



Public Ed Today and Tomorrow at the 2010 Convention Page 3



Highlights of the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly Pages 4-5

UEA Action

The Voice of the Unified Education Profession in Utah
Volume 40
Number 4
August 2010

New State Leadership at UEA

Kim Campbell led UEA through arguably one of the most tumultuous periods in the Association's 100-year history. Her four years in office included the Utah Legislature passing what many felt was a flawed voucher law followed by a UEA-led public referendum and the law's resounding defeat at the polls. It also included working with the Legislature to secure the state's largest-ever public education funding increase followed by a fight to save teacher jobs during the state's most severe recession in generations.

Through it all, Campbell appeared unflappable.

Campbell and UEA Vice President **Ellen Thompson** decided not to run for re-election. Their terms expired July 15. Replacing them are new UEA President **Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh** and Vice President **Tom Nedreberg**. The new leaders were elected by fellow educators in a state-wide vote earlier this year.

Known to her second grade students at Salt Lake City's Dilworth Elementary as "Mrs. G.," the energetic Gallagher-Fishbaugh is excited to be an advocate for Utah teachers and public schools.

"It's an honor to represent the talented and dedicated public school teachers of Utah," said Gallagher-Fishbaugh. "I believe a strong public education system is critical to Utah's future and should be our state's top priority. I look forward to working with teachers, parents, policymakers and others to guarantee a great public school for

every child."

Gallagher-Fishbaugh has earned a number of accolades during her 30-plus year teaching career. She was Utah's Teacher of the Year for 2009. In April this year, the National Education Association Foundation awarded her its top honor, the \$25,000 NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence.



Kim Campbell (left) served as UEA president from 2006-2010. Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh began her term as UEA president on July 15.

She is a National Board Certified Teacher, a distinction earned by just 82,000 teachers nationwide who meet rigorous teaching criteria set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and was a finalist for the Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education. She has more than 30 years experience in Utah public schools.

"Sharon represents the very best of the good things happening in Utah's

public schools," said Campbell. "She is a professional educator not only dedicated to students, but also to the teaching profession. Her passion for public education is contagious."

Gallagher-Fishbaugh and her husband Vince have one son and live in Salt Lake City.

Tom Nedreberg grew up attending schools in Mississippi, Ohio and New Jersey. He received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University

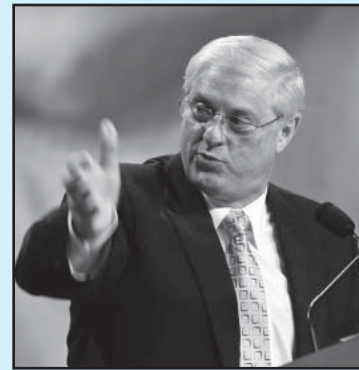
See LEADERSHIP page 3

Educators Urged to 'Take the Lead' in Schools

In the face of unprecedented budget cuts in public education and unrelenting criticism of public education, Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association, called on the 9,000 delegates to the Representative Assembly, including 87 from Utah, to become activists and advocates—both professionally and politically.

In his keynote address, Van Roekel urged educators to take the lead in creating sound education policies and take charge of the teaching profession. He announced that NEA will

create a new commission on effective teaching that will bring together accomplished teachers, Association leaders, researchers, and policymakers from across the country to offer recommendations on how teachers can take greater authority over their profession, the



NEA President Dennis Van Roekel urged the 9,000 delegates attending the 2010 National Education Association Representative Assembly to take the lead as advocates for public education.

See 2010 NEA RA page 4

Read more about the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly on pages 4-5

Historic Meeting Focuses on 'Common Ground'

Governor, Lieutenant Governor Meet with UEA Board

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, Lt. Gov. Greg Bell and Education Deputy Christine Kearn met with the UEA Board at the UEA office June 16. The Governor spent two hours sharing his positions and answering questions from the Board.

"My number one priority as Governor is economic development," said Gov. Herbert, calling it the engine that drives state revenue. He noted the "significant link" between economic devel-

opment and his number two priority, education. "Sustained economic development requires a robust education system," he said.

The conversation covered a variety of topics including:

Taxes and education funding: "Education funding increased by \$900 million over the Huntsman-Herbert years," said the Governor. He added that Utah is in a "unique" position with only 21.2 percent of the state held privately, limiting the

amount of land available to generate tax revenue.

Vouchers: While he was a vocal supporter of vouchers, Gov. Herbert recognized that there were flaws in the law ultimately passed by the Utah Legislature. "(Vouchers) should have been means tested and there should have been income limits," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, the (voucher) issue is dead for at least the next decade."

State school board elections: When asked, Gov. Herbert called the current system for electing state school board members "screwy." He has asked staff to look at how other states seat their school boards.

"We should (meet) more often," said Gov. Herbert. "I'm sure we will find that we have much more in common than we have differences. We have the same goals and aspirations for students."

"It was an honor to have the Governor in the UEA Building and to have open, honest and frank discussions with the UEA Board," said UEA President Kim Campbell.

The meeting was historic in that it may be the first time a sitting governor has attended a meeting of the UEA Board.



Utah Governor Gary Herbert (right) visits with UEA Executive Director Mark Mickelsen following a meeting with the UEA Board on June 16.



UEA Action
Utah Education Association
875 East 5180 South
Murray, Utah 84107

PRSRT STD
US Postage
Paid
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #845

Visit UEA on the Web at: www.utea.org

Thoughts & Opinions



Choosing Our Future

By Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh
UEA President

The year is 2015.

