



North Central
WEA
UniServ Council

Insights

November/December 2009

President's Message

by Pam Steinburg



There are many challenges ahead for today's educators; billions slashed from education funding, looming education reform with no funding attached, increased pressure for high student test scores, and families in crisis situations.

Yet, I am encouraged by a quote by H.W. Westermayer that I recently read. He reminds us, "The pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts... nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." We can learn from the foresight of the pilgrims.

Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to rejoice for our good fortune. We should not take the day without reflection and gratitude for the things that enrich our lives.

Our UniServ Council has many great things happening. We raised nearly \$2,000 for the WEA Children's Fund at our November Local Leader's retreat. In bleak economic times we have been able to help local associations make meaningful gains in their contracts. Association leaders have been given technology training in how to create their own free webpages and access hundreds of fun tools to enrich their teaching or make their jobs easier to manage.

We are a rich Council, yet not in monetary wealth. The jewels in our Council are the staff members that work so hard to provide you the things you need. Thank you to Marilyn Everhart and Terry Fitzpatrick for the incredible training opportunities they have given you, for the endless

hours they have spent supporting you in contract bargaining, for leader encouragement and support, the many hours they spend on the road to meet with you personally, and for being incredible resources for troubleshooting. Thank you to Laine Witte for managing the business needs of our Council efficiently, organizing all meeting details and always making sure we have great meals, answering your calls and connecting you with the right people, managing our budget, taking care of membership enrollment, and helping you with PEA grant requests. Thank you to Yvonne Walker who answers your afternoon calls, creates beautiful fliers and attractive newsletters, helps to make the North Central UniServ SPARKS retreat fun, helps facilitate our TU-VALU retreat, sends out reminders to our leaders, and the never ending "other duties as assigned" category.

And, of course, thank you to the unsung heroes of our Council. First, our executive board members who donate hours of their time to make sure people are aware of upcoming meetings, offer critical thinking and debate to form important decisions, support our activities often donating their own money for prizes, create a sense of community in our organization and stand behind council leadership. Finally, thank you to our local association leaders who work diligently, giving of their own time to serve our members with dedication and compassion.

We are a small Council, yet mighty and wealthy beyond words. Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do to make North Central UniServ noteworthy!



Season's Greetings From All Of US To All Of You!



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Congratulations to last month's winner, Bev McCreary from Wenatchee EA!



The correct response was Steelhead Trout.



Look for the Brain Teaser in this newsletter. You could be the next winner of a \$10 Starbucks Card!

WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars

WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars is offering up to five \$1000 nonrenewable scholarships for the purpose of aiding WEA members in enhancing skills in specific education areas and/or attaining a teaching certificate.

Please request a scholarship form from the WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars Committee at the address listed below and indicate at that time whether you are 1) certificated, 2) classified, or 3) a student WEA (SWEA) member. Or you may go online at www.washingtonea.org and follow the link to scholarships to obtain the form and further information that will be required.

The completed form and application letter must be received by April 16, 2010 at the address below.

The recipients of the scholarships will be notified by May 14, 2010 by the scholarship chair.

WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Committee
51 SE Bayview Lane
Shelton, WA 98584



Sparks 2010

February 4-6

Mark your calendar now for our annual Sparks Retreat which will be held in Chelan.

Recruiting new members into leadership roles of our organization is one of our responsibilities as association leaders. The Sparks program was designed to do just that and is geared toward issues that are relevant to our newer members.

We are asking Local Presidents and former Sparks to nominate members with six years or less of educational experience.

The Council pays all expenses. If you or someone you know would like to attend, contact Yvonne at the Council office for more information. Don't miss out!

What is the QEC?

By Pam Steinburg

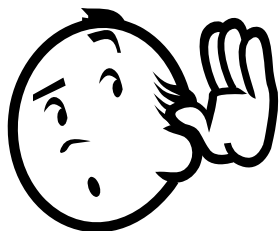
The Quality Education Council (QEC) was created by the legislature as a result of HB 2261. The QEC's directive is to form future education policy and develop a 10-year strategic vision for education in Washington State. The Quality Education Council will develop recommendations for the implementation of a new definition of Basic Education and the financing necessary to support it.

You play an important role as the QEC works to create meaningful reform. Visit the WEA website at www.washingtonea.org to receive the latest updates on House Bill 2261 and the education reform that will significantly impact you and your students. Stay vigilant as the details are worked out.

