

WREA JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Here we go again! Another school year is about to start, but not for many of us. Your WREA Board of Directors has been hard at work planning fun and engaging activities for you for the upcoming year. Be sure to keep the calendar handy so that you don't miss out on any of these good times. Keep in touch with old friends, make new ones, and take advantage of your membership.

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Board of Directors

Fran McGregor- President
Dana Galvin- Vice President
Holly Esposito-Secretary
By appointment- Treasurer
Michele DeLano- seat 1
Leina Starbuck- Seat 2
By appointment- Seat 3
Jencie Fagan – Seat 4
Mary Owens- Seat 5
Carol Perrigo- Seat 6

President's Message

by Fran McGregor

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about our outgoing president, Susan Kaiser. Susan has been an excellent president, offering more opportunities for our members to be involved. We will continue to see Susan at our events, and she has agreed to continue her excellent work on the Advocacy Committee.

I am excited to be president, but also a bit nervous. But I have an amazing board to work with. I have always believed that a president is only as good as his/her board. All our events don't just happen. It's Board members who make them happen. I can already see what a dedicated and hard-working group with whom I am privileged to be working alongside. Let me share a bit about my Board members.

Dana Galvin is our new Vice-President. In that position, Dana is the leader of the Membership Committee. Having served as President of WEA, Dana brings much institutional knowledge as to how our association should run. In addition, Dana serves on the Bylaws Committee.

Holly Esposito is our outstanding secretary. Holly keeps accurate minutes of our Board meetings and designs fliers for our events. She also serves on the Scholarship Committee.

Michele DeLano is the genius behind our amazing newsletter. She's the one who gets information to our members about our events and other pertinent information. Michele also serves on the Bylaws/Elections Committee.

Jencie Fagan is the organizer supreme! She serves on the Social/Events Committee. Jencie makes sure we have all the items needed for an event. She has already finalized plans with various venues for our outside events!

Mary Owens joined our Board last year and got involved immediately. She has taken on the role of our Facebook facilitator so all those Friday Funnies you have recently been seeing are her brainchild. In addition, Mary serves on the Social/Events Committee.

Carol Perrigo assists with our Book Club. She is a worker bee and can always be counted on to do whatever is needed to make an event a success. Carol is also on the Scholarship and Membership Committees.

Leina Starbuck is our newest Board member. She has volunteered to be on the Elections Committee and is especially excited to join the Advocacy Committee. We are happy to have her join us.

This is just a brief account of what these wonderful people do. But when we have an event, everyone steps on to make it as successful as possible. They are what makes WREA such a great organization.

We will be appointing a new treasurer and one Board member to take the seat vacated by Dana Galvin moving to Vice-President. In our next newsletter, I will tell you all about them.

Looking forward to another great year at WREA!

Missing Person's Report

Your WREA Board is dedicated to keeping our members up to date and informed of our activities. We accomplish that by sending out our excellent newsletter every other month. However, there are some members who we have lost contact with for various reasons. It may be as simple as a change of email address. This year we will provide a list of members in our newsletters with whom we have had difficulty making contact. It is our hope that you may recognize a name and help us get up to date contact information. If you do see someone you know, please contact Michele DeLano at michelep@prodigy.net



Terry Absher	Theodore Allen	Noel Almo	Sandra Belongia
Elaine Bishop	Joan Burger	Richard Cabitto	Joe Cauvibauda
Rene Campbell	Ann Carlson	Marva Carroll	Candyce Carter
Judith Carter	Sharon Cathey-Gibson	Adrienne Conley	Susan Cowan
Karen Critor	Frances Davis		

NOT!!!!!!



Join us for a wonderful brunch, great fun, exciting conversations, and all-around camaraderie.

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Time: 10:30 A.M.-Noon

Where: La Posada Real
5270 Longley Lane
Reno, NV

Price: You are responsible for your own meal and beverages. The restaurant asks that we please use cash as it makes it much quicker. They will do separate checks for us.

RSVP: www.washoeretirededucation.weebly.com by Monday, August 3, 2026

Raffle prizes

Cha-Ching!!! 50-50 raffle. Please bring **CASH** for the 50-50 raffle.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

My Friends by Fredrik Backman is August's selection. Most people don't even notice them - three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of a wide expanse of sea. But Louisa, soon to be eighteen years old and an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise. She is determined to find out the story behind these three figures. More than two decades before, in a distant seaside town, a group of teenagers find refuge from their brutal home lives by spending long summer days on an abandoned pier telling silly jokes, sharing secrets, and committing small acts of rebellion. These lost souls find in each other a reason to get up every morning, a reason to dream, a reason to love. Out of that summer emerges a work of art that after a chance encounter in an alleyway, will unexpectedly be placed into Louisa's care. She embarks on a surprise-filled cross-country journey to discover how the painting came to be and to decide what to do with it. The closer she gets to the painting's birthplace, the more anxious she becomes about what she'll find.