Alice is a 20-year veteran elementary teacher. She is a member of her state association, an organization of politically active, engaged members who are passionate about their profession and their students.

She teaches 20 second graders in a local district, which operates in cooperation with the state and local associations, the State Office of Education, and the legislature to create excellent public schools for every child.

Because of the engaged participation of the 18,000 members of Alice's association, changes have taken place. No policy or decision regarding public education is made without the highly regarded association's voice at the table.

Teachers are evaluated on multiple research-based measures including leadership, student engagement, and student-centered instruction. Alice's salary is competitive and analogous with other professional occupations. The State and local districts are flooded with resumes of educators desiring employment.

By contrast, Jim is a 10-year veteran elementary teacher. His state and local association members counted on the elected leaders of their association to do the work for them. After all, that is why they were elected.

Jim teaches 45 fifth graders in a district that operates utilizing a "top-down" philosophy. Jim works extended hours. He continues to be asked to

do more with less. His students take multiple assessments, which have narrowed the curriculum. In addition, the results of these assessments determine Jim's salary and continued employment.

Teachers are vilified in the press and anti-public education sentiment is prevalent. Jim is discouraged and so are his colleagues. The words Jim uses to describe his emotions are hopeless and undervalued.

Which scenario do we want to create? Either one is possible. Indeed, many of the elements exist in the year 2010. We are at a critical juncture. Public education is political and we must stand ready to engage in dialogue and activities that elevate our profession.

I am honored to represent the tremendous teachers of Utah as president of the Utah Education Association. I look forward to participating in conversations that engage and value classroom teachers, as the experts, in creating a great public school for every child. To achieve this goal requires our collective voices.

Your association needs you! Now, more than ever, is the time for us to come together to take back our profession. We are the experts. We can no longer sit quietly on the sidelines. Become the agents of change and join your fellow colleagues and members in creating excellent public schools for every child with educators leading the charge!

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek.



UEA President
Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh

Changing Utah's Education Dichotomy



Thoughts from
UEA Vice President
Tom Nedreberg

Education in Utah is an interesting dichotomy. It's because of that dichotomy I'm here today as the UEA Vice President.

I started school attending first grade in Jackson, Miss. (At the time, they didn't have kindergarten.) I was there until third grade in a system that was not only segregated, but underfunded and behind the times in curriculum and practice. I was dyslexic before it was diagnosed. I am thankful for parents who took the time to make sure I didn't fall behind. My family then moved to Ohio. While there are great schools in Ohio, they weren't found in the hills of Appalachia where we lived.

After my high school graduation, I went to Ohio State University and was amazed at the ideas I learned about educational quality in schools. It was there I began hearing about how good schools were in Utah. I never thought I'd ever live in Utah, but after obtaining a masters degree in New Mexico and three years teaching in Arizona, I found myself here. I thought I had arrived.

This is when I began to understand the dichotomy. When I first started teaching in Utah, the state was not at the bottom of the education funding scale. There was still Mississippi. But shortly that changed and Utah slipped to its current status as the state with the nation's lowest funding per student. Teaching in Tintic School District I met teachers from all over the state at various workshops and conferences. I began to understand the dichotomy—while we don't fund education adequately, we have very dedicated teachers in a state where most parents care. This makes it so the results of our educational system do not reflect our state's funding commitment.

This dichotomy is why after 31 years in education, I chose to run for UEA vice president. From personal experience I've seen the effects of underfunding education, yet I've been the beneficiary of dedicated parents and teachers. I wonder what it would be like if we could adequately fund education in Utah. What results could we have because of our outstanding teachers and parents?

Maybe I'm naïve, and I realize it would take years, but I dream of what schools would be like if we funded education in Utah at a level that equaled the national average. We would have smaller class sizes, more teachers, and more schools with smaller numbers of students in each school. With that there would be more student participation in activities, more interaction with caring adults, more opportunities for student growth and, I'm sure, greater student achievement. None of this would happen overnight, but instead of feeling good about how we get more "bang" for our educational dollar, we could actually make a difference with our students, preparing them to compete in a global economy and not short change their future.

The Utah Education Association understands the relationship between funding a great public school for every child and investment in our local economies. I'm not discouraged about our current situation with funding or our relationship with political leaders. I'm excited for the challenge ahead. We need to make sure we don't pass this opportunity for change to our children, but start the process of closing the gap between our current situation and our aspirations and hopes.

NEA RA: 'Turning Hope into Action'

Thoughts from NEA Directors
Jesse DeHay & Ryan Anderson

The NEA Representative Assembly in the "Big Easy" was big, but it wasn't easy. In fact, it was tough, real, honest, gritty democracy. It was a microcosm of all we are facing as a society—inside and outside our schools. Some of us found it stimulating, others found it disillusioning, frustrating, direct democracy at

its best and worst.

As educators, we are at a point unlike any we have faced in our lifetimes. Our 2010 RA theme "Turning Hope into Action" may become a litmus test of delegates debating possible solutions to problems within and outside our sphere of influence.



Jesse DeHay



Ryan Anderson

Wending our way through Constitutional By-Law Amendments and 99 New Business Items (99 NBIs on-the-wall, 99 NBIs. Take one down, bring it up for reconsideration...) was grueling—at times mind numbing. "Where are we?" Work...good hard work...fundamental work for our Association.

