

# WREA NEWSLETTER-JANUARY 2025

## HIP HIP HOORAY!



### President's Message

By Susan Kaiser

Do I have great news for all of you! After 40+ years of trying to repeal the federal laws WEP & GPO a grassroots coalition of labor retirees and activists - including many of you - have finally achieved this important goal. The bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82, passed in the House on November 12th, with ALL Nevada congressional representatives voting in support. The bill then moved to the Senate for consideration. It was a roller coaster ride lasting several weeks as Senator Schumer had to be convinced there was enough support to bring it to a floor vote but not before surviving multiple amendment attempts which would have killed it. Finally, just after midnight on Friday, December 20th the Social Security Fairness Act was passed 76 - 20. As of this writing the bill is scheduled to be signed into law by President Biden on January 6, 2025. This success illustrates the importance of working collaboratively with others and the value of connecting with elected officials to champion our issues. The details impacting your benefits will be determined in the near future. For now, it is recommended that you update your pension information with SSA. If you receive a letter from SSA regarding any changes to your benefits, respond accordingly. Thank you to everyone who actively helped to repeal these evil twins!

Floor Webcast



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## Advocacy Update by Susan Kaiser

As you have already read in this newsletter issue with the repeal of WEP and GPO our passion and perseverance does pay off albeit not always immediately. We have the greatest impact with our local elected officials. Now that the November election results are final. I am pleased to recognize WREA volunteers who helped to elect candidates who value public education and educators. We look forward to working with our own members who are also Assemblywomen, Natha Anderson and Selena La Rue Hatch in addition to other champions in Carson City. The Nevada Legislature will convene on February 3rd for a 120 day session. During this time bills will be considered that impact retirees, our profession and our public schools. We will need advocates who can call in to testify about these bills and their benefits or potential harm. In addition an in-person lobby day is being organized and volunteers will be needed to meet in person with legislators. If you would like to use your educator voice in Carson City please contact Susan Kaiser for more information before February 1st. Email her at [wrea.nevada@gmail.com](mailto:wrea.nevada@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Check our website for details on upcoming events.

<https://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com/>

Please RSVP to help us plan ahead.

Or you can follow us on Facebook...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1084188958323017>

We look forward to seeing you soon!



## BENEFITS



### WCSD

#### Open Season

#### Benefits Deadline?

By Susan Kaiser

This year both mailers from the WCSD Wellness program and their Open Season notification for health benefits arrived in my mailbox the day after the deadline. This was not the fault of the US Postal Service! Many of our

members continue to access these benefits in retirement so it is regrettable that retirees are not notified in a timely way about these important dates. If you had this same experience and want to discuss it with someone who has the ability to make improvements please contact the new HR Chief Doug Owen and email him at [doug.owen@washoeschools.net](mailto:doug.owen@washoeschools.net). Now that the holidays are over, I will be following up with him but hearing directly from each of you about your own experience will have a greater impact. In the meantime, create your own personal reminder and mark September 1st in your 2025 calendar for these deadlines. Just in case!

# OKTOBERFEST 2024

Oktoberfest 2024 was a grand success for fun and fundraising!  
Just check out the photos in this issue.

We appreciate our Silent Auction Donors.

Please recognize their generosity with your business when you are shopping this year.

thank  
you!

Trader Joe's  
Nothing To It! Culinary Center  
Buenos Grill  
Arrowcreek Golf  
Sierra Meat and Seafood  
Chapman Financial Group  
Old Southwest Social House  
Paisan's Old World Deli  
Wild Sierra Soaps by Kathy Howard  
Fused Glass Art by Debbie Russell  
Wild Sierra Soap  
Sugar Coated Salon  
Louis' Basque Corner

Thank you for helping us fund the  
Bernie Anderson WREA Scholarship Fund in 2025!