September's selection is **Tom Lake** by Ann Patchett. In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years earlier at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationships with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

We are currently reading **Paper Girl** by Beth Macy.

The Book Club meets the last Tuesday of each month: 10:00 AM at the WEA office. Questions: Fran McGregor (775) 544-3644.

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:

Terry Boyden
1745 Southview Dr.
Sparks, NV 89436

WEA-Retired Lifetime Membership Winner

Short Bio Alissa Wilmet For WEA-Retired

First, I'd like to express my gratitude for being the lucky educator to win the lifetime dues for WEA-Retired. I look forward to being retired! You could say education is the family business. My mother is retired from special education in Pennsylvania. My father has his undergrad in science education and though he didn't end up working in education, he coached softball, field hockey, and girls' basketball for a Pennsylvania school district for 35 years. My three sisters all work in public education: one worked at Washington University as the head field hockey coach before taking on athletic director for Carlisle Public Schools in Pennsylvania, the other was a principal for a public charter high school in Nevada before moving to Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania and taking on a role as a business class instructor, and the other is a long time English instructor for Boiling Springs Public Schools. I began my journey at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania with a dual major in special and elementary education. I got my first job working with an amazing mentor, Carlyn Hancock in Clovis, New Mexico in 1994. I became an NEA member and began working in a program to train teachers to lobby in the legislature thanks to Henri Gonzales and Carolyn Mitchell. I moved to Reno/Sparks in 2006 to work for the charter school with my sister and pursue my master's degree in school counseling. It was Rainshadow Community Charter High School but is now known as enCompass Academy. I transitioned to WCSD in 2023 with a counseling position at Wooster High School with what I believe to be the best school counseling team in the district. After being overaged in 2025, I moved back into special education to be a part of the amazing team at Dilworth Middle School, and I am looking forward to staying at Dilworth and becoming a part of their counseling team for the upcoming 26-27 school year. In all, I have been a public educator for 32 school years. It is a profession that has served me well and given me ample opportunities to give back to my community.



Reporting from the RAM & RA

By Susan Kaiser

I spent the first week of July at the Retired Annual Meeting (RAM) of NEA-R and the Representative Assembly (RA) in Denver, Colorado. With the passing of our state president, Steve Horner, I was tapped as the alternate delegate to attend these meetings to represent the Nevada retired membership. I was able to meet and network with delegates from across Nevada and the country. We share similar challenges including vouchers, growth of charter schools, preparing for the upcoming election cycle and so much more.



Jamie Peterson, from Humboldt County, and I made our own fun on the 250th birthday of the USA!

At the RAM, retirees hosted a silent auction of items we all contributed to the event and raised over \$11,000 for the NEA PAC Fund. We also re-elected our President, Anita Gibson and other members of the Executive Committee. **We also learned that 90 million eligible voters did not cast their ballots in the General Election of 2024. This is a trend we must actively work to change in the upcoming mid-term election by talking one-on-one with family, friends and neighbors. Make a plan to vote, talk to others about candidates and then cast your ballot.** Look for the next issue of the NEA-Retired magazine for more details from the RAM.

Nearly 6,000 delegates gathered at the RA where a few changes have been implemented since I last attended in 2018. Voting on New Business Items (NBIs) now takes place on a small hand-held device with results being displayed within minutes of the close of voting. We also spent part of two days in work sessions on various topics. I was able to hear firsthand from NEA leaders in racial and social justice activism about ICE impacts on students, their families and their communities. I also attended a session on the push for a federal school voucher program which undermines public school funding. Watch for updates from NEA via our magazine on NBIs that passed and the new leadership team at NEA lead by President Princess Moss. In the meantime, monitor your E-mail for "Calls to Action" efforts asking members to submit letters to our representatives in Washington DC. **If you taught immigrant students, or kids living in poverty, or agree that public money belongs in public schools rather than voucher programs or charter schools please visit this website and use your educator voice to speak up about these issues.** These easy-to-use advocacy tools are made available to you through your union membership and are posted at:
<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/protect#takeaction>

Updates about your WCSD Benefits

Important Updates- Retirees By Jacquie Wiebe

We hope you're enjoying your summer!

We'd like to share an important update about your WCSD retiree benefits. Each year, retirees enrolled in WCSD medical coverage can have the "**Good Health Premium**" waived by completing a wellness requirement that supports proactive, ongoing health and well-being. If you are not enrolled in medical coverage, you **do not** need to complete this requirement.

