

WREA WISHES EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HEALTHY AND JOYFUL NEW YEAR ! Dec. 2026



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Carol Perrigo won
\$220 at the 50/50
holiday drawing.
Congrats, Carol!



President's Message

by Susan Kaiser

With lingering Fall weather, it has been challenging to get in the holiday spirit but there are no Grinches here. Our holiday preparations are complete. Isn't it a good feeling when tasks are accomplished? That is how I feel about WREA. It is thriving thanks to the hard work of a core group of active members, especially the WREA Board of Directors - Thank you all! Recently we added some new activities like Bunco and a Facebook/WREA website training (coming in January) while continuing strong favorites including our monthly Book Group and recent Winter Holiday Luncheon. We do have fun (check out the photos), and we also do a lot of good! Through our scholarship for an aspiring educator, firing up our pens to support educators running for public office and advocating for retirement benefits we have a purpose that goes with our pleasure. Staying active, learning and trying new things, even getting out of our comfort zone has benefits. Our brains are stimulated, our quality of life is improved, plus you might make some new friends through these connections. I know I did! As you read this issue of the newsletter, consider your own talents and how they can be leveraged to support WREA in 2026. Can you become an armchair lobbyist? Are you able to collect information to keep our membership roster accurate? Are you curious about the upcoming Delegate Assembly? If this sounds intriguing, please contact me or any member of the WREA Board of Directors we can't wait to hear from you. Cheers!

**From the
WREA Board of Directors
We wish you Happy
Holidays and a prosperous
New Year!**



Pictured from L-R are Carol Perrigo, Fran McGregor, Ellen Townsend, Jencie Fagan, Michele Delano, Kimberly Howland, Mary Owens, Dana Galvin and Susan Kaiser. Holly Esposito was not present.



We are entering ELECTION SEASON!

By Susan Kaiser

2026 will be a big year for elections including some within our own association. This Spring all of the WREA Officers will be elected in addition to three Directors who serve on the Board. More information will be provided on the Spring elections in the next newsletter issue. However, at this time we are announcing the proposed timeline to elect 5 delegates (plus one alternate in the case of a vacancy) to serve at DA and represent WREA members. The 2026 DA will be held at the Sparks Nugget on April 17-19. Please consider nominating yourself or another member who meets all of the criteria listed here. **Make a mental note to watch for the nomination email message coming to your email box in early January!**

Delegate Assembly Timeline

Nominations open soon for WREA members to serve at NSEA Delegate Assembly. We will elect 5 delegates and 1 alternate to serve in case of an emergency vacancy. The elected will serve a 2-year term representing WREA at Delegate Assembly in Reno/Sparks Nevada on April 17 - 19, 2026. The elected will attend meetings of the Delegate Assembly and be expected to vote on statewide issues presented by NSEA and other matters that come before it.

Nominations will open Monday January 5th and close Monday January 19th. WREA members in good standing may nominate yourself or another member with their expressed permission.

The bios of the nominated candidates must be received with the nomination form at the WEA offices or emailed to Michele Delano (michelep@prodigy.net) and Bernice Servilican (bcservilican@charter.net) the Election Committee Co-chairs on or before January 21nd. Bios are limited to 75 words.

The nomination/election process will be held electronically through the assistance of NSEA beginning on Monday January 26th through Friday February 6th. Ballots will be counted on Monday February 9th. All candidates will be informed of the election results as soon as possible and by Friday February 13th. The DA delegates names will also be posted on the WREA website. Please note, in accordance with our Bylaws, if the number of nominees is equal to the number of vacant positions they will be declared elected by acclamation meaning no ballots will be distributed.



What is a Delegate Assembly?

By Susan Kaiser

As a member of WREA you are also a member of the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) and the National Education Association (NEA). This April the Delegate Assembly (DA) meets in Sparks. It is the governing body of our state association and where we have input on the future of NSEA. At the DA delegates vote for officers, review and approve the NSEA budget, propose and vote on policy changes, propose

and vote on new business items and set the legislative agenda. These decisions are voted on by the DA delegates who represent our membership. Learn more by visiting <https://youtu.be/OpQ6BJm6NWE>

WREA members and guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Louis' Basque Corner to celebrate the holidays. Great food, fabulous friends, new and old, and lots of fun. Three on the spot drawings were held and the winners were:



Fred Dailey who won a \$20 gift card to the Sparks Nugget,

Nancy Fitzgerald who won an adorable snowman basket, and



Susan Kaiser won a much needed gift wrapping package.