Why? How are we better off for going through it together? Debating, questioning each other,

See NEA DIRECTORS page 3

The UEA **Action** is published by the Utah Education Association. A portion of UEA members' dues are designated for the UEA **Action**.

UEA President:
Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh

UEA Vice President:
Tom Nedreberg

UEA Executive Director:
Mark D. Mickelsen

Editor & Director of
Communications:
Michael T. Kelley

The Utah Education Association
875 East 5180 South, Murray, UT 84107
Phone: (801) 266-4461
Fax: (801) 265-2249
www.utea.org

facebook Become a Fan
of the UEA!

[facebook.com/
UtahEducationAssociation](http://facebook.com/UtahEducationAssociation)

Issues & Action



NEA DIRECTORS . . . (continued from page 2)

questioning our leaders, questioning ourselves, questioning what brings us together...our Association.

Diane Ravitch, Assistant Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush and this year's NEA Friend of Education, said, "as I talk to teachers, I hear the same questions again and again: What can I do? How can we stop the attacks on teachers and on the teaching profession? Why is the media demonizing unions? Why does the media constantly criticize public schools?...And teachers want to know, who will stand up for public schools and their teachers?"

"I promised to speak out against NCLB...I will continue to speak out against high-stakes testing. It undermines education...promotes cheating, gaming the system, teaching to bad tests, narrowing the curriculum." Ravitch suggested further, "teachers need to share what they know and work towards one common goal—helping children and young people grow and develop."

In NEA President Dennis Van Roekel's 'State of Our Union: Turning Hope into Action' speech, Dennis charged delegates with, "If we are angry about what others do to us and how they do it, if we believe that those who are on

the frontlines know better than those shouting from the outside, then shouldn't we figure out how to take charge of our profession?"

President Van Roekel continued his charge with, "Theodore Roosevelt once said to the American people, 'We have too much to do to sit on the sidelines. We need to step out of the gray twilight into the bright sunshine so that we can see the dawn of a new day.' Let's make a pledge to ourselves to help create a school system that involves the whole child, the whole family, and the whole community."

Dennis finished with, "I'm asking you to seize the moment! Remember, 'vision without action is merely a dream, action without vision just passes the time, but vision with action can change the world.' Now is the time to create the future for our profession. Now is the time to change the world for our students. Now is the time to turn hope into action. We are the ones—this is our moment. We are the NEA!"

Individually, we often feel like the challenges we face are monumental...insurmountable.

We have to face them together, "Turning Hope into Action."

The times we shared as a Utah delegation were amazing! Thank you Janet for everything you did. Thank you Kim and Ellen for all you have given as our leaders all these years.

LEADERSHIP . . . (continued from page 1)

and Master's degrees from New Mexico State and Brigham Young Universities.

His education career includes positions as elementary school teacher, principal, special education director, and currently, technology director for Tintic School District.

An accomplished singer and guitarist, Nedreberg has played in several bands, including opening for big-name artists such as Sheryl Crow, Barenaked Ladies, Joan Jett, Little River Band and Quiet Riot.

Nedreberg has four daughters and four step-children and lives in Eureka.

- Other state leadership changes include:
- Cook Elementary (Syracuse) teacher **Trudy Henderson** elected Davis Director on the UEA Board, replacing **Brian Ferguson**;
 - Fillmore Middle School teacher **Stuart Bailey** appointed High Desert Director on the UEA Board, replacing **Rick Pruitt** who is now director of the High Desert UniServ (see 'Familiar Faces,' page 8);
 - Davis Education Association President **Susan Firmage** elected president of the Council of Local Presidents, replacing Mary Moulton;
 - Uintah High School teacher **Mary Moulton** elected vice president of the Council of Local Presidents, replacing **Judy Lee**.



Tom Nedreberg, shown here performing at an April U-PAC social, is a talented musician and now UEA Vice President. He replaced Ellen Thompson whose term ended July 15.

2010



UTAH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
WWW.UEA.UTAH.EDU

UEA Convention & Education Exposition

South Towne Expo Center

October 14-15, 2010

SPEAK FOR TOMORROW TODAY



[Mark Your Calendar: Thursday, Oct. 14 and Friday, Oct. 15](#)

2010 UEA Convention Festivities Celebrate Public Education Today and Tomorrow

The 2010 UEA Convention & Education Exposition, *Speak for Tomorrow Today*, celebrates UEA's 100 years advancing public education and strengthening the teaching profession for today and tomorrow. The Convention will be held Oct. 14 and 15 at the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy.

Event highlights:

At the Oct. 14 opening session, musician **Kurt Bestor** and columnist **Robert Kirby** will reminisce about their school days growing up in Utah and share their thoughts on the importance of public education today.

Utah gubernatorial candidates Governor **Gary Herbert** and Salt Lake County Mayor **Peter Corroon** will address teachers during a special political event at lunchtime that day. Later that afternoon, UEA hosts its 10th annual "Superstars in Education" Awards Celebration along with a special event recognizing UEA's 100th Anniversary. Ten teachers will be honored with "Excellence in Teaching" Awards

during the event, which features award-winning political cartoonist **Pat Bagley**. Attendees will leave with a unique Bagley cartoon created exclusively for this event.



Kurt Bestor



Pat Bagley



Robert Kirby



Alan Blankstein

Throughout the day Thursday and Friday there will be dozens of professional development workshops across all grade levels and subject areas including classroom management, incorporating technology into the curriculum, working with special needs students, and new ideas for teaching social studies, math, or science.

