

NORTHSHORE NEWS

January, 2007

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 5



NSEA Calendar

January 2007

- ◆ **January 22nd:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **January 22nd-February 5th:** WEA-PAC drive
- ◆ **January 23rd:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Admin Center

February 2007

- ◆ **February 5th:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **February 12th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **February 13th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 4:00 pm Admin Center
- ◆ **February 19th:** No School Presidents' Day
- ◆ **February 20th-23rd:** Mid-Winter Break No School; NSEA Office Closed
- ◆ **February 27th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Admin Center

March 2007

- ◆ **March 5th:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **March 12th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **March 13th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 4:00 pm Admin Center
- ◆ **March 14th:** Mock Rep Assembly for NSEA WEA-RA Delegates, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm Shoreline Center
- ◆ **March 27th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Admin Center
- ◆ **March 29th-31st:** WEA Rep Assembly, Tacoma Convention Center

"Educator Expenses" Deduction

Late last year, the U. S. Congress extended the "educator expenses" deduction that can be claimed on the 2006 individual income tax return. Unfortunately, the Internal Revenue Service 1040 form was printed before the bill was approved. As a result, there is no specific line item in the Adjusted Gross Income section as there was on the 2005 form.

According to the IRS, educators **must file Form 1040 (not Form 1040A)** to take advantage of the deduction of \$250 for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in 2006. The deduction needs to be entered on line 23, "Archer MSA Deduction". The letter "E" must be marked on the dotted line to the left of that line entry.

President's Message

I hope this finds you all well and rested after the holiday break. If you are like me you are wondering when Mother Nature is going to give us a break! I can't remember the last time we had to make up six days of school because of closures. I was able to go to Palm Springs over the break and got to experience a wind storm that lasted for two days! Enough!

I have received many inquiries and concerns about when the school year is going to end. There is an agreement between the NSD and NSEA to add days to the end of the year when we have to close schools. Many parents as well as staff have already booked flights, made hotel reservations, and made plans for both mid-winter and spring break. Also, many schools have booked speakers or trainers for the non-student days making it difficult to move scheduled events on our calendar. However, we have reached the point with the last teacher day being



June 27th where summer activities are going to be affected. Staff may have already booked flights, made hotel reservations, or signed up for summer course week during that last week of June. The custodial crews are also becoming concerned on the impact this can have on their summer work schedule. NSEA sat down with the District on January 17th to discuss our options. Staff will be asked to give input to our bargaining team through a survey during the week of January 22-26th. Pray for some normalcy in our weather!

Now that the enrollment balancing plan has been finalized by the school board, NSEA will be working with the Human Resources Department to schedule visits to schools where people will be involuntarily transferred. The district is accepting waivers from students at this time and once we have those numbers, planning for next year will begin.

As you already know, Kelly Allen, the WEA UniServ staff member working with NSEA, has resigned. We wish Kelly the best in her future endeavors. WEA is working to fill this position so our resources are going to be stretched a little thin until February. As soon as we have a replacement I will inform the members.

Karen Forsy begins her stem cell transplant in the month of January. We all are wishing her the best and hoping for a quick recovery. I donated platelets in December and will be doing so again this month. If you have ever considered donating platelets or whole blood this would be a good time to do so.

Many of you know that my mother passed away last June. A week after my mother died, my older brother was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. On December 27th, my brother passed away at his home in New York. Then on January 3rd, my aunt in San Francisco also passed away from complications with pneumonia. This has been a difficult six months for my family! We are holding together and helping our children deal with the rapid loss of so many family members. Take the time to tell those you love how much you appreciate them every day.

Tim



It's Tax Time!

Your annual union dues may be tax deductible. Below is the amount of dues for 2006 based on FTE:

FTE	Deductible Dues*
.76-1.0	\$848.44
.51-.75	\$722.08
.26-.50	\$427.28
.25 or less	\$291.44

Substitute teachers and members who only worked a partial year or changed FTEs throughout the year will need to contact Chenoa Gray at 425-486-7101 ext. 11 for their dues information.

*Please consult your financial advisor to determine if your dues are tax deductible.

Out of State Service Credit

A bill passed last year allows teachers to purchase up to 7 years of service credit in the Washington pension system based on their service in other states or the federal government. The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) has information on its website (www.drs.wa.gov) explaining how members can make the service credit purchase. Once the additional service credit has been purchased/awarded, it will be the same as any other service credit earned for teaching in WA, and can be used to qualify for retirement and in the calculation of benefit amounts.

