Nevada, Reno. According to family members, his time at UNR was lengthier than it should have been. Like many young people, Bernie enjoyed the freedom of college and spent a lot of his first two years playing cards in the student union! He did eventually realize he needed to attend classes. He worked graveyard shifts at casinos to put himself through school and graduated with a BS degree in Library Sciences and Social Studies. He thought he would teach for a few years and then attend law school.

His first teaching position was at Wooster HS where he was the librarian and also taught a few social studies classes. He discovered he loved teaching, and he loved the kids. He transferred to Reed HS the third year the school was open and spent the remainder of his teaching career there.

In the early 1980’s, Marion Conrad, longtime WCTA/NSEA leader, encouraged Bernie to run for NEA Director. He won and found he loved it. He had come from a union background – his father was a railroader – and Bernie had been active in the association so it was a natural fit. As NEA Director, Bernie would travel to DC several times a year. NEA was having a difficult time getting access to Senator Laxalt, but Bernie got in to see him. This was the beginning of groups like ALEC and Bernie was very involved in the fight against ALEC and privatization.

Bernie decided to run for WCTA President, but lost, and then decided to run for the Nevada Assembly and won. He served on the Judiciary Committee where he was vice-chair eventually becoming chair. While on the Judiciary Committee, he was instrumental in developing the Drug Courts which could keep offenders out of jail giving them the assistance they needed, or if the offender was going to jail, teaching them the skills they needed to not end up in this position again. Bernie was most proud of this work. Natha Anderson, Bernie's daughter, says when she would walk campaigns for her father, many people would stop to thank him for his help, saying it changed their lives. Bernie also served on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Commerce and Labor Committees. He was named Outstanding Assemblyman in 1999 and 2007.

Locally, Bernie served as a member of the bargaining team, grievance team and advisor to the WCTA President. Bernie's wife, Clyda, served as WCTA President. Daughter Cairn was active in student government at UNR. Daughter Natha was active in WEA/NSEA and was elected WEA President. She ran for the Nevada Assembly and holds the same seat as her father.

Bernie Anderson loved teaching. He firmly believed if you don't like people you will not like teaching. He reminded others that you are not teaching a subject, you are teaching people. A former student, Cassie Ponsock-Uhlmeier wrote, "Mr. Anderson was an Exceptional human being. We have many teachers in life-but if we are lucky, we have a couple teachers who remain in our minds and hearts. Mr. Anderson was one of my 3 favorite teachers. I give him credit for who I am today."

WREA is proud to award this scholarship in memory of an excellent educator and citizen, Bernie Anderson.

WREA Book Club News

by Fran McGregor

The WREA Book Club will be discussing **The Many Daughters of Afong Moy** by Jamie Ford at its next gathering, Tuesday, February 28, at 10 AM at the WEA office. All are welcome to join us for a lively discussion of this excellent book.

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles is the selection for March. In June 1954, an eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California, where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction – to the city of New York. The story spans just ten days and is told from multiple points of view.

April's selection is **Path Lit By Lightning, The Life of Jim Thorpe** by David Maraniss. Jim Thorpe, a Native American, may have been the greatest athlete the world has ever seen. He rose to fame as a mythic talent who excelled at every sport. He won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Olympics, was an All-American football player at the Carlisle Indian School, became the star of the first class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and played major league baseball for John McGraw's New York Giants. Even in a golden age of celebrities, he was unique. But despite his colossal skills, Thorpe's life was a struggle against daunting odds. As a member of the Sac and Fox nation, he encountered duplicitous authorities who turned away from him when their reputations were at risk, among them his Carlisle coach Pop Warner and U.S. Olympic official James E. Sullivan. At Carlisle, he dealt with the school's racist assimilationist philosophy "Kill the Indian, save the man." His Olympic gold medals were unfairly rescinded because he had played minor league baseball, which both Warner and Sullivan knew. His later life was troubled by alcohol, broken marriages, and financial distress. He roamed from state to state, trying to earn a living from his celebrity. He took bit parts in Hollywood, but even the film of his own life failed to improve his fortunes. Despite all his travails, Thorpe did not succumb. The man survived, complications and all, and so did the myth.