And the Winner is...

by Susan Kaiser

Kathy Petlier's ticket was drawn at the Winter Holiday Luncheon on December 9th at Louis' Basque Corner. The prize - the **Home for the Holidays Basket** was valued at \$250 and included a gift certificate to Armando & Sons, the retail store of our donor Sierra Meat & Seafood, a \$60 bottle of champagne and many other goodies to soothe the soul of an educator during the holidays. **Thank you to EVERYONE who bought tickets.** Your chances on this basket earned \$330 toward our annual goal for the NEA Fund for Children. Stay tuned for news on the next basket raffle coming this spring! Tickets for future baskets can be purchased at WREA events and by messaging me on Facebook.



And as noted on the first page of this newsletter, our own Carol Perrigo won the 50/50 cash drawing worth \$220, and she kindly donated \$100 back to our scholarship fund. Way to go, Carol!





Help Fight Truth Decay

by Steve Mulvenon

Have you found that your trust in the media has eroded? Are you frequently asking yourself if a story is real or fake? Does it seem that bias is creeping into news stories more than ever? If so, you are not alone. Recent national polls by the Gallup organization and the Pew Research Center have shown trust in the media is at near record lows.

It's a concern we share. "We" is a group of local citizens who have banded together to help share some solutions, to provide some tools to help citizens become more savvy consumers of news of all types; traditional news outlets, social media and podcasts. Led by Jody Baden and Steve Mulvenon, our newly formed nonprofit, nonpartisan organization is called the News Literate Community Initiative (NLCI). We like to say we are "Helping Fight Truth Decay."

Drawing on the resources of the national News Literacy Project and other trustworthy sources, we have begun to build a website with a storehouse of tools, tips and techniques to help you tell fact from fiction. Go to www.nlcwashoe.org. There, you'll learn more about us and discover ways to support the initiative and perhaps volunteer. One of our major projects is the development of an Ambassador program where we will train volunteers about media literacy, arm them with a PowerPoint presentation and send them out to a variety of community groups. If that interests you, just email jody@nlcwashoe.org and let her know.

With information coming from thousands of sources—some credible, some misleading—news literacy has become a core civic skill. Being news literate helps people make informed decisions, understand public issues, and engage in meaningful dialogue grounded in shared facts.

NLCI is a sponsored program of Aha Projects, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made securely at <https://givebutter.com/NLCWashoe>.



Learn with us!

Navigating Facebook & the WREA Website

Want to keep up with the latest WREA activities and see photos before our newsletter is distributed? Perhaps you are hot about an issue and want to lobby for change? Facebook is one of the tools that allows you to check in with WREA, your friends and even elected officials. Don't feel overwhelmed by these gizmos. Learning to use them is good for your brain health and we have you covered with this NEW offering!

Join us on Thursday, January 29th at 10:30am - Noon

At the WEA Rep Council Room Upstairs.

Bring your phone and charging cord

Let us know you are coming by emailing us at wrea.nevada@gmail.com

We want to be sure we have enough donuts and coffee for all attendees.

Mark Your Calendar...

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Tentative date

Friday, March 13th

Location & details to be announced soon!



With Gratitude to our Silent Auction Donors

We auctioned items from the following businesses to raise money for the Bernie Anderson WREA Scholarship Fund held during the 2025 Oktoberfest. Please thank them with your business when shopping for gifts and dining out! They truly made a difference!

Learning Express Toys

Moana Nursery

Louis' Basque Corner

Paisan's Old World Deli

Red Light Method

Wild Sierra Soap

The Cheese Board

Trader Joe's

The Club at Arrow Creek

Tamarack Lodge in Tahoe City, CA

Nothing to It Culinary Institute

Buenos Grill

Chainmail Designs

Sugar Coated Salon

Maui Girl Nails

Home Depot - South Reno

And our Friends and WREA members who offered auction items:

Beth Smith

Terry Bowden

Fran McGregor

John and Donna Ballard

Sharon Weir



WREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to the recent board resignations of Stacey Clarke and Terry Boyden, we have elected two new board members in the past month. Please welcome Mary Owens and Kimberly Howland as sitting members of the Board of Directors.