Contact your legislators and make them aware that last session's budget cuts have created substantial difficulties for teachers and students in the classrooms across this state. Will the recommendations of the Quality Education Council result in another round of unfunded mandates?

Whoa !!! Hold on there!! What are you saying? Did I hear that right?

By Terri Fitzpatrick



Some of the WEA field staff and political staff are turning to a new way for WEA to engage in political action. It became painfully clear to our WEA political folks during the last legislative session that getting Democrats elected and expecting them to protect our interests is a failed strategy.

There is a move afoot to actually include **Republicans** in our strategy. Since those of us on the East Side of the Hill recognize that we have many Republican members and legislators, we recognize a need to effectively interact with you and them at the legislative level.

The plan is to engage with already elected Republicans who support our issues, develop good working relationships with them and then effectively impact their decision-making on educational issues. Secondly, we will begin to seek out and recruit candidates that support our issues and then help to get them elected.

We will be seeking your advice and suggestions for who and how we can be more effective with the folks that will be elected. Hopefully WEA will become less partisan and more effective in the education policy arena.



Paradise Pie

By Pam Steinburg

This pie is a Thanksgiving tradition in my family. It is easy and can be prepared well ahead of time.

3 Egg Whites: Beat until stiff

Fold in: 1 Cup Sugar
1 tsp. Baking Powder
1 tsp. Vanilla

Then fold in:
20 Ritz Crackers—crushed finely
¾ Cup Chopped Walnuts

Place mixture in a buttered 8 or 9 inch glass pie pan
Bake at 325 degrees for 35 minutes

Cool.

At least 2 or 3 hours before serving top with sweetened REAL whip cream. Do not use Cool Whip (whipped cream needs to break down and be absorbed into pie). Refrigerate.

This pie can be baked well ahead of time. It will be hard when you take it out of the oven. Top with whipped cream the day it is to be served.

DELICIOUS!



Brain Teaser ~ Your Chance to Win!!



All correct responses will be placed in a drawing for a \$10 Starbucks card!



What is the Official Washington State Insect

1. Lady Bug
2. Green Darner Dragonfly
3. Honey Bee
4. Praying Mantis
5. Swallowtail Butterfly
6. Carpenter Ant

Simply email your response to ywalker@washingtonea.org for your chance to win!

Do You Have an Invalid Masters Degree?

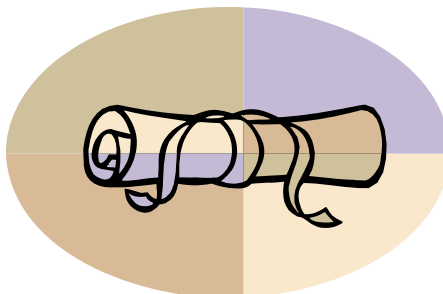
By Marilyn Everhart

Danger, Will Robinson! Danger! Whose responsibility is it to make certain that when a masters degree is earned that it is from a college or university accredited in the state of Washington? It is the employee's professional responsibility to make certain of that little fact.

There have been a number of cases over the past few years where employees have been given salary placement and advancement based on masters degrees from institutions not accredited in the state of Washington.

What happens when that occurs? The district has

every right to go after the employee for the funds that they have earned over the years and usually do. Sometimes the association can work out an arrangement to allow the employee time to earn a proper masters, but the district is under no obligation to do that and in these tough times, it may be even more difficult to make such arrangements.



So, heads up. Just because an institution is accredited does not necessarily mean that it is accredited in Washington State. If you have a concern, call the ESD or OSPI and find

out before you invest in the degree. If you have such a degree and get notified by the district that there is an issue, please contact the association and get some help.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

30

4:30 EAST CLUSTER MTG @ MICHAELS ON THE LAKE IN MOSES LK

DECEMBER

1

4:30 NORTH CLUSTER MTG @ KOALA GRILL IN OMAK

9

4:30 SOUTH CLUSTER MTG @ ROASTER IN WENATCHEE

JANUARY

21

9:30 CTL CLUSTER MTG @ CAMPBELL'S IN LAKE CHELAN

21

2:30 ESP CLUSTER MTG @ CAMPBELL'S IN LAKE CHELAN

Executive Board

President: **Pam Steinburg**
Position B (51-200): **Susan Yaw**
ESP Representative: **Teresa Burns**

Vice President: **Steve Lindholm**
Position C (<51): **Linda Colvin**
Treasurer: **Linda Zaccanti**

Position A (200+): **Chris Shoemake**
AHE Representative: **Mike O'Konek**
WEA Board Director: **Ted Mack**

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