

Don't Touch My Retirement

...Rick Palmer, UniServ Director

I have always dreamed of the day when I could actually retire and try and bore myself to death...I really think I will be



okay during golf season, but December through February (lately) could be a problem...plus I can't just fly off to St. George or

Phoenix (grandkids in both locations). I checked on sub pay and \$56 (\$41 after taxes) only pays for about one round of golf.

My first teacher contract, way back in 1976, was for around \$9600...funny it seemed like a lot of money back then... We bought one of those 990 sq. ft. Boise Cascade houses they brought in on two trucks and felt rich. We have survived smaller wage increases, Career Ladder experiments, reduced Quality Teaching money, growing class sizes and less respect from our parents for what??? A legislature that wants to mess with the one thing waiting for us at the end of the rainbow?? We have looked forward to a solid retirement benefit at the end of our 30 plus years of dedication, sweat, tears, and faculty meetings (no offense principals).

We have survived parent teacher conferences, new curriculum demands, less time for real preparation and more testing with the idea that we would have a good Defined Benefit waiting for us in our golden years.

So, the question is...how do we get our teachers upset enough to contact their legislators and the governor during the session without causing panic?? I hope

that you are following the issues in the newspaper, in the communications from UEA, on my blog (www.ogdenweber.org), and on the UEA website (www.utea.org). We haven't seen a piece of legislation yet...only proposals. When you read this the session will have started and specific bills will have been filed and committees will start looking at the possible changes. UEA, OEA, and WEA will be there for you...but it will take more...it will take you keeping informed and being ready to do what is necessary to send a message to the policy makers of this state.

Here are a few other things that I don't want touched:

- Don't touch my newspaper until I have read it...I like a pristine paper...sure I will share, but only after I have read it.
- Don't touch my grandkids...I really don't think I love them more than my three kids, but there is a certain protective nature of grandparenthood.
- Don't touch my donut while I am eating...my sister still has a small scar under her eye...or was that our dog??
- Don't touch my golf clubs...they only have so many good swings...I need all of them.
- Don't touch my retirement...I already spent my nine years from Idaho on a '86 Plymouth Voyager and a Time Share...I still have the Time Share, but I think my Voyager is transporting pipe movers in Enterprise, UT.



Be ready for action as we monitor the legislature and ask you for help in fighting the good fight.

Read Rick's Daily Blog.
He'll keep you posted as to current business...and as an extra incentive, he'll sneak in a "magic word" or action to email back to him. This will automatically enter you in a monthly drawing for a \$25 gift card.

State Farm to Award \$200 Grants to Utah School Teachers

Utah State Farm Agents and the UEA Children at Risk Foundation invite all our teachers to apply for a Good Neighbors for Good Schools Grant. Every class that applies has an equal chance to win \$200 for classroom programs, equipment and supplies. All you have to do is complete the application.

Just tell how \$200 would help your at-risk kids (or the whole class). Could you use incentives for a self-esteem project, science equipment, books, field trips, software? Screeners will be looking for anything that helps kids succeed in school.

Hurry though! Applications must be returned to UEA by Feb. 19th. You can get an application from your association rep or at www.utea.org.