Alan M. Blankstein, author of "Failure is Not an Option™: Six Principles That Guide Student Achievement in High-Performing Schools" and founder and president of the HOPE Foundation is the featured speaker on Friday. Mr. Blankstein is a former "high risk" youth who began his career in education as a music teacher and has worked in youth-serving organizations since 1983.

The New Educators' Workshop continues all

day Friday, presenting nine sessions designed specifically for students in teacher preparation programs and educators in their early years of teaching. Also that day, teachers can visit one of the Convention's most popular events, the Idea Fair, in which dozens of teachers share their best lesson plans.

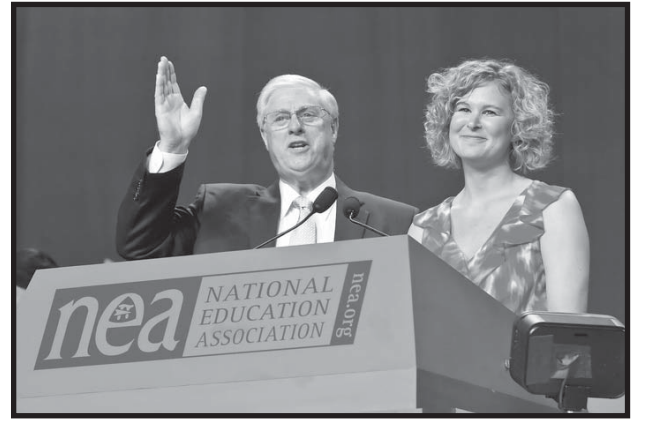
The Exhibit Hall will again feature hundreds of vendors with products and services for teachers in all grade levels, subjects and stages of their career, including a special interactive, hands-on Thanksgiving Point science exhibit for more great classroom ideas.

For regular updates on convention information, visit www.utea.org.



The exhibition hall at the 2010 UEA Convention & Education Exposition will once again feature hundreds of vendors offering education-related products and services.

NEA RA 2010



2010 NEA RA . . . (continued from page 1)

quality of teaching, and the quality of public education. According to Van Roekel, accountants, nurses, doctors and lawyers all have a say in the professional standards, processes and procedures that govern their practice, and he said that educators should have that same influence over their own profession.

On the political front, Van Roekel criticized the Department of Education's focus on grant competitions that reward just a handful of states or districts. He specifically mentioned Race to the Top and School Improvement Grants. "While we applaud the administration for its commitment to fund education, our members are frustrated by the disconnect between what they need each day to support their students and schools and the federal policies that hold up struggling students as products to be tested," Van Roekel said.

Highlights of the 2010 Representative Assembly:

- Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley received the America's Greatest Education Governor Award for the investment his state has made in its public schools and his efforts to make college more affordable, among many other achievements.
- Historian and education scholar Diane Ravitch received the NEA Friend of Education Award. With her recent book, *"The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education,"* she is raising concerns over testing mania, school choice, and charter schools—concepts she once embraced but clearly has left behind (see story this page).



Eighty-seven UEA delegates from across Utah participated in the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly.

Photo by Sue Dickey

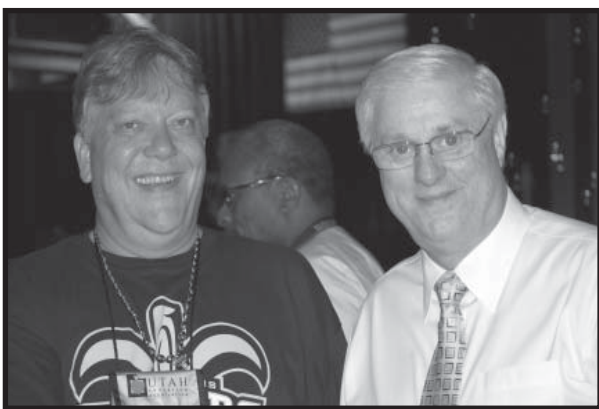
- Sarah Brown Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, spoke to delegates about her belief that teachers must be the lead learners in their own classrooms—that means teachers are listening, interacting, and working side by side with their students.
- ESP of the Year Helen Cottongim, a school bus driver from Kentucky, urged delegates to stand strong in the face of new assaults on children and schools.
- Two members of NEA's Executive Committee—Paula Monroe and Christy Levings—were re-elected to a second, three-year term that begins Sept. 1.
- Continuing a long-standing tradition, this year's Representative Assembly hosted 14 international

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel introduces the 2010 NEA Teacher of the Year, Sarah Brown Wessling. Wessling urged RA delegates to be the lead learners in their classrooms.

guests from 12 countries, all representing educators' unions around the world.

- NEA held its annual Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner to honor community activists for their work in advancing the cause of equal opportunity, improving relationships between diverse groups and expanding educational opportunities for minority students and educators.

- NEA's Read Across America held a literacy event at the Louisiana Children's Museum and partnered with New Orleans public libraries throughout the week-long convention.
- More than 500 college students and NEA members spent a day renovating Belle Chasse High School, a school ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, in NEA's annual Outreach to Teach project.



Photos by Sue Dickey

TOP: Jordan Education Association member Kevin Ball poses with NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. BOTTOM: Washington County Education Association delegates enjoy participating on the floor at the 2010 NEA RA. Pictured, left to right, are Peri Edwards, Kathleen Wagner and Kris Perkes.

