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Important Dates
April 13, 2009
WEA Rally for Education

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Busy Week in Carson City

Lawmakers Entertain Education Cuts as Session Begins to Wrap Up *Time to Maximize Pressure*

As the legislative session proceeds with the last half, lawmakers have to make decisions on how to balance the state budget. While the NSEA Lobby Team is in Carson City working with the legislators to keep this from happening, politics is playing a big role in the decision-making process. Talks of cuts to the education budget are becoming more frequent and we need the membership to speak up even louder.

We appreciate all the messages you have been sending throughout the session and urge you to contact your legislators again and again. We also ask you to urge your colleagues, friends, and family members to do the same. Go to www.nsea-nv.org and click on the "Say NO to Education Cuts" graphic. There you will find a set of talking points to help you craft your message. You will also be able to send the message directly without having to look up your legislators contact information. Just input your address and hit the send button!

Rest assured your Lobby Team is having some serious discussion with lawmakers about the consequences of severe budget cuts. Cuts are not acceptable and we need your support to back up the discussions. Contact your legislators today!

Two Pieces of Legislation Progress in the Legislative Process

This week, NSEA was successful in passing through Committee two vital pieces of legislation. The first, **AB 319** was called the Educator Bill of Rights. The Educator Bill of Rights was designed to provide greater protection to all educators in regard to their locally bargained contracts.

In an effort to provide more transparency to the due process of all educators, AB 319 was agreed to and passed by the Assembly Education Committee. Its next stop will be the Assembly Floor for approval.

The second critical piece of legislation that was past was bill **AB 409** which will completely change the Employee Management Relations Board (EMRB). In a very broad bill, the NSEA set out to provide a more just system that will no longer incur such exorbitant cost by the state.

Moreover, AB 409 will allow the employer/employee disagreements to be

heard and decided upon at a quicker pace allowing for the most effective use of the EMRB.

AB 409 was passed out of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee where it was also referred to Assembly Ways and Means. No notice has been given when this Committee plans to hear the bill.

Clark County Education Association's Legislative Advocates Spend Time in Carson City

Throughout the course of the week—Spring Break in Clark County—approximately 20 of CCEA's Legislative Advocates spent time lobbying in Carson City. They attended meetings with their legislators and provided personal stories of the potential impact if the governor's proposed budget cuts are adopted. In addition, they attended committee hearings as well as testified before legislative committees. In one particular case, the Assembly Education Committee requested that the advocates write an amendment to an education bill.

Congratulations to the advocates for a job well done!

WEA Invites You to Join in Rally for Education

Members of the Washoe Education Association along with members of the UniServ Council of Nevada and other community groups will be taking part in a community event and rally to send a strong message to legislators. The rally, themed: "Make Things Happen," is set to begin at 12 noon on the steps of the Legislature at 401 South Carson Street in Carson City.

Please call WEA for more information or visit their website, www.weatoday.org.