**This event would not be a success without  
our member donors and volunteers including...**

Patty Dickens, Martha O'Neill, Renee Andrini, Phil Kaiser, Dennis Boyden  
and the WREA Board Members: Michele DeLano, Fran McGregor, Holly Esposito,  
Kathy Howard, Carol Perrigo, Terry Boyden, Melissa Sewell, Ellen Townsend, Susan  
Kaiser and Jencie Fagan.

# Keep Calm & Carry On Basket

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO CHILL! THE CONTENTS OF THIS RAFFLE BASKET WILL HELP YOU GET A START AND IT'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN A LOVELY BASKET. VALUE: \$125

2 BOTTLES OF WINE

\$25 GIFT CARD TO KOHL'S

CALMING COLOR PAGES WITH CRAYONS

CANDLE

TINY GRATITUDE JOURNAL

KITCHEN HELPER

FOOTIE SOCKS

LAVENDER LIP BALM

SHOPPING TOTE

LOUISE PENNY: ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE

LAVENDER FLOWER BOUQUET

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE NEA PAC FUND FOR CHILDREN!  
TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR \$20 FOR 5 TICKETS. DRAWING TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY!



MUST BE A WREA/WEA MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RAFFLE!

Email us at: [wrea.nevada@gmail.com](mailto:wrea.nevada@gmail.com) for tickets today!

## **WREA Book Club News**

by Fran McGregor

January's selection is While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams. Avery Keene, a brilliant young law clerk for the Supreme Court, finds her life upended when her boss, the legendary Justice Howard Wynn, a longtime swing vote on the court, had been in the thick of researching a controversial case – one with incendiary implications sure to reverberate throughout the halls of power in Washington. Much to her surprise, Avery learns that Wynn appointed her to serve as his legal guardian, plunging her into an explosive she never anticipated. As political wrangling intensifies to replace the ailing judge, Keene begins to unravel the carefully constructed, chess like sequence of clues the justice left behind for her. And this labyrinthine puzzle, which immediately puts her in harm's way, may ultimately lead to a stunning truth.

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig is February's selection. We all have regrets-choices we could have made differently, paths we didn't take, other lives we might've led. But what if you were given a chance to fix your past? Enter The Midnight Library. Nora's life has been going from bad to worse. Then at the stroke of midnight on her last night on earth, she finds herself transported to The Midnight Library, where each book contains an alternate life: a possible world in which she made different choices. She is given what seems like the ultimate opportunity: a chance to undo her regrets and try out each of the other lives she might have lived. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she answer the ultimate question: With infinite choices, what is the best way to live?

The WREA Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month, so the next two meetings are Tuesday, January 28 and Tuesday, February 25. All times are 10:00 AM at the WEA office.

# Coming Events!

By Fran McGregor

Now that the holidays are over, join your WREA friends for some fun events!

Tuesday, Jan.14 – Bunco

Thursday, Feb.13 – Wine Tasting

Thursday, Feb. 27 - Bingo

See the fliers in this newsletter for details.

Any questions, contact Fran McGregor at  
[mcgregor.gordon@att.net](mailto:mcgregor.gordon@att.net) or 775-544-3644

## Tutoring Opportunity for Retired Educators

by Fran McGregor

As a retired educator, you still have much to offer to today's students. Reno High School is looking for retired educators who would be willing to offer their services in the areas of English and Math. It would involve one hour of tutoring a week on Mondays from 2:35 – 3:35. A stipend would be provided. If you are interested, contact Judith Ferrer, the Family Graduate Advocate at Reno High, at 775-327-0789 or [judith.ferrer@washoeschools.net](mailto:judith.ferrer@washoeschools.net)

# WEA BUNCO



Tuesday, January 14, 1:00-3:00

WEA Office

\$10 – Bring one \$5 bill and five \$1 bills

Payout for: Most Buncos, Most Wins, Most Baby  
Buncos; Last Bunco receives gift card

RSVP: [washoeretirededucation.weebly.com](http://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com)

RSVP by Friday, January 10



# WREA WINE TASTING!!!

By Fran McGregor



Join your fellow WREA members for an afternoon of wine tasting, snacks, and a 50/50 raffle!

Bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share.

(\$15-\$20 range)

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 4:00-5:30

WEA Office

RSVP: [washoeretirededucation.weebly.com](http://washoeretirededucation.weebly.com) by

Friday, February 7th



**Sponsored by WREA**

Thursday, February 27

4:30-6:30 WEA Building

Snacks/beverages provided

\$10-members, \$15-non-members

Extra cards: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

**RSVP:** [www.washoeretirededucation.weebly.com](http://www.washoeretirededucation.weebly.com)

**RSVP by Monday, February 24**

# WELCOME NEW WREA MEMBERS

By Michele DeLano



WREA would like to welcome our newest members. Please give them a hand and a warm welcome.

Edith Cushing

Debbie Russell

Maryann Thompson



# Your Money Matters

An informational Newsletter from PlanMember

## The basics of an estate plan

### 5 steps you can take to get started

Estate planning is the process of designating who will receive your assets and take care of your responsibilities after you pass away or become incapacitated. Your estate plan is also a fluid process that should be updated as your personal and financial situations change, or at least be reviewed every few years. To help get your estate plan going, here are 5 steps you might consider:

#### 1. Make a list of your possessions

You may think you don't have enough to justify an estate plan. But once you think about it, you might be surprised by all the tangible and intangible assets you have. Your tangible assets may include properties, vehicles, and collectibles. Your intangible assets may include bank and retirement accounts, as well other investments and life insurance policies.

#### 2. Review your beneficiaries

Retirement plans and insurance products usually have beneficiary designations that you need to keep track of and update as needed. Those beneficiary designations can outweigh what's in a will. Designate the percentage of account assets each beneficiary will receive, and make sure to name contingent beneficiaries. It's also a wise idea to maintain a list of all of your beneficiaries along with the account and/or policy providers' names and account numbers.

#### 3. Establish your directives

A complete estate plan includes important legal directives. A will is a written document that becomes effective only after your death. A trust is active the day it is created, and a grantor can list the distribution of assets before his or her death. All wills must go through a legal process called probate. This process can be long and potentially contentious if family members contest the will. Trusts are not required to go through probate, and they cannot be contested.

#### 4. Enlist the help of a professional

If your estate is small and your wishes are simple, an online or packaged will-writing program may be sufficient for your needs. If your estate is more complicated or you have any doubts about the process, consult an estate attorney and possibly a tax advisor.

#### 5. Plan on adjustments

Revisit your estate plan when your personal and financial circumstances change. This may include a marriage or divorce, the birth of a child, loss of a loved one, getting a new job, or being terminated. Even if your circumstances don't change, you should periodically revisit your estate plan as laws may have changed.



### Get your beneficiaries in order An integral part of estate planning

Every day, people pass away leaving survivors without access to beneficiary information, or beneficiaries are not designated at all. This can lead to unnecessary delays, taxes, legal battles, and/or assets not transferring to your intended heirs.

Your Beneficiary Summary Report will help you organize and consolidate your beneficiary information so you know that it is immediately accessible when the time comes.

*This communication is only intended to provide general estate planning guidance. Other issues could exist that can affect your estate plan. Before acting on any information presented, you should seek the advice of an independent estate planning attorney or professional.*

**Request your Beneficiary Summary Report today and make it easy for your family to find the information they need**



Sandra Chapman, CFP®  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

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# **Support the WREA Scholarship for Novice Teachers Launching their career...3, 2, 1 BLAST OFF!!!**

