

UniServ Link



"Association members effect real change that benefits our profession."

And the top 8 reasons why I joined my Association are...

...Clay Kirkham, OEA Executive Board, Ogden/Weber UniServ President

Being a member of the UEA is a big decision in today's tough economic times. For that reason I would like to review with you as members (or non-members who might read this) what the real benefits are for being a member of the association.

What exactly are the real benefits of being a member of OEA? Do the benefits outweigh the cost? What am I really buying with my money? These are questions we might ask ourselves or contemplate as we pay our monthly association dues.

As members we receive much for our money. The following is a list of 8 great reasons to be a member of the association.

#1 The Association advocates for excellence in the education profession. We are here to help develop quality educators who are committed to their profession. Training is provided to assist teachers in many areas ranging from praxis assessment preparation, curriculum assistance, National Conference training and attendance, as well as training and support in other valuable areas.

#2 The Association is the voice of educators. The asso-

ciation tracks education policy and works on behalf of public school educators to lobby policy makers to invest in public schools. As a member you have a voice that can be heard with the Association.

#3 The Association supports what its members do in the classroom. The local Association negotiates working conditions for educators and intervenes with administrators when warranted. This might not look like much, but it really is the first line of communication with each district. The OEA meets with the superintendent on a regular basis and communicates various concerns to him. Simple problems are often easily worked out, and larger concerns are negotiated and worked on as part of the contract negotiations. Without the association we would give up true collective bargaining and communication with each school district.

#4 Association members effect real change that benefits our profession. The Association speaks as a unified voice to influence reform and progress. The larger the voice, the greater the strength and chance of success. The NEA is the largest education association in the United States, and the UEA is the largest association in Utah, and the OEA and WEA are the largest teacher representation group in the Ogden area.

#5 The Association fights for the rights of all members. The Association defends members and insures the right to due process for all. Be assured the association is not in the business of protecting bad teachers, but rather, making sure that we protect and provide due process to the good ones. District numbers may vary, but I know of 2 or 3 people a year who call with a concern or problem and do not get the help they need because they are not members of the association. Don't be caught without this valuable protection in your professional career.

#6 The Association is only as strong as its members. Educators must take an active role because no one else cares as much about our students, our profession, or our needs as we do.

#7 The Association advocates for the students. The Association promotes quality public schools, quality teachers, modern and up to date learning tools, and smaller class sizes so teachers can spend one-on-one time with students.

#8 Association membership is part of being a professional. When teachers unite, we make a difference, change takes place and students benefit.

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Legislative Wrap Up 2010

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

Another legislative session has concluded and like a bad wind storm that passes by, we must assess the damage.

- No money was funded for the new growth (11,000 students) in our schools this fall.
- Most districts will see about a 5% cut from last year's budget.
- Our districts will receive less money to hire new

"We support education reform measures that are grounded in research, not experiments that waste scarce taxpayer dollars."

teachers for the growth and class sizes will suffer.

- Benefit costs will increase with no new money to pay for them.
- Supply money was cut in half and so the amounts that you will receive will be reduced.
- New teachers who are hired next fall will see an entirely new (reduced) retirement system.
- Retiring teachers will have to wait a year before they are able to return to teaching and receive their pension and salary.
- Our association leaders will be able to have released time to work on your behalf (and help the district at the same time).
- The cost of buying future service years for retirement will increase after July 1, 2010. (as much as 50%)
- Taxes on tobacco were

raised.

- School districts (like Jordan and Granite) will be able to use building money to pay salaries.
- Tests (UBSCT and Iowa Basic) will be limited for a couple of years to save money.
- The rights of Home School students to participate in extracurricular activities were protected.
- Cuts were made to Electronic High School, Job Enhancement bonuses, and Library books.
- Budgets will be tight as we enter negotiations and we will have to fight for every cent of compensation.
- Cost of Living increases will remain at zero.
- Ethics reform laws passed.
- Charter schools gained.
- No increase in the weighted pupil unit.



"Speak for Tomorrow Today"

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

UEA's new public relations campaign: "Speak for Tomorrow Today" is up and running. Lawn signs and ads promote the goal of Making Quality Public Schools a Priority Now. We support a quality public school that:

- Is accessible to all students.
- Prepares students with the skills to succeed in the new global workplace.

- Allows classroom teachers to use their professional judgment.
- Provides competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain quality teachers.
- Has a caring, dedicated teacher in every classroom able to give individual student attention.
- Is a place where parent involvement is valued and encouraged.
- Provides a well-rounded education with many

choices, including music, arts, sports, and other extracurricular activities.

WE SUPPORT EDUCATION REFORM MEASURES THAT ARE GROUNDED IN RESEARCH, NOT EXPERIMENTS THAT WASTE SCARCE TAXPAYER DOLLARS.



"Has caring dedicated teachers in every classroom able to give individual student attention"