NEA 'Friend of Education' Award Winner Diane Ravitch

Former Assistant Ed Secretary Calls on Educators to Fight for 'the Backbone of this Democracy'

by NEA Staff Writer Alain Jehlen

NEA Friend of Education award winner Diane Ravitch electrified the Representative Assembly Tuesday with an impassioned call for the defense of public education and the teaching profession.

"The current 'education reform' movement is pushing bad ideas," she said. "It wants to end tenure and seniority, to silence teachers' unions, to privatize large sectors of public education. Don't let it happen!"

Ravitch, an eminent historian of education who served as Assistant Secretary of Education under President George H. W. Bush, supported some of those "bad ideas" for years but changed her mind when she saw the damage they caused put into practice in No Child Left Behind.

Ravitch blasted high-stakes testing, saying it might lead to higher test scores but not to real learning. She attacked merit pay because it undermines teamwork and has no support in education research. She warned that public school choice and more charter schools could split the public school system into one system for haves and one for have-nots, because many charter schools skim the best students. And she noted that national studies have repeatedly failed to find charter schools do a better job.

Introducing her to the RA, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel noted that her book, *"The Death*

and Life Of the Great American School System," has caused a sensation. He said the reason may be that it is so rare for someone to change their mind based on evidence.

Ravitch said NCLB set an impossible standard when it declared that 100 percent of children will be proficient. "Thousands of schools have been stigmatized as failing schools because they could not reach a goal that no state, no nation, and no district has ever reached," she said, so NCLB has "created a rhetoric of failure and paved the way for privatization." "Public education," Ravitch declared, "is the backbone of this democracy, and we cannot turn it over to privateers."

Ravitch told the delegates that the nations whose students perform best in international comparisons "recognize that the best

way to improve schools is to improve the education profession."

"We need expert teachers [and] experienced principals who are themselves master teachers, not a wave of newcomers who took a course called 'how to be a principal.'"

The NEA's Friend of Education Award is given each year to someone who has significantly contributed to the improvement of public education. Last year's winner was education policy writer and researcher Linda Darling-Hammond.



Diane Ravitch addressed the 2010 NEA RA arguing against NCLB reforms she once supported as Assistant Secretary of Education under Pres. George H.W. Bush.

NEA RA 2010



Participants Share Memories from the 2010 RA *Utah Delegates Make the Most of New Orleans Experience*

“What an experience! Let’s bottle the energy, the excitement, the music, and the entire package so that more members can see (our organization) at work.”

*Jessica Dunn,
Davis Education Association*

“Year after year it’s a wonderful time—to make friends in Utah and all over the country. I love that educators from so many different places have so much in common.”

*Carol Ferguson,
Granite Education Association*

“What a fantastic experience! Walking into the (convention hall) on the first day was so overwhelming...it brought me to tears. As a first-time delegate, I had lots to learn.”

*Boni Henrie,
Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind*



Granite Education Association delegates Susen Zobel (left), Beckey Carson and Kathy Caldwell celebrate the July 4th holiday on the floor at the NEA RA.



Steve Seamons, UEA Board Member from Northern Utah, joins in the Independence Day festivities.

Photos by Sue Dickey

“The (NEA RA) is an amazing experience. It is an honor to be part of this policymaking body. I feel the power to make a difference in a positive way.”

*Mary Margaret Lyon,
Weber Education Association*

“New Orleans has been fantastic! I learn more every year I attend.”

*Kathleen Wagner,
Washington County Education Association*

“I am overwhelmed and excited by the passion and conviction of all those who attend the RA. I’ve always been taught to value public education, but now I feel empowered as a public educator to find a way to change our current education system...I can’t wait to be a more active part of GEA, UEA and NEA and make my mark in the world of education.”

*Holly Slade,
Granite Education Association*



UEA Board Members Terie Maxfield (left) and Barbera Wayment at an early morning state caucus meeting.



Kim Campbell and Ellen Thompson participated in their final NEA RA as UEA president and vice president.

NEA Group Term Life Insurance

RATES JUST LOWERED

Protect your family now for an average of 14% less.

This year, with Americans facing continued cutbacks and other economic uncertainties, having enough coverage is more important than ever. Your Association has worked hard to bring you the best rates yet because we know the financial hardship a member’s death can cause when there isn’t enough life insurance for the family. We’re especially pleased to announce these new rates in time for the new year, when term life rates nationwide are up anywhere from 5-15%.*

Get an instant rate quote on neamb.com/insurance

You can also call us at 1-800-637-4636
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (or Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET).
Spanish-speaking representatives are also available.



NEA Members Insurance Trust®

YOUR DEDICATION DRIVES OURS®

Coverage under the NEA Group Term Life Insurance Plan is issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ. Please see Certificate for complete details about coverage. Contract series 83500.

*The Wall Street Journal, 9 June, 2009

Rate and savings shown above are applicable for a 44-year old non-smoker.

TR490810

Issues & Action



Stock Your Classroom and Get **SHARP SAVINGS**

Access is the smart way to buy school supplies. Save up to 50% by logging in to www.utea.org and clicking on the Access link.



[Deadline Sept. 17](#)

Nominate a Co-worker for 'Excellence in Teaching' Award

Within the ranks of Utah teachers are many deserving of our thanks and public recognition. If you have a co-worker whose efforts in the classroom significantly impact the lives of their students, recognize them by nominating them for an "Excellence in Teaching" Award.

