

# UniServ Link

## New Year—New Experiences



"If you have ideas, want to be involved, or need something taken care of, please give me a call (801) 391-2279."

The Link is published monthly through the combined efforts of the Ogden and Weber Education Associations.

939 25th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401  
801.399.3746

Tina Cordero, Editor  
tina@ogdenweber.org

Contact us at:  
www.ogdenweber.org

...Jo Egelund, WEA President

The world of education is moving faster and faster each year. I wonder if that has to do with age or just the way we are trying to cram more stuff in to a 24 hour period. Never the less, we are caught up on this merry-go-round. As teachers, we continually add to our plates, never saying, "No" because it is for kids. I appreciate that because we are all in this business for the right reasons.

So far, things have been running smoothly, which leads me to the next step, keeping you informed.

### **UEA Road Trip 2011**

Each UniServ was given the opportunity to work with its local association(s) to plan events supporting local members. It was a chance for the Utah Education Association (UEA) and the UniServ to meet local teachers in their school environment, sharing concerns and ideas for uniting teachers all across the state. Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, UEA President, said that this is a way for teachers to work together making Utah schools great places to learn and to work. September 12th we visited the following schools: Farr West Elementary, Fremont High, Lakeview Elementary, Sandridge Junior High, Ben Lomond High and Madison Elementary. We visited

with teachers and administrators, looking, listening, talking, and taking notes of all the great suggestions and concerns.

### **UEA Convention 2011**

The UEA Convention and the Education Exposition are coming up quickly. The dates are October 20th and 21st at the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy. There are many professional development workshops, a New Educators' Workshop, Idea Fair, hundreds of vendor booths, as well as keynote speakers. You should have already received the "2011 UEA Convention & Education Exposition" booklet. If by some chance you didn't receive yours, give me a call.

### **Proposed Target UEA/Public Schools for Legislative Sessions**

This isn't anything new, but education and teachers all across the nation are under attack. We always have a few know-it-alls that know more about teaching than teachers. If you want more information about the proposed bills for this coming legislative session, go to "myuea.org." Political Action," then "Under the Dome". The following information came directly from the UEA website:

In a letter to legislative leaders dated July 14, [Education Interim Committee](#) Chairman [Sen. Howard Stephenson](#) and [Rep. Bill Wright](#) requested

permission to add three issues to the Committee's priority list: the elimination of collective bargaining for public education employees, prohibiting public employers from collecting union dues from workers' paychecks, and "tuition tax credits" for private schools. A [Salt Lake Tribune article](#) quoted Sen. Stephenson as saying his request is "absolutely not" taking a shot at teacher unions.

In a July 19th [Salt Lake Tribune article](#), Utah State Board of Education member Kim Burningham was quoted as saying, "public schools should be improved as much as they possibly can be rather than plopping money into private schools. I certainly hope, if they're going to have a study, that they'll have a truly independent study that will involve diverse points of view rather than just a reflection of what Howard Stephenson may think." "We know the public was overwhelmingly opposed (in 2007) to the funding of private schools by using government money," Burningham said. "I believe they still would be."

If you have ideas, want to be involved, or need something taken care of, please give me a call at (801) 391-2279. I am truly thankful for the great district we work in and for the wonderfully professional teachers that I have the opportunity to serve.

## Who pays my salary???

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

Your membership dues (NEA, UEA, WEA, and OEA) all support our local UniServ (stands for UNified SERvices) budget of which the largest line item is my salary. I work for you...now having almost 1500 bosses is not that comforting (try and please all of you all of the time...I dare you) but it is gratifying to know that I have the opportunity to not only meet so many great professionals, but also help in some small way. How does someone get a great job like "UniServ Director" you ask? Great salary, benefits, vacation, holidays and all...I taught middle school for 28 years (19 in St. George and 9 in various Idaho districts) and became involved in the association in my hometown of Aberdeen, Idaho (pop: 1500). I was elected President-Elect, but then when our AEA president was arrested for indecent

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exposure I was thrust into the leadership seat (in the middle of negotiations, which we did with the entire school board)...what an interesting way to start, eh? When I moved to St. George in 1985 to teach at Dixie Middle School in a Productivity model (no prep period for more money) I ran for my building rep in a faculty meeting and lost...only to be asked to run for President-Elect. I served as WCEA president for a couple of terms and one term on the UEA Board of Directors. I attended every meeting and training I could and felt we were doing some great things in Washington County...we had over 85% membership and when the UniServ office was opened in St. George, I applied for my first UD job...didn't get it and sulked for a long time. I continued to be involved in the association until 1996 and took a 6 year hiatus. In the interim I had applied for just about every UD spot in Utah and even in other states...always the bridesmaid never the bride, except for a UniServ Director job offer in sunny Casper, Wyoming...I was sure that I had some genetic personality flaw that kept me from getting the jobs. In the summer of 2004 my wife was working on her doctorate at USU and

I was enjoying long walks around Logan, laps in the pool, and several rounds of golf at Birch Creek. I interviewed for the Davis Education UD job...no luck...and went back to Logan with a bad attitude and almost called up Ogden/Weber to tell them I wasn't coming down to interview...luckily tremendous respect for my wife (who continually kept my spirits up) made me interview and here I am. This job is a great job with a lot of flexibility and never a dull moment, but like any other job there are days when I wish I had stayed on the farm. It is the members who make it worthwhile and the thank-you's we receive on a regular basis. It has been a tough summer for us in this association, but I have gained strength from the stalwarts in Ogden and Weber Districts. One of these days I will ride off into the sunset and one of you will take my place. For now, just a big thanks for being great bosses and allowing me to serve you in this position.

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