What's new for 2026:

To have your premium waived in 2027, **you** (and **your spouse**, if applicable) must complete one of the following by **December 1, 2026**:

- A **wellness visit** with your doctor, OR
- A **wellness screening** offered by WCSD

You do not need to submit anything for your visit, if your visit processes through Anthem claims we will receive the claim automatically.

Completing one of these options ensures the Good Health Premium is waived for the following year.

Wellness Screening option:

Screenings will be held in the fall. Details and the schedule of dates and locations will be posted on our website:

www.washoeschools.net/directory/human-resources/benefits/wellness.

Good Health Premium

What is required:

How to save up to \$960 a year

An annual preventative wellness visit with a doctor or complete a WCSD wellness screening.

Who is required:

All retirees on the WCSD health plan with Anthem under 80 years of age **and** spouses that carry WCSD medical benefits.

When is the requirement due:

You must complete the visit between January 1, 2026, and December 1, 2026.

Why:

By completing this, the \$40.00 good health premium will be waived for both you and spouse.

Exceptions:

If you 80 years or older or you are enrolled in Medicare, you do not need to complete a wellness visit to receive the Good Health Premium.

*We encourage everyone to schedule a yearly wellness visit with their doctor to help maintain optimum health.



Emily Kummer **Wellness Partner**

WCSD – Human Resources
Office: 775-348-0207
Pronouns: She/Her
www.washoeschools.net

Effective July 1, 2026, as part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, secure and welcoming environment, all visitors to the administration building At 425 E. Ninth St., Reno, Nevada will be asked to check in at the main welcome center located on the front side of building A.

For questions or assistance, please contact us at Benefits@washoeschools.net or 775-348-0321.

Thanks.

Let's Partner in Health!

Be Well Fest 2026

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH 2026
HUG HIGH SCHOOL



LET'S PARTNER IN HEALTH!



WREA Fall Walks

Sept. 23 - Damonte Ranch Park - 1950 Steamboat Parkway. Meet in parking lot.

Lunch at Brass Tap - Deb Garrett will lead this walk.

Sept 30 - Truckee Park, (meet at Mary Owens's home, 5058 Cassandra Way)

Lunch at Jax on the Trax - Mary Owens will lead this walk.

Oct.7 - Bartley Ranch - 6000 Bartley Ranch Road. Meet in front of the old schoolhouse.

Lunch at Big Horn Tavern - Bobee Kay Clark will lead this walk.

Oct. 14 - Sparks Marina (meet at Grateful Gardens)

Lunch at Grateful Gardens- Terry Boyden will lead this walk.

Oct. 21 - Kings Canyon Waterfall (meet at top of Canyon Rd at trail entrance)

This is an easy to moderate hike. Wear shoes with good traction.

Lunch at Sassafras - by Carson Hot Springs

Bernice Servillican will lead this walk.

Oct. 28 - Caughlin Walk - Meet at the corner of Caughlin Parkway and 900 Caughlin Crossing.

Lunch at Dolce Café - Leina Starbuck will lead this walk.

Walkers should plan to be at the meeting place at 9:45. After the walk, please join us for lunch!



CHECK OUT THE WREA FACEBOOK PAGE

The WREA strives to make our social media page interesting and informative for you! Your board has been working to make sure fun, educational and relevant information is shared weekly and year-round on our Facebook page.

In case you haven't seen it, please search "Washoe Retired Education Association" while on Facebook, ask to be added and answer a few simple questions.

About our Page:



1. This is a "private group", meaning only vetted members of the page are allowed to see and interact with posts.
2. Group members are able and encouraged to add, comment, and continue conversations on posts of interest.
3. New posts are generally added on Wednesdays, "Funny" Fridays and Sundays. Be aware of posts on other days when applicable, important, or time sensitive.
4. Upcoming events are featured, but please RSVP on the website when requested.
5. When you see an event you want to attend, please visit the website link provided on the Facebook post or go to this website address <https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com/coming-events-rsvp.html>. This link takes you directly to the "Coming Events & RSVP" section, where you will see the event details, how to RSVP, and if required, how payment works.
6. Some featured activities do not require an RSVP, like our Spring Walking Series. Just come join the fun!

If you have any Facebook questions, or need assistance signing up, please reach out to board members, Terry Boyden (terryboyden@gmail.com) or Mary Owens (pacificbluemary@yahoo.com). We will do our best to address your questions!

If you have ideas for information you'd like added to the page, please reach out to us! We'd love your feedback on how to make it more useful to all of our members!