The WREA Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the month at the WEA office from 10 AM – 11:30 AM. The group often goes out to lunch afterwards. Please feel free to join us! Contact Fran McGregor (775-544-3644 or mcgregor.gordon @att.net) for more information.

Member Spotlight

By Fran McGregor



Susan Dailey (left) taught for 26 years at Florence Drake and Robert Mitchel. She enjoys the social involvements WREA provides but also appreciates the insurance and political updates. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and traveling. A surprising bit of information about Susan – she can drive a tractor!

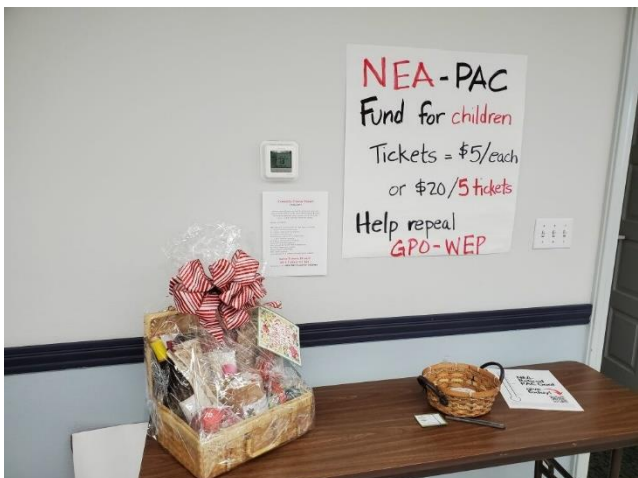
Patty Dickens' (right) career spanned 36 years, with 30.5 of those in Washoe. She taught music at Westergard, Towles, Smithridge, Beck, Natchez, Mt. Rose, Grace Warner and Orvis Ring. She enjoys playing the harp and piano and has graced our Christmas celebrations with her talents. Walking and gardening also take up her spare time. She appreciates the friendly people at WREA as well as the social activities and the updates provided by our Facebook page. Patty hails from Texas and says it's a good place to come FROM!

Deb Garrett (right) and her husband are both native Nevadans who met at UNR where their daughter is now a freshman. Deb taught for 26 years at Glen Duncan, Kate Smith, Rollan Melton, Dodson, and Depoali. She likes the camaraderie WREA provides through our walking tours and social events, giving her the opportunity to keep in touch with old friends. Deb loves traveling, walking, and socializing.



BINGO EVENING

Beautiful raffle to support the NEA-PAC Fund for children



Some of the fun prizes at Bingo



Fran McGregor & Ellen Townsend helping out



Another happy winner



Melissa Sewell, Terry Boyden, Netto Montoya, & Bernice Servilican hoping to win.

Advocacy
By Melissa Sewell



I'm sure that it's no surprise to you that education is in trouble. I also don't have to convince you that without teachers, our society is in trouble. One of the missions of WREA is to advocate for public education and for issues that affect retired educators. WREA needs you!

Advocacy doesn't always mean traveling to Carson City, although we will be doing that. It can be as simple as sending an email or signing on to a letter written by NSEA's legislative advocates and officers. If you are on social media, follow NSEA on Facebook and Instagram. If you have a Twitter account, that is the best place to look. (If you're new to Twitter, good luck! I'm still trying to set up an account). NSEA's website (nsea-nv.org) has a bill tracker as well.

If you're interested in our legislative day in March, watch your email and our website for information on training and dates.

Where have all the teachers gone?

NEVADA RANKS NEAR THE BOTTOM OF STATES IN PER-PUPIL FUNDING WHILE HAVING THE LARGEST CLASS SIZES IN THE NATION.



Where have the teachers gone?