As part of the 2010 awards, 10 selected educators will each receive \$1,000 courtesy of William and Pat Child. The awards will be presented at the 10th annual "Superstars in Education" Awards Celebration on Thursday, Oct. 14, held in conjunction with the UEA Convention & Education Exposition.

Nominations are being accepted through Sept. 17 for licensed educators who are currently teaching in a Utah public school and are members of the Utah Education Association. A selection committee, comprised of representatives of William and Pat Child and the UEA, will review nominations following the Sept. 17 deadline.

For complete award details and nomination forms, visit www.utea.org.



2009 Winners of "Excellence in Teaching" awards were honored at the "Superstars in Education" celebration and received a cash award. Nominations for the 2010 Awards will be accepted through Sept. 17.

Educators and the Internet

by Michael T. McCoy, UEA General Counsel

Most educators have access to one or more school computers. Few schools limit educator use of the school computer solely to school-related business, but most require employees to sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The purpose of requiring the employee to sign the AUP is to inform the employee about the policy and to show the employee knew about the policy in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding. Most districts require the principal to review the AUP with the staff annually.

Among other things, the AUP informs the employee district computers and internet accesses are not to be used to access "inappropriate" sites (read: "sex sites") or to communicate political positions or recommendations. (It is not a violation to receive "restricted" emails, but it may be a violation to forward them). Generally, the AUP directs the employee to not provide his/her password to anyone, except authorized school personnel, or to leave his/her computer unattended where students can access "inappropriate" sites. In an earlier article, I described the many ingenious ways some educators think they can avoid the district's filters and access "inappropriate" websites. My advice to educators is just assume the district is checking your use of its servers, computers and Internet use.

MySpace, Facebook and Electronic Communications—

School administrators and licensing authorities are concerned about internet communications between employees and students. Many districts have adopted policies restricting how and what teachers may communicate with their students. Some districts have considered restricting all extra school communications with students, even on the teacher's own e-mail or cell phone account. Educators should know the courts tend to uphold the right of school districts to regulate the relationships of teachers and students 24/7. A few courts have even upheld limited restrictions imposed

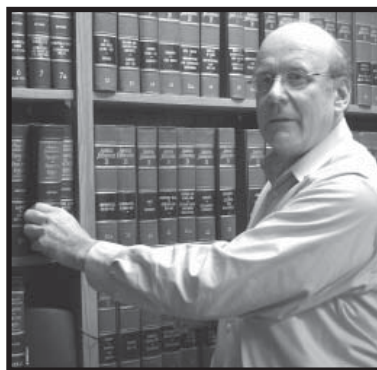
on the teacher/student relationship after the student graduates.

As we all know, students are a creative lot. They can and will use the internet in ways to embarrass, harass and intimidate other students and teachers. Every year teachers complain they have been defamed and otherwise denigrated by a student posting something on *MySpace* or *Facebook*.

Here's what to do if a student posts something on *MySpace* or *Facebook*:

- Print the page or e-mail. It is important for the speech to be preserved, if possible. Either print to a hard copy or save an electronic copy of a web page by creating a PDF or another image.
- Inform the school administration. School administrations should really work with you in these situations. Disciplinary action against the offending student may be appropriate in certain cases. Also, you do not want the administration coming after you if the page is not obviously fake.
- Contact your Utah Education Association UniServ staff or local president for assistance.
- Contact the host of the information such as *MySpace.com* or *Facebook.com* to have the page removed if the profile is fake or the content or conduct on the site violates the site's guidelines.

The ability to track the creator of the information should not be lost by requesting the page be removed.



**UEA Attorney
Michael T. McCoy**

The host will help to identify who posted or created the information, but not without a subpoena, which will require the assistance of local law enforcement.

For *MySpace.com*, click on "Help" at the bottom of the home page and search for "imposter profile" or go to http://faq.myspace.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/33. Follow the instructions for removal of an imposter profile.

MySpace has created a "hotline and e-mail address for the exclusive use of school administrators and employees." If a student or other person has created a false *MySpace* profile of a school employee, the employee can ask *MySpace* to take it down by sending an e-mail to schoolcare@myspace.com or calling *MySpace* at 310-969-7398. The e-mail must come from a school e-mail address.

To report an imposter profile on *Facebook.com*, go to the imposter profile and click "Report this Person" in the left column. Check the "Report this Person" box, choose "Fake Account" as the reason, and add "Impersonating me or someone else" as the report type. Be sure to add a valid web address leading to the real profile so that *Facebook* can review the information.

- Contact local law enforcement. The creator of the content may have committed a crime or you may want to seek a restraining order.
- Be wary of companies offering to rehabilitate your reputation.

UEA members often want to sue a parent or student who defames them. In fact, UEA has sued dozens of students and parents for defamation, although we do not recommend litigation except in unusual cases (i.e.: where the defamation is extreme or the perpetrator refuses a cease and desist demand).

A summary of the law of defamation relating to educators can be found on the UEA website at www.utea.org/insideUEA/FAQpositionPapers/defamationFAQ.htm.

UEA/NEA Benefits



Benefits for UEA Members

NEA Member Benefits Programs and Services

Occasionally it's nice to be reminded of the wide variety of programs and services NEA Member Benefits provides to benefit NEA members. Following is a partial list. To find out more, visit www.neamb.com or call the NEAMB Member Service Center toll free at 800-637-4636.