Happy scrolling...

Mary Owens
WREA Board Member

WREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST 2026-JUNE 2027

****Calendar is always subject to change****

AUGUST 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Weds. Aug. 12	Not back to school brunch	La Posada on Longley Ln	10 :30-Noon
Tues.Aug. 25	Book Club	WEA conference room	10 :00-11 :30

SEPTEMBER 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues Sept. 8	Bunco	WEA conference room	4 :00-6 :00
Tues. Sept. 15	WREA Board Mtg.	WEA conference room	10 :30-12 :30
Mon. Sept. 21	Newsletter articles due		3 :00 P.M.
Weds. Sept. 23	Fall Walk	Damonte Ranch Park , lunch at Brass Tap	9 :45-Noon
Fri. Sept. 25	Newsletter out		
Tues. Sept. 29	Book Club	WEA conference room	10 :00-11 :30
Weds. Sept. 30	Fall Walk	Truckee Park, lunch at Jax on the Trax	9 :45-Noon

OCTOBER 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Weds. Oct. 7	Fall Walk	Bartley Ranch, lunch at Big Horn Tavern	9 :45-Noon
Weds. Oct. 14	Fall walk	Sparks Marina, lunch at Greatful Gardens	9 :45-Noon
Mon. Oct. 12	OKTOBERFEST	WEA Conference room	5 :30-7 :30
Weds. Oct 21	Fall Walk	Kings Canyon Waterfall, lunch at Sassafras	9 :45-Noon
Weds. Oct. 28	Fall Walk	Caughlin Walk, lunch at Dolce Cafe	9 :45-Noon
Tues. Oct. 27	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30

NOVEMBER 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. Nov. 3	Election day		
Thurs. Nov. 5	Bingo	WEA conference room	4 :00-6 :00
Tues, Nov. 10	WREA Board mtg	WEA conference room	10 :30-12 :30
Mon. Nov. 16	Newsletter articles due		3 :00 PM
Fri. Nov. 20	Newsletter out		
Tues, Nov. 24	Book Club	WEA conference room	10-11 :30
Thurs. Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING		

DECEMBER 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. Dec. 15	Holiday Luncheon	Louis' Basque Corner	11 :00-2 :00
Fri. Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS		
Fri. Dec. 26	Hanukkah/Kwanzaa		

JANUARY 2027

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Fri Jan. 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR		
Thurs. Jan. 7	Bunco	WEA Conference room	4 :00-6 :00
Mon. Jan. 11	Newsletter articles due		3 :00 PM
Fri. Jan. 15	Newsletter out		
Tues. Jan. 26	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30

FEBRUARY 2027

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Mon. Feb 8	WREA Board Mtg.	WEA Conference room	10 :30-12 :30
Thurs. Feb. 11	Mexican Train	WEA Conference room	4 :00-6 :00
Tues. Feb. 24	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Weds. Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	BJ's BBQ	11 :00-2:00
Mon. Mar. 22	Newsletter articles due		3:00 PM
Fri. Mar 26	Newsletter out		
Tues. Mar. 30	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30

APRIL 2027

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. Apr. 6	Painting	Gambi's	4-7 PM
Mon. Apr. 12	WREA Board Mtg.	WEA Conference room	10 :30-12 :30
Weds. Apr. 14	Spring Walk	TBD	9 :45-Noon
Weds. Apr. 21	Spring Walk	TBD	9 :45-Noon
TBD	BAWREA Scholarship Application Due		
Tues. Apr. 27	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30
Weds. Apr. 28	Spring Walk	TBD	9 :45-Noon

MAY 2027

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. May 4	Member Appreciation	Boulevard Pizza	5-7 PM
Weds. May 5	Spring Walk	TBD	9 :45-Noon
Weds. May 5	Election Ballot Open	Tentative	
Weds. May 12	Spring Walk	Crissie Caughlin Park, lunch at Buenos Grill	9 :45-Noon
Mon. May 17	Newsletter articles due		3 :00 PM
Weds. May 19	Spring Walk	TBD	9 :45-Noon
Fri. May 21	Newsletter out		
Weds. May 20	Election Ballot closed	Tentative	
Tues. May 25	Book Club	WEA conference room	10 :00-11 :30
TBD	ACES ball game	TBD	

JUNE 2027

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOURS/TIME
Tues. June 8	School's Out for Summer Luncheon	The Cup	11 :30-1 :30
Mon. June 21	Newsletter articles due		3 :00 PM
Fri. June 23	Newsletter emailed out		
Tues. June 30	Book Club	WEA Conference room	10 :00-11 :30