**IN NEVADA,
FROM AUGUST 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 2022
THERE WERE 67% MORE
LICENSED STAFF SEPARATIONS
THAN A TYPICAL YEAR
OVER THE SAME TIME PERIOD,
INCLUDING 300 MORE SEPARATIONS THAN 2020**





Your Money Matters

An Informational Newsletter from PlanMember Financial Corporation

8 simple saving tips

With the rise of inflation, it's important to find little ways to save as much as possible. Here are 8 simple saving tips you can integrate into your everyday life to help combat inflation and save more for your financial future.

1. Do it yourself. Spending \$5 on coffee every day adds up! Make your favorite coffee at home or drink it at work to cut coffee costs. Washing your own car, doing your own nails, or grooming your pets can help you cut expenses.

2. Enjoy frugal fun. Happy hours, deal days, online coupons, and kids-eat-free offers can help cut the costs of entertainment and dining out. You can also check out your local community's free events, and exercise outdoors by going on a hike, walk, or bike ride

3. Buy in bulk. Purchase generic brands, buy in bulk, or shop at wholesale retailers to help reduce the cost of groceries and other household items.

4. If you don't use it, lose it. Cancel any subscriptions or memberships you don't regularly use. If you don't go to your gym on a regular basis, this should be an easy expense to cut. If you have a cell phone contract with unlimited minutes and data, consider getting rid of your home phone. Get rid of expensive cable costs and choose other streaming services.

5. Be smart with your subscriptions. For those subscriptions you just can't part from, think about sharing memberships with some family or friends. A lot of streaming services, like Netflix and Hulu, let you watch your favorite shows from two or more screens (with an upgraded account). That way, everyone wins—and saves!

6. Keep your car in the garage. Carpooling and/or public transportation can help you save on high fuel costs and wear-and-tear on your car. If you live close to work and/or stores, also consider riding your bike or walking.

7. Don't get caught up in debt. It may not seem like a big deal to carry a small credit card balance every month, but these balances add up fast and can lead to big interest

payments over time. If you can't pay the balance each month, then you're charging too much.

8. Adjust your insurance. You can reduce your insurance bills by increasing your deductibles. If you've paid your insurance for the next six months or year, you might even get a rebate check for the difference. Packaging your car, home, and/or renters' insurance with the same company can also reduce insurance costs.

I'm always here to help

Inflation can put a strain on your finances.

Contact me today for more help with reducing everyday expenses so you can combat inflation and save more for your future.

Sandra Chapman, CFP®
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

Phone: (775) 828-5050

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Calendar of Events

WREA Calendar of Events 2022-2023

FEBRUARY – 2023	
Feb 28	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am
MARCH – 2023	
Mar 3	Movie & Lunch @ Century Park Lane at 10:00 ETA
Mar 11 th	St Patrick's Day - Coney Island Lunch TBA
Mar 20-31	WCSD Spring Break
Mar 28	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am
APRIL – 2023	
Apr 5	Museum (Field Trip) TBA
Apr 17	Bingo Spring Fling @ WEA from 4:30 – 6:00 pm
Apr 25	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am
Apr 26	Walk TBA
MAY – 2023	
May 3	Walk TBA
May 10	Walk TBA
May 12	Movie & Lunch @ Century Park Lane – 10:00am ETA
May 17	Walk TBA
May 23	Miniature Golf (Field Trip) @ Magic Carpet TBA
May 24	Walk TBA
May 30	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am
May 31	Walk TBA
JUNE – 2023	
Jun 7	Walk TBA
Jun 9	WCSD Last Day of School
Jun 12	Summer Luncheon @ Pasion's Deli from 11:00am – 1:00pm
Jun 27	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am

JULY - 2023	
Jul TBA	Board Planning Meeting for next year
Jul 25	Book Club @ 10am-11:30am
AUGUST - 2023	
Aug TBA	Board Meeting
Aug TBA	Back to School Event for members