

# UniServ Link

## 'tis the season...



“Please have a very special holiday season and be safe.”

...Jo Egelund, WEA President

For starters, you just need to know that it is excessively busy. I never realized how all encompassing this job was. So, my thanks to all who came before me. My hat is off to you. This month we have had the district quarterly meeting, the Parents for Neighborhood Public Schools (PNPS) meeting, many committee meetings, and travel to the National Council of Urban Education Association (NCUEA) Fall Conference. Boy, am I ready for Christmas break.

The district quarterly meeting information was sent out to the ARs, but there are a few things that might affect everyone.

- There will be a cap on catastrophic leave, along with an appeal process and the max of 80 days. The appeal process will allow for changes if need be.
- The administration knows that there are problems with the elementary report cards.

A committee, with teachers on it, is working to make corrections.

• Professional Development should be consistent across the board in all schools. Principals may use up to 2 hours; no more. If it is not happening that way, please e-mail me and that correction will be made.

So who cares about our kids? Our A/Rs have been preparing for the Parents for Neighborhood Public Schools (PNPS) meeting. For years it has been the teachers standing up and fighting to defend the rights of students. So now our parents are stepping to the plate to defend their children's honor.

PNPS is certainly an organized way to get the job done. On Tuesday, November 29th we had our first meeting. Fifteen people attended and were very attentive to what Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh had to say. I must say that the interest is there. We have sched-

uled another meeting for Wednesday, January 11th. At that meeting we will set up a plan to attend “Educator on the Hill”, send e-mails to legislators, and make telephone calls. These parents are top notch and ready to do what it takes to get the job done.

It was my first NCUEA Conference. Speakers from NEA attended and spoke during the general sessions. John Stocks, NEA Executive Director, has put together a plan to assist states with the challenges they face. The training sessions were great. I received media training so that I know when to open my mouth and when not to. The last session, grant writing, will help me immensely. That is one way to increase our funding. I will be looking for additional funding options that will assist in the programs we have in place and hope to put in place.

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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



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.”