Insurance Programs

- Complimentary Life Insurance^{SM*}: No-cost life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance while actively engaged in your occupation.
- Group Term Life Insurance Plan*: Up to \$500,000 of decreasing term life at low group rates.
- Introductory Term Life Insurance^{SM*}: \$15,000 of life insurance at no cost to eligible new members.
- Level Premium Term Life Insurance Plan*: 10-year and 20-year terms. Premiums won't increase or decrease for the entire term.
- Hospital Care Insurance Plan: Provides cash if you are hospitalized.
- Long-Term Care Insurance Program: Financial support in paying for long-term care services.
- Medicare Supplement Program*: Coverage for medical expenses not covered by Medicare.
- NEA Homeowners[®] Insurance: Protection for your valuables—at school or at home.
- Auto & Home Insurance Program[®]: Specially negotiated rates and features.
- Dental & Vision Insurance Program: Comprehensive plans to choose from.
- Pet Insurance Program: Reimburses for 80% of the covered services.

*Provided by the NEA Members Insurance Trust[®].

Investment Programs

- Tax-Deferred Retirement Savings Program: Build your retirement nest egg.
- NEA-Sponsored CD[®] or Money Market Account[®]: Competitive yields. Member FDIC.

Financial Services Programs

- NEA Credit Card Program[®]: Benefits exclusive to NEA members. Call 800-468-7632.
- NEA Personal Loan[®]: Borrow from \$3,000 to \$25,000** at members-only rates.
- NEA Home Financing Program[®]: Mortgages, refinances and home equity. Call 800-632-4968.
- NEA National Board Certification Loan[®]: A revolving line of credit designed to help cover the assessment fee for National Board Certification.

**Upon approval, credit line based on creditworthiness. Credit products issued and administered by FIA Card Services, N.A. Platinum Plus, WorldPoints and Accelerated Rewards are registered trademarks of FIA Card Services, N.A.

Consumer Discount Programs

- NEA Bookstore[®]: Save an extra 5% at *Barnes&Noble.com*.
- Auto Purchase Advantage Program: Low, no-haggle prices on new and used cars.
- Long Distance: Get rates as low as 3.9¢ per minute on state-to-state calls.
- NEA Click & Save[®]: Save online at hundreds of your favorite stores.
- Weekly Reader: Special savings on classroom magazines.
- Costco Wholesale: Receive coupons for free products and other savings with your membership.

Assistance for Job Loss and Salary Cuts

As the country's economy makes a tentative recovery, educators, including some here in Utah, are still vulnerable to layoffs and salary reductions. In addition, many NEA members have suffered losses of income by spouses and other family members.

NEA Member Benefits (NEAMB) has examined its program offerings and worked with program partners to identify resources and accommodations that could potentially help affected members and their families.

Various types of support are available to program participants and members, including:

- Job search service
- Financial counseling
- Mortgage assistance programs
- Credit card and insurance payment options
- Retirement savings waivers

A special Member Assistance page on the NEAMB website provides details about these and other support resources. The page also includes a downloadable brochure with summary information about assistance options.

In addition, members may call the NEAMB Member Service Center toll free at 800-637-4636 and speak to a Member Service Representative or e-mail their questions to ask-us@neamb.com.

- ID Theft Protection Program: Choose from comprehensive protection plans at 15%-30% off.
- Whirlpool Corporation VIP LINK Program: Save on popular consumer brands from Whirlpool.
- SmileMakers: Discounts on classroom supplies.

NEA Programs

- Educators Employment Liability Program: Professional liability insurance for members sued as a result of their work.
- NEA Attorney Referral Program: Provides legal services for members' personal legal problems.

NOTE: No dues dollars are used to market NEA Member Benefits programs.

For NEA Member Benefits information, call 800-637-4636 or visit www.neamb.com.

Welcome Back

She's ready for the new school year. We can help make sure you are too, [at neamb.com](http://neamb.com).

Perks

Find special savings on clothing, supplies, books, and more right in time for school

Plans

Engaging lesson plans and rewards that will help you keep your students on track

Progress

Expand your career with online professional development through the NEA Academy

Be Prepared!

Start the year off right [at neamb.com](http://neamb.com)



nea Member Benefits

YOUR DEDICATION DRIVES OURS[®]

CO490810

UEA People



KUDOS

Honoring Utah Educators & UEA Members

Golden Apple Awards

KUED and PTA Honor Six Utah Teachers and Two School Volunteers



Six Utah teachers and two volunteers were awarded the 2010 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education. Pictured, left to right, are (front row) Lewiston Elementary volunteer Ella McKnight, Midvale Elementary teacher Maria Requena, Timpanogos Intermediate School teacher LaNay King, Riverview Junior High teacher Rebecca Ivory, Spring Creek Elementary teacher Lisa Roundy, Truman Elementary volunteer Loftin Harvey, Highland High teacher Doug Jorgensen, Oak Canyon Junior High teacher Terry Hunter, (back row) UEA President Kim Campbell, Utah PTA President Ilene Mecham, Utah PTA President-elect Gainell Rogers, Utah PTA volunteer Edie Dupaix, Utah Lt. Gov. Greg Bell and his wife JoLynn, and Utah Deputy for Education Christine Kearl.

Six Utah teachers and two volunteers received the 2010 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education. In 2010, KUED and the Utah PTA celebrate 20 years of honoring dedicated teachers and volunteers in the state of Utah.