In order to purchase the WA state service, members cannot be eligible to receive a retirement benefit in the other state in which they've taught. The cost of the service will be based on the member's current average salary, and they will be required to pay both the employee and the employer cost for the service purchased, plus some interest.

It is clear that the earlier in the member's career they make the purchase, the better the deal. That is because the cost will be based on a lower "annual average salary," and because the actuarial factor applied (the interest recapture) will be lower for those furthest away from age 65. Still, even those later in their career should yield a benefit that is greater than the cost they would be charged and in most cases may be in their financial interest to make the purchase.

Join WEA-PAC and Get Involved!

By Lynn Emerson

Crystal Springs LC Teacher and Cascade UniServ Council WEA-PAC chair

Are you happy with your salary? Are you satisfied with your class or work load? Do you think your pension will be enough to live on when you retire at age 66?

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, you should be a member of WEA-PAC. WEA-PAC is the political action committee of WEA. Benefits of membership are: having a voice in which candidates are endorsed by WEA, receiving legislative updates while the legislators are in session, and forming WEA's political voice so that it reflects your concerns.



This is an extremely important time to be a WEA-PAC member. Even though there is a majority of pro-education legislators in Olympia, we still have a lot to do. We need to keep writing and calling our legislators to remind them of our issues.

I recently had the opportunity to lobby for simple majority vote for passing school levies, among other issues. The Senate is two votes short of passing this bill. You need to call or email your position and urge your legislators to vote!

Right now I have requests for teachers who are going through their Pro-Cert. Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Representatives Ruth Kagi and Maralyn Chase would like your information. What will it cost in money and time for you to get your Pro-Cert? Please email these legislators from your home email address during non-work hours to let them know of your experiences. (Legislator contact information can be found in the bottom right-hand corner of this page.)

If you are a secondary math and science teacher, the above legislators would like to know about your current challenges in teaching, especially dealing with students who are not passing the WASL. Please email them with your thoughts.

Politics impacts our jobs as educators, and we need to have a voice in this arena. Please join WEA-PAC so that your concerns are heard.

Classifieds

LA-Z-BOY FOR SALE: Comfortable LA-Z-BOY sleeper sofa. Queen size (84"x35"x31"). Non-smoking household. Mattress rarely used. Fabri-coate lifetime warranty. Pictures available upon request. \$335. Contact Beth Lovitt at blovitt@ispwest.com or 482-869-2733.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED: for 2 bed/2 bath condo in the Mill Creek area, furnished except your room, no pets please, I have a dog and part time cat, non-smoking, and clean. \$700/mo; includes utilities. Contact Lisa Beebe at 206-794-5427.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING SPANISH? I am a certified teacher in Northshore who has tutored all ages in the Spanish language. Your trip to Mexico will be a lot more fun! Please call or email Michelle Ward at 425-894-6216 or wardmeliz@aol.com.

Attend a School Board Meeting

Important work is often done at Northshore's School Board meetings, yet relatively few employees attend these meetings. Please join your NSEA president at a school board meeting to see how their work is done.

We'll include the time, date and location of all NSD School Board meetings in the calendar section of our monthly newsletters. We hope to see you there!

Northshore News is a publication of the Northshore Education Association. NSEA is the bargaining agent of the certificated staff of the Northshore School District.

7104 NE 181st Street, #106
Kenmore, WA 98028
Phone: 425-486-7101
Fax: 425-486-7154

Tim Brittell, President
tbrittell@washingtonea.org

Kathy Rose, Vice President
Woodin Elementary
krrose@nsd.org

Lydia King, Administrative Assistant
lking@washingtonea.org

NSEA Executive Board
Eric Breekha, Secretary/Treasurer
Leota Junior High
ebreekha@nsd.org

Gail Barnfather, Northshore JH
gbarnfather@nsd.org

Katie Drov Dahl, Bothell HS
kdrov Dahl@nsd.org

Lynn Emerson, Crystal Springs Elem
lemerson@nsd.org

Justine Hurley, Lockwood Elem
jhurley@nsd.org

Steve Johnson, Shelton View Elem
sjohnson@nsd.org

Contact Your Legislators

- Senator Rosemary McAuliffe: mcauliffe.rosemary@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Maralyn Chase: chase.maralyn@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Ruth Kagi: kagi.ruth@leg.wa.gov

Contact information for other legislators can be found at www.leg.wa.gov. Please remember: use your **home email** address during **non-work hours** when contacting legislators.