

UniServ Link

Stand Strong for Public Education!



Use your voice, be a member.
Stand strong for public education.

...Terie Maxfield, UEA
Board Member

At this time of year I often hear, "I can't afford to join the Teachers' Association, it is too expensive." When I look at what beginning teachers make, the increase in insurance costs, gas prices, groceries, etc. I have the same instant response. "How can I afford one more thing, or even another ten dollar increase in something I am already paying?" It is tempting to take the money I pay towards dues and go on an exotic vacation somewhere. Then reality hits, the most exotic place my dues would get me is Ticaboo, Utah. Well, at least it sounds exotic.

It also does not take me long to realize that while I am on my exotic vacation, I would also be losing something much more valuable than money. I would lose the right to stand with my fellow professionals for

what is right in education. I would lose the right to have a say about my insurance costs; and would most likely be paying the whole bill instead of a small percentage. I would lose the opportunity to representation if I were ever unfairly accused of wrong doing in my profession. I would no longer have a voice at the Utah Legislature when it comes to providing every child a great public education. If I were told to sign a contract that has had as many as 100 changes and a plan to move toward merit pay, I would have no one to turn to.

I am a member of the Weber Education Association, the Utah Education Association, and the National Education Association because it is the professional thing to do. It is right for me to stand with my fellow teachers and have a united voice to ensure that every child has a great public education. When begin-

ning teachers, that have children of their own, could qualify for free and reduced lunch, I need to stand up to improve salaries. I need to ensure that there is a professional in every classroom who wants to be a teacher and uses best practices, for their behavior is a reflection of my profession. When contracts are not negotiated I need a network of experts, and fellow professionals to stand by me in support.

So while I may want to be sunbathing in Ticaboo, I know my dollars are better spent in support of my profession. I may not use every benefit of the association during my career, or agree with every policy, but it is the best way I can support and change my profession from my classroom.

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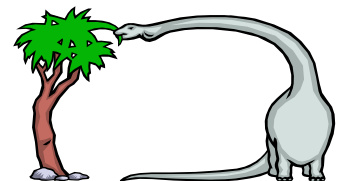
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DINOSAUR PARK SOCIAL

It is that time of the year again! Time for the Ogden/Weber UniServ Night at the Eccles Dinosaur Park!

Join the UEA, OEA and WEA Leadership for an Ice Cream Social and FUN! Monday, September 12th at 6:00pm.



“What I did on my summer vacation...”

...Rick Palmer, Ogden/Weber UniServ Executive Director

How was your summer? Short, eh? Yes, as we grow older, time seems to fly faster and faster...and now that I am the big 6-0...oh well.

As you know (if you read papers or watch the local news on TV) it has been an interesting (my definition of inter-

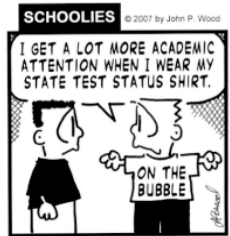
esting in this case is %\$#@*. I am keeping this PG you know) summer for the Ogden Education Association leadership and members. Usually we are able to finish negotiations quickly and before school ends. (see Weber’s great agreement that gave everyone a 3% COLA—the best in the state this year) The past few years have been a struggle for many districts with several freezing steps as a way to balance a deficit budget caused by lack of adequate funding from the Utah State Legislature. For Ogden, the past two years have included two broken negotiations sessions resulting in impasse in both cases. As June 2011 ended we were called by the Superintendent (Noel Zabriskie) and told that there would be no collective bargaining between the Ogden School District and the OEA for the 2011-2012 year. We were blown away. We knew that the district unilaterally decided to pay out a stipend instead of steps for the 2010-2011 year, but to change our negotiated agreement into two documents (a Common Contract with provisions governing classified, licensed and administrative groups

and a Procedural Manual specific to licensed) was a bomb blast to us.

Our response included a large rally attended by hundreds of our members and supporters from around the state. The media coverage was heavy for a while and now we have started school. With the recent resignation of Superintendent Noel Zabriskie and the appointment of Brad Smith, more questions have arisen than answers. Our OEA Executive Board and leadership are planning for organizing events throughout this school year. Our request is simple...BRING BACK COLLECTIVE BARGAINING and recognize the OEA as the bargaining agent for the licensed employees. We continue to serve our members and represent them with the district.

We appreciate the professionalism of you as dedicated educators and hope we can reach some kind of agreement with a school board that does not want to talk to us.

OEA members and supporters at the Ogden Rally .



The 2011 UEA Convention will be held October 20 and 21



Doug Stephens, OEA President

