

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/16	All Board Elections Ballots Due
2/16	AR Meeting Mansfield MS 4:30-6:30 PM
3/7	TEA Board TEA Office 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM
3/12- 3/13	Tucson Festival of Books, UofA Mall

Changes to State Retirement

With a state budget deficit of \$1 billion looming over us for next fiscal year, one of the areas the State Legislature is looking at to address budget concerns is the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS). There is discussion about restructuring the System so that it costs less money to fund, and therefore, the state would provide less funding for it to school districts and other state-related employers (counties, universities, etc.). One of the topics of discussion is

changing the System from a "defined benefit" to a "defined contribution" program. (See ASRS links to information about the matter at www.azasrs.gov/web/AsrsInformationRepublicSeries.do.) According to Sheenae Shannon, AEA Communications, the state association "is working with representatives of ASRS and other stakeholders to monitor and assess any legislative or other attempts to undermine the ASRS." AEA, and local affiliates like TEA,

support the continuation of the defined benefit model. AEA has posted Talking Points on its website to help leaders to better understand and explain how ASRS works as a sound and secure system: www.arizonaaea.org/pdfs/politics/ASRS_Talking_Points.pdf. Please note that, as of July 1, 2011, the rate for an employee's contribution (as well as that of the employer) will increase from 9.45% to 10.5%.



On Point... From Your President, Luci Messing

The Legislature is in session and the attack on public education continues. Currently, the Governor's budget calls for a \$101 million reduction to K-12 education. Exactly where do they think that money can come from? Our schools have made incredibly tough decisions with regard to all day kindergarten, fine arts, sports, librarians, counselors, etc. This simply is unacceptable. The majority of our elected officials will not even consider possible alternative revenue

options. We will be vigilant in monitoring the shenanigans of the State Legislature and let you know how you can help. There is a new legislative hotline available for our members. Jennifer Loreda, AEA lobbyist, leaves a three- to five-minute update Monday through Friday on the most critical issues. Dial the toll free number, 1-866-456-1025. When you hear the greeting, key in "1000" to listen to the recording. We need for you, the membership, to be informed



and be prepared to take action. It's all been said before but contacting your legislator through email or by phone when the action alert is activated does make a difference.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Membership Matters	2
Priority Schools	2
Love of Reading	2
Heartbeat of Educ	3

“Remember that every member counts for the Association and for you.”



Meet & Greet with Superintendent Dr. John Pedicone

PD Information

Calling all certified and classified members! Submit your professional development hours, workshops, classes to the TEA office. President Messing and Vice President Roybal will then submit them to the Joint PD Committee for the approval process. The maximum amount provided for any individual will be \$450. The total allotted money will be distributed on a first come-first served basis until June 30, 2011. Please submit your paperwork as soon as possible. Be on the lookout for TEA classes for members.

Membership Matters

by Marivel Roybal, TEA Vice President

Happy February! There is always so much going on in the month of February: Love of Reading, Valentine's Day, Arizona's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Rodeo, and Black History month! With February being a short month, I am sure your classrooms are very busy with all that is created for these February events.

The membership team has continued setting dates for site visits this month as well as for next month. In January we had the privilege of visiting Cholla, Pueblo, Miller, Pistor and Valencia. Let's keep it up! Remember that every member counts for the Association and for you.

Priority Schools Campaign: NEA Resources

by Pernela Jones, Executive Director

There has been much discussion regarding lower-performing schools and some of the federal requirements to improve them as "turnaround schools." NEA has made school improvement a priority for its 3.2 million members with the creation of the NEA Priority Schools Campaign. According to its website, www.neapriorityschools.org, "by leading permanent changes in these Priority Schools, we will transform the lives of tens of thousands of students by significantly raising academic achievement." Go to the site to find out more about the Campaign and to seek out resources. Unlike some previous federal requirements, designated turnaround schools can apply for School Improvement Grants (SIGs), which last for up to three years. The Priority Schools Campaign grew out of a mandate from NEA's annual Representative Assembly, where more than 9,000 delegates voted to focus resources on informing and engaging members in collaborative work to transform lower-performing schools, our

priority schools. The campaign supports:

- School transformation approaches that involve educators, communities and policymakers in state capitols, in Congress and in the White House.
- Collaboration on innovative programs to measure student success and teacher quality.
- Attracting and keeping the best educators and necessary resources for the schools of greatest need.

NEA was instrumental in ensuring that federal requirements to overhaul schools included the option to keep staff with the transformation model, which replaces the principal and improves the school through comprehensive curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies.

(For information about all four options, go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/04/04152010f.html>.)