Mary Owens

Hello fabulous retirees! In the past, I served on the WEA board and knew that was work I really enjoyed doing. So now, I'm excited to be on the WREA board! I retired last school year after being a teacher in the Clark and Washoe county school districts. I was an elementary teacher, Gifted and Talented teacher and TOSA, and ended my career as an EL teacher. I have 2 adult children, 2 grandsons (one who just became a Marine) and one son at home working to become an EMT/Firefighter. The best part of retirement for me is having more time to do my favorite things: crafting, walking my dog, visiting any beautiful body of water with my husband, traveling, spending time with my parents & friends, volunteering and exercising. I look forward to getting to know more of you and thank you for being a WREA member!

Kimberly Howland

I have served teachers, students and their families across Nevada for 32 years. Areas of specialty are Reading Instruction, English Learner Instruction and Teacher Support in the Elementary School setting.

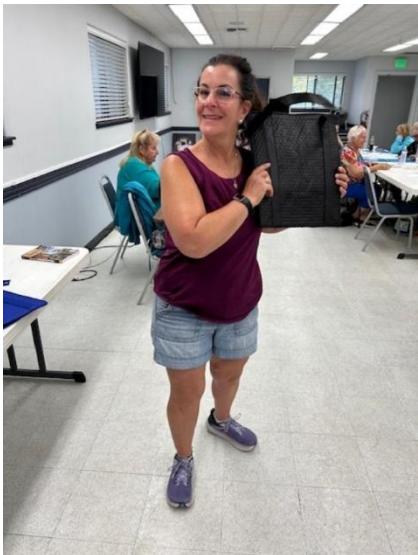


In Memoriam



WREA recently learned that our member, Barbara Allain, has passed away. We send our condolences to her family and friends. She will be missed.

WREA Bunco, Bingo, & Oktoberfest Photos







Support the WREA Scholarship

for Novice Teachers

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

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

The \$1500 prize can be used for any expense that assists the novice teacher in launching a successful career as an educator.

Donate today!

Checks can be made out to WREA with "Scholarship Fund" on the notation line and sent to:

Ellen Townsend
PO Box 5063
Sparks, NV 89432

WREA Bingo!

**Wednesday, January 14th
4:30-6:30pm**

**At the WEA Offices -
upstairs**



**Come join us for fun,
friendship, prizes and support the WREA/Bernie Anderson
Scholarship Fund!**

**Admission + 1 card = \$10/member.
\$15/non-member**

**Extra cards available for an additional fee
1 card = \$2 or 3 cards = \$5**

**Check out the WREA website for event info and RSVP:
<https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com/>**



**Please RSVP as it helps us plan for drinks and snacks.
Thank you!**

WREA Bunco!

Tuesday,
February 17th
1-3 pm

At the WEA Offices -
upstairs

**Please bring with
you...**

Bills totaling - \$10 (\$5's or ?)



Payout for:

**Most Buncos, Most Wins,
Most Baby Buncos
Last Bunco receives gift card**

Check out the WREA website for event info and RSVP:
<https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com/>



Please RSVP as it helps us plan for drinks and snacks.
Thank you!



Your Money Matters

An informational newsletter from PlanMember

Social Security

Taking early, normal, or delayed benefits

Deciding when to begin taking Social Security is one of the most important retirement decisions you can make. You can start collecting as early as age 62, but your benefits will be reduced by as much as 25% to 30% from what they would be at your "full" retirement age (see the table on the right). Conversely, your benefit is increased by an annual rate of 8% if you delay taking benefits between your full retirement age and age 70.

Sometimes circumstances require people to begin taking benefits as soon as possible. But if you're thinking about retiring early and receive sufficient income from your retirement accounts, a traditional pension plan, and/or other sources, then you can be more flexible about when you begin taking benefits.

Another important factor to consider is your life expectancy. Regardless of when you begin taking benefits, Social Security is designed to pay you the same total amount over the life expectancy of everyone the same age as you. Because almost half of all Americans are expected to live longer than their life expectancies, taking higher, delayed benefits might make sense for you. If you're in good health and your parents lived beyond their life expectancies, then you too might live beyond yours.