- **Terry Hunter** of Oak Canyon Junior High in Lindon has been teaching for 28 years. Devoted to teaching technology to young people, he directs the Lindon chapter of the Technology Student Association.
- **Rebecca Ivory**, a music teacher at Riverview Junior High in Murray started Harmony for Humanity, a "pen-pal" program designed for students around the world to correspond via letters and music.
- **Doug Jorgensen** of Salt Lake City is more than the AP Biology teacher at Highland High School. He volunteers many hours building a greater school community.
- **LaNay King**, is crew leader of "the pirate ship," her fifth-grade classroom at Timpanogos Intermediate School in Heber City. "Finding Knowledge is the Treasure" is her crew's (her students') motto.
- **Maria Requena** is a first grade teacher at Midvale Elementary in Midvale, a Title-1 school where over 70 percent of the students speak English as a second language. Her program is designed to help parents teach their children English while retaining their heritage, yet adapting to their new environment.
- **Lisa Roundy** is a kindergarten teacher at Spring Creek Elementary in Provo, where 75 percent of the children in her class ranked low on the kindergarten assessment test and most of the children cannot recognize a single letter of the alphabet. Yet last year, all but one of her students advanced to first grade.

The 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to Loftin Harvey, a single working father who has been volunteering at his daughter's elementary school, Truman Elementary in Kearns, for five years, and Ella McKnight, who is 88 years old and has been volunteering at Lewiston Elementary in Lewiston for

the past 15 years.

Each Golden Apple Award recipient received a \$1,000 cash award and was honored at an awards ceremony and dinner on May 22. The ceremony aired on KUED.

Cash awards and program funding of the Golden Apple Awards are provided by the Emma Eccles Jones Foundation, NuSkin Enterprises, Utah Education Network, Educators Mutual Insurance Association and the Utah Education Association. Additional information and video of the award ceremony are available at kued.org/goldenapples.

Familiar Faces Join UEA and UniServ Staff

The past few months have seen retirements and staff changes at the UEA state and UniServ offices:

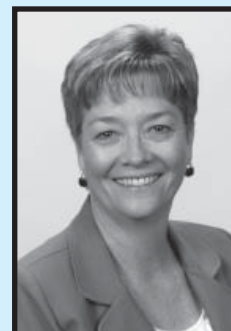
Former UEA Board Member **Rick Pruitt** is the new director of the High Desert UniServ. He replaces **Jim Porter** who retired in July after more than 30 years with the Association.

Pruitt began his teaching career at Richfield High School in 1978. He was most recently a counselor there. He has served in the Sevier Education as an AR (several times), SEA President (three times), a member of the UEA Rules and Resolutions committee (two times), and on the UEA Board for the past four years. He and his wife Helen have four children and seven grandchildren.

Former UEA President **Pat Rusk** was selected to replace the **Arlene Arnold** as director of the Eastern Utah UniServ. Arnold retired in June after a



Rick Pruitt



Pat Rusk

long teaching and Association career.

Rusk began teaching elementary school in 1976 and has taught in Jordan, Park City and Mountain View (Wyo.) School Districts. In addition to serving as UEA president from 2002-06, her association service includes Jordan Education Association vice president, UEA vice president and service on the NEA committee for ESEA. Rusk has two daughters and three grandchildren.

Also joining the UEA staff is **Bruce Ingleby** as the Eastern Utah UniServ/state membership associate. He replaced **Holly Scheuermann** who left the UEA in January.

Ingleby graduated with a degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and is currently working on his Master's in Business Administration. He and his wife Andrea have three children.

Arch Coal Awards Given to Five Utah Educators

Five classroom teachers were honored April 29 at Manti Elementary school, each receiving an Arch Coal Teacher Achievement Award.

The recipients are:

- **Karen Bedont**, Lighthouse Life & Learning Center, Price
- **Kiersten Hatch**, Gunnison Valley Elementary School, Gunnison
- **Daniel Rasmussen**, Manti Elementary, Manti
- **Vicki Rasmussen**, Cleveland Elementary, Cleveland
- **Terri Lyn Williams**, Salina Elementary, Salina

Each winner received a distinctive trophy, a classroom plaque and a \$3,500 cash award.

"These five teachers put their students first," said Arch Coal Senior Vice President Paul Lang. "They are committed to changing the lives of their students through education and by providing opportunities to succeed. Teachers change lives is not a slogan; it is a fact."

"The Utah Education Association is proud to partner with the Arch Coal Foundation in honoring these outstanding educators," said UEA Executive Director Mark Mickelsen. "These professionals represent the very best of Utah's many talented teachers who have dedicated their careers to enriching the lives of Utah's schoolchildren. They are helping to build a bright future for our state."

This is the fourth year for the Arch Coal Foundation's teacher recognition program in Carbon, Emery, Sanpete and Sevier counties. The counties surround the Skyline, Dugout Canyon and Sufco mines operated by Canyon Fuel Company, a subsidiary of major U.S. coal producer Arch Coal, Inc.

Information about each of the five current recipients as well as past recipients is available at www.archteacherawards.com.



Arch Coal awarded Teacher Achievement Awards to five outstanding teachers. Pictured, left to right, are Arch Coal Senior Vice President Paul Lang, Manti Elementary teacher Daniel Rasmussen, Salina Elementary teacher Terri Lyn Williams, Cleveland Elementary teacher Vicki Rasmussen, Gunnison Valley Elementary teacher Kiersten Hatch, Lighthouse Life & Learning Center teacher Karen Bedont and UEA Executive Director Mark Mickelsen.