

NORTHSHORE NEWS

May, 2006

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 9



NSEA Calendar

May 2006

- ◆ May 7th-13th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ May 8th: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-5:30 pm BHS Library
- ◆ May 9th-11th: NSEA Elections
- ◆ May 22nd: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ May 29th: Memorial Day NSEA Office Closed
- ◆ May 30th: Non-Student Day

June 2006

- ◆ June 1st: Retiree Reception, 3:30 pm, Administration Center
- ◆ June 19th: Last Day of School
- ◆ June 20th: Teacher Work Day
- ◆ June 28th: Summer Academy Begins
- ◆ June 30th: NEA RA starts, Orlando, FL

July 2006

- ◆ July 1st-July 5th: NEA RA, Orlando, FL
- ◆ July 4th: Independence Day, NSEA Office Closed



What are Your Rights When it Comes to Moving?

Visit the NSEA website, www.northshoreea.org, for the 2006 Moving Manual. Located in the Documents section of the website, this manual contains information about what to do if you are moving to a new location, transferred (voluntarily or involuntarily), going through a remodel or construction period, and much, much more.

Check it out today!

President's Message

Hello Members,

Spring is finally here! The days are getting longer, the temperature is rising, and little league is in full swing. Is there a better time of the year? This past month has been eventful for the NSEA office as we move closer to bargaining and deal with the state and federal government definition of what constitutes a Highly Qualified teacher.

I would like to thank the teaching staff for a great response on the bargaining survey! Cottage Lake Elementary had 100% participation on the survey and earned a special breakfast of Starbucks coffee, pastry, and fruit salad on Thursday, May 3rd. It was wonderful to spend time with the staff there and to discuss upcoming bargaining. I would also like to thank all of you who turned out for our pathway meetings. It was good for NSEA leadership and bargainers to hear from members who wanted to elaborate on their survey responses. NSEA members were very clear as to what should be our bargaining priorities. As your bargainers we seek to: improve compensation, maintain or improve our benefits package, continue to improve on the issues of educating special needs students, develop a shared decision making model with some teeth, tackle technology related issues, transfer language, and workload issues impacting all members, from classroom teachers to counselors. Your bargaining team will be working on your behalf to make as many improvements as possible in these areas.

On Friday April 14th, WEA UniServ Rep Kelly Allen, members of the NSD Human Resources Department, and I attended an OSPI training concerning Highly Qualified status for the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. The determination and reporting processes were explained and demonstrated by representatives of OSPI and WEA. I have been working with Laurie Ferwerda, Executive Director of Human Resources, to ensure the process for Northshore is as smooth and painless as possible. After reviewing all of our elementary teachers in Northshore, there was only one teacher who was not determined to be highly qualified. At the secondary level it appears we may only have twenty-five teachers in a similar situation. A letter has already been sent to elementary teachers explaining the highly qualified determination, and one will be coming out very soon to secondary teachers. NSEA is working closely with the district to help effected teachers plan how to meet this federal standard. Financial assistance for those effected teachers has already been put in place through professional development funds using I-728 money.

To those of you who are mothers, I want to wish you a happy Mother's Day! The rest of us need to make sure we honor our mothers on this special day. Many of you know my mother is in the final stages of a battle with cancer and this day will be especially important for my family this year. I hope the day is relaxing and filled with joy for all mothers.

Tim

Special Ed Boot Camp

Are you in need of Special Education professional development?
WEA's got you covered!

Special Education Boot Camp, a WEA summer training opportunity, will be held at the Shoreline Center from July 17th-21st. This training is limited to 35 participants and runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. A registration fee of \$250 covers your training materials, breakfast and lunch each of the five days. Clock hours will be offered.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Janie Moxley at 800-622-3393 X-7074; 253-765-7074 or jmoxley@washingtonea.org.

What's Your Number?



As part of the WEA's *Take the Lead* campaign, NSEA Building Reps were asked to share a number that demonstrates how inadequate school funding impacts their lives. Here's what we heard:

- ◆ **Zero:** The number of professional development classes offered at my district during the months of February and March because of funding cut backs.
- ◆ **One:** As in first grade, which is higher than my CLC students' academic/intellectual skills. Though WASL doesn't test students at K, 1st or 2nd grade levels, my students have to take and pass the WASL or alternative.
- ◆ **One:** I have one daughter who wants to teach and is at Western getting her degree. She will graduate with \$24,000 in loans and possibly a teaching job that pays \$35,000. Where in the state can she teach and afford housing and paying off her loans? How is home ownership, the American Dream, possible for her?
- ◆ **Forty-five:** The number of additional students I will be responsible for advising, in one large group, at the beginning of 07-08, to meet the state requirements of Culminating Project.
- ◆ **Five thousand:** The amount of money my library has to spend on books, magazines, electronics and consumables for my school of 600 students. That doesn't buy many books!

If you'd like to share your number with NSEA, please contact Lydia King at lking@washingtonea.org. More information about *Take the Lead* can be found at www.taketheleadwashington.org.

Changes to TRS 2 & 3

Effective January 1, 2007, a new law permits members of the Teachers' Retirement System Plans 2 and 3 (TRS 2/3) to make a one-time purchase of up to seven years of service credit for teaching experience outside of the Washington State Retirement System. The law limits purchases of service credit to active members who have earned five or more years of TRS service credit, and to members not receiving benefits or eligible for unreduced retirement benefits from another retirement plan. For more information, visit the Department of Retirement Services website www.drs.wa.gov.



2006 Retirement Reception

Mark your calendars and plan to join us in recognizing this year's retirees.

Thursday June 1st 3:30 pm
NSD Administration Center

2006-2007 Rep Council

It's not too early to start thinking about NSEA building representation for the next school year. According to NSEA bylaws, buildings are allowed to have one rep per 15 Association members.

Building Reps attend monthly Rep Council meetings and act as liaisons between the Association and its members. Members who attend regular meetings receive a dues reduction.

If you ever considered getting involved with NSEA, becoming a Building Rep is a great way to get your feet wet. For more information, please refer to the NSEA Bylaws on our website, www.northshoreea.org.

Deadline Approaching for Provisional Teachers

Provisional employees under a plan of assistance must be notified by the Superintendent by **May 15th** if non-renewal is recommended. Please contact the NSEA Office if you have any questions about your status.

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

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Continuing Education Account (CEA) Reminder

NSEA members can carry over no more than \$1,000 in their CEA accounts each year. Any balance in excess of \$1,000 at the year's end will be added to the CEA pool of funds for distribution the subsequent year. To find out your balance, contact Zenith at 800-426-5980.