

UniServ Link

December 2011



“When we are willing to listen, we learn.”

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Things I have learned from being a first grade teacher in Ogden City School...

...Ann Olsen, OEA Board Member

I am continually telling my students that I learn from them almost as much as I am able to teach them. Here are just two things I have learned this year in the battle against a negative attitude.

When things get hard, just keep trying.

I teach 1st grade and am constantly amazed at the diligence of my students. For some reading comes as naturally as eating. For others it is a constant battle. The greatest reward is their continued effort to succeed and the excitement that enters their faces when they finally get it.

As we start negotiations again this year it would be easy to start with the attitude of “It’s just too hard, why try?”

Thankfully that isn’t the attitude of your negotiations team and we are moving forward with negotiations with the

district with a “we will keep trying” attitude. One positive change, which has arrived from the struggle, is that members of the school board are now right in the room with the negotiators so communications issues of the past ought to be resolved.

When we are willing to listen, we learn:

My students will tell you that science experiment days are the best. I ask them a question and they listen to each other come up with ideas that might answer the question. One of our rules is that we must listen to everyone’s ideas and try out many in experiments. Some fail...actually most, but when they finally figure it out...awe success. And one they will never forget.

I have to admit that when Senator Osmond came out with his proposed legislative bill, I was very concerned. But as I have watched him reach

out and listen to educators, I have also been very impressed. This isn’t something we are used to. It was an experiment on his part (and I admit with our distrust of Legislators, on our part as well). But awe...success! As he has listened to our ideas, he has gotten a different perspective and so have I. (Check out Rick’s Blog for November 16th for a link to what Senator Osmond says he’s learned.) It is very informative. Although he is still in the questioning stage of his experiment, hopefully we have a friend who will fight for us and we will all have success.

There are good things going on for education. Let’s focus on the positive wherever we can and continue to fight against the negative impressions out there by speaking up. We never know who’s listening.

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WEA President Jo Egelund presents an IPAD to UEA Convention winner and WSD teacher Heidi Gross of Green Acres Elementary.



OEA President Doug Stephens presents a Kindle to UEA Convention winner and OSD teacher Bradi Holder of Heritage Elementary.

Remember: you get what you pay for!

...reprinted from article by Cindy Carroll of JEA

You want to get the most from your hard-earn dollars. So, when another professional organization offers you a “bargain” membership, you have to **think twice**.

Take a look at the huge return you get on your initial investment in your local, state and national associations; and take a look at the countless programs, protections, rights and benefits that come with it. Then, compare all this with the promises made by some of the so-called “professional” groups.

Here are just a few examples of what your dues dollars buy:

- \$1 million Educators Em-

“Take a look at the huge return you get on your initial investment in your local, state, and national associations...”

ployment Liability insurance policy which protects against civil proceedings brought against you in job-related matters.

- Reimbursement for up to \$35,000 to cover attorney fees and other legal costs if you are exonerated of criminal charges; and up to \$5,000 regardless of the outcome.

- Top-notch legal representation by UEA’s in-house attorney for any job-related problem, including dismissals, student abuse charges, and UPPAC proceedings, just to name a few.

- For non-employment-related matters, you can take advantage of the UEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program which offers you discounts on the services of specially selected attorneys across the state.

- As the exclusive employee bargaining agent, your Association is there to make sure that you are an equal partner in making decisions that affect your job and profession.
- Highly-skilled UniServ Directors, along with specialist staff, at UEA, to personally ensure your rights are protected.

- Full-time lobbyist at UEA and NEA who work year-round to ensure that the needs of students, schools, and the people who work in

them are heard.

- The Association is the most potent voice for improving educational opportunities for Utah’s half-million students.

- Promoting and preserving a quality public education system for all students is a goal of each member.

- When you join the Association, you join forces with over 18,000 of your colleagues in 42 local associations right here in Utah and 3.2 million educators nationwide.

- There is truly something for everyone within the Association. We also offer a wide range of programs, services and opportunities for personal and professional development.

- Your membership also entitles you to receive discounts on individual insurance programs, consumer goods, NEA Complimentary Life Insurance, and a number of products.

Think twice, and we believe you’ll agree that, dollar-for-dollar your Association dues provided the best value

“...dollar-for-dollar your Association dues provide the best value around.”