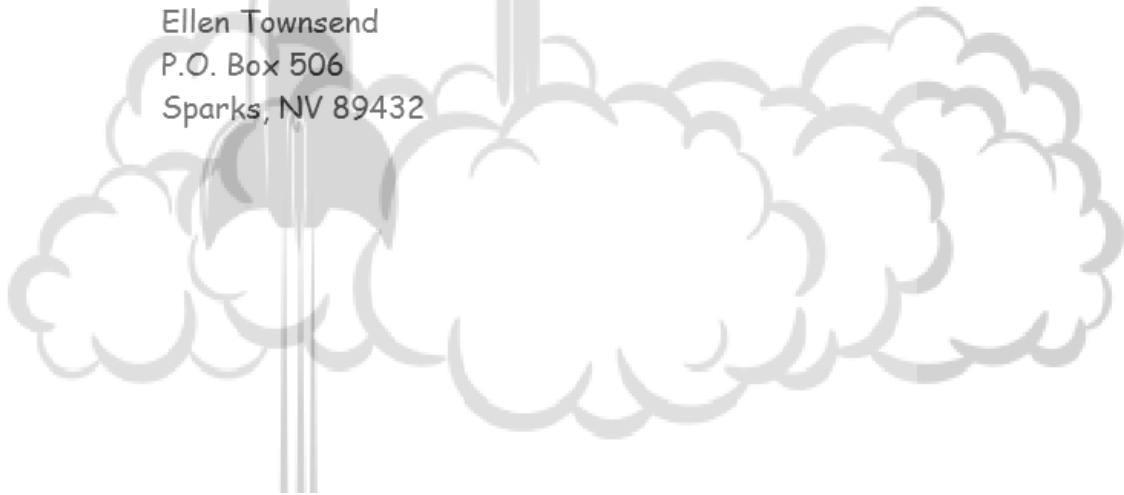
The Washoe Retired Education Association (WREA) supports public education teachers and awards the WREA/Bernie Anderson Scholarship to a University of Nevada - Reno student who is beginning a teaching career in Nevada.

The \$1500 prize can be used for any expense that assists the novice teacher in launching a successful career as an educator.

**Donate today!**

Checks can be made out to WREA with "Scholarship Fund" on the notation line and sent to:

Ellen Townsend  
P.O. Box 506  
Sparks, NV 89432



WREA Member appreciation pizza night



# OKTOBERFEST 2024



## Winter Holiday Luncheon Celebration







Janet Carnes was the lucky winner of the 50-50 drawing at the Holiday Luncheon.



## WREA Events Calendar

### **JAN. 2025**

Jan. 1	Happy New Year		
Jan. 4-5	Newsletter sent out		
Jan. 14	Fun get-together	TBD	
Jan. 28	Book Club meets	WEA office	10:00 A.M.-11:30

### **FEB. 2025**

Feb. 12	Board Meeting	WEA office	10:00 A.M.-12
Feb. 13	Wine tasting	WEA office	4:00 P.M.-5:30 P.M.
Feb. 17	Newsletter articles due		
Feb. 22-23	Newsletter sent out		
Feb. 27	Bingo	WEA office	4:30 P.M.-6:30 P.M.

### **MAR. 2025**

Mar. 8	St. Patrick's Day lunch	Coney Island or TBA	
Mar. 31	Newsletter articles due		

### **APR. 2025**

Apr. 5-6	Newsletter sent out		
Apr. 8	Bingo or Fun Night	WEA office	TBA
Apr. 15	Board Meeting	WEA office	10:00 A.M.-12
Apr. 23	Spring Walk	TBD	
Apr. 30	Spring Walk	TBD	

### **MAY 2025**

May 6	WREA happy hour	Tacos Tijuana	3:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M
May 7	Spring Walk	TBD	10:00 A.M.-12
May 14	Spring Walk	TBD	10:00 A.M.-12
May 21	Spring Walk	TBD	10:00 A.M.-12
May 28	Spring Walk	TBD	10:00 A.M.-12

### **JUNE 2025**

June 12	End of School Luncheon	TBD	
June 16	Newsletter articles due		
June 21-22	Newsletter sent out		