Married couples should also consider their ages and health when deciding the time to start taking their personal Social Security benefits, especially if one spouse earned more than the other. Under certain circumstances, the amount of Social Security survivor benefits for a lower-earning spouse could exceed his or her personal benefits. In such a case, the surviving spouse can elect to take the higher survivor benefit. To learn more about maximizing your benefits, or the benefits of you and your spouse, visit ssa.gov/retire/estimator.html or aarp.org/socialsecuritybenefits.

Deciding when to begin Social Security can be quite complex. I would be happy to sit down with you and help determine the best time to start taking your benefits. Ideally this would be before you or your spouse reaches age 62, the age at which you can begin collecting benefits.



Your full retirement age

Your full retirement age is based on your birth year and is the age at which you're eligible to receive full Social Security Benefits.

YEAR OF BIRTH	FULL BENEFIT AGE
1937 or earlier.....	65
1938.....	65 and 2 months
1939.....	65 and 4 months
1940.....	65 and 6 months
1941.....	65 and 8 months
1942.....	65 and 10 months
1943-1954.....	66
1955.....	66 and 2 months
1956.....	66 and 4 months
1957.....	66 and 6 months
1958.....	66 and 8 months
1959.....	66 and 10 months
1960 or later.....	67

Source: Social Security Administration

Let's discuss the best time for you to begin taking your Social Security benefits.



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CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®

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WREA Book Club

by Fran McGregor

WREA Book Club will not meet in December due to the busy holidays but will resume in January.

Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty is the January selection. Flight attendant Allegra Patel loves her job, but today is her twenty-eighth birthday and she'd rather not be placating a plane full of passengers unhappy about a long delay. There's the well-dressed man in seat 4C desperate to not miss his daughter's musical. A harried mother frantically tries to keep her toddler and baby quiet. Honeymooners still in their wedding finery dream of their new lives, while a chatty emergency room nurse dreams of retirement. Suddenly, a woman traveling alone stands. She walks down the aisle making predictions about how and when the passengers will die. Some dismiss her; they don't believe in psychics. Some are delighted with her prophecies! Their lives will supposedly be long. Others are appalled. Then, a few months later, the first prediction comes true.

In February, we will be reading **Caste** by Isabel Wilkerson. She gives a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon as she explores how America, throughout its history, has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Immersive, deeply researched, and beautifully written, **Caste** inspires us to transcend artificial and destructive divisions toward hope in our common humanity.

The Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at the WEA office at 10:00 AM. If you have questions, contact Fran McGregor at 775-544-3644.

• JANUARY - 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Thur. Jan. 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR		
Wed. Jan. 14	Bingo	WEA Conference Room	4:30 - 6:30
Tue. Jan. 27	Book Club	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 11:30

• FEBRUARY - 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. Feb. 10	WREA Board Meeting	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 12:00
Tues. Feb. 17	Bunco	WEA Conference Room	1:00 - 3:00
Mon. Feb. 23	NL - Articles DUE	EMAIL - To Michele	
Tues. Feb. 24	Book Club	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 11:30
Fri. Feb. 27	Newsletter - OUT	EMAILED - To WREA Members	
• MARCH 2026			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Fri. Mar. 13	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	TBD	11:30 - 1:30
Tues. Mar. 31	Book Club	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 11:30
• APRIL 2026			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME

Wed. April 8	Bingo	WEA Conference Room	4:30 - 6:30
Tue. April 14	WREA Board Meeting	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 12:00
Wed. April 15	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
Mon. April 20	NL - Articles DUE	EMAIL - To Michele	
Wed. April 22	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
Fri. April 24	Newsletter - OUT	EMAILED - To WREA Members	
Tues. April 28	Book Club	WEA Conference Room	10:00 - 11:30
Wed, April 29	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
• MAY	2026		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Wed. May 6	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
Wed. May 13	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
Thur. May 14	Wine Tasting	WEA Conference Room	4:00 - 6:00
Wed. May 20	Spring Walk	TBD	9:45 - 12:30
• JUNE	2026		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Mon. June 15	NL - Articles DUE	EMAIL - To Michele	
Fri. June 19	Newsletter - OUT	EMAILED - To WREA Members	