Contest Tie for Love of Reading:

Involving the School with Love of Reading

by Beverly Elliott, College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Sahuaro

At Sahuaro High School I am combining a "College and Career Week (February 7th – 11th)" with activities to prepare for "Love of Reading Week." As the College and Career Coordinator, I designed door covers with pictures and questions for each teacher to answer about their education and other wonderful information. One of the questions, which is part of a mini lesson for the entire week is for teachers to share with students their favorite book and quote. We are hoping this will encourage students to share information about their favorite book(s). As a part of the same week when teachers share information about their favorite quote and their favorite book, teachers will pass out Sahuaro bookmarks that I designed (with the help of our librarian) and our CTE department funded. Our special education students cut out and placed ribbons on them. On one side there is information about reading, famous quotes and websites and on the other side, websites for college and career research. Shelley, our librarian, has reintroduced SSR (sustained silent reading) time during homeroom and we are encouraging students to "read to achieve."

Cont. on p.3

Heartbeat of Public Education

Congratulations TEA members!

Paul Karłowicz, University High, was recently featured in the Arizona Daily Star for an annual senior debate for his Advanced Placement U.S. government students. The moderator for Paul's debate was none other than Dr. John Pedicone, TUSD's new Superintendent. Read more at http://azstarnet.com/news/local/education/article_af78553c-1559-51e9-926f-d8d1862aacc9.html

Jeremy Harkin, Sahuaro High, has paired up with Metro Car Wash to promote with their **Metro Car Wash / Harkin Scholarship**. The purpose of the scholarship, which was founded last year, is to provide at least one Tucson graduating high school student per year with the funding for at least one full year of tuition at Pima Community College. The Metro Car Wash / Harkin Scholarship, "aims to support the dreams and aspirations of college-able students who do not have the current means to pay for such an education, allowing their hard work and perseverance not to be wasted." For details about the scholarship and for eligibility requirements, go to www.metro scholarship.com.

DEADLINE for application is March 15, 2011.

Editor's note: The Heart Beat of Public Education will be a regular feature of the TEA Matters newsletter to recognize the accomplishments of individual members. If you know of a TEA member who has won an award or has otherwise been recognized, please email the information to Pernela.Jones@arizonaea.org with the subject line: Heart Beat of Public Education.

Love of Reading (cont. from p.2)

100 Acts of Kindness

by Rita Scott, Third Grade Teacher, Robins

Last year, the students in my second grade class dressed up as their favorite storybook characters and we had a picnic lunch inside our classroom. We were also lucky enough to have some wonderful people come read to us throughout the week. This year, I moved up to third grade with most of my students from last year. Since I try to do at least one new project/lesson a year, we will keep the ones from last year but have already started a new one this week that will take us up to Love of Reading Week. It's called **100 Acts of Kindness**. This is an extension from learning about MLK, Jr. and his many accomplishments. We will try to com-

plete **100 acts of kindness** at home, school, or in the community. Any person who witnesses it, has the opportunity to report it with a thank you card. The only catch is that the students cannot report their own act(s). In addition, we are collecting donations for Pima Animal Care Center since they are always in need of food and supplies for the animals.

Please look for grants and awards available through NEA:

www.nea.org/grants/grantsawardsandmore.html.

TEA Blueprint*

TEA leaders and other members participate in the Tucson Festival of Books, which will take place on March 12-13 this year at the University of Arizona mall. Go to tucsonfestivalofbooks.org for more information. Follow the festival on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tucsonfestivalofbooks and Twitter at www.twitter.com/tfob.

**The TEA Blue Print feature will focus on current TEA successes, achievement updates, and/or short reports on TEA.*



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TEA Members: Participate in Monthly Contests

Tell Us Daily What You're Doing for Read Across America!

Read Across America will begin March 1st. If your site or classroom is having an event to celebrate RAA, please let TEA officers know about it; they would love to visit to take pictures and participate in the celebration. For ideas to prepare for this event check out the NEA website at <http://www.nea.org/readacross/>. Also check out Dr. Seuss' website at <http://www.seussville.com/lb/home.html> for information on his birthday and all the books available.

This month's contest? Submit a description of what you've done each day during the week of Read Across America, in 200 words or less. The Public Relations/Communications Committee will conduct drawings every day for prizes. One activity will be selected for publication in the April edition of the "TEA Matters."

Contest winners will receive a \$10.00 gift card as a thank you. Also, there will be a monthly drawing which will give contest participants a chance to receive a \$25.00 gift card. To participate in this month's contest, submit your description by email to tsneduc@aol.com or send it to TEA via District mail.



Did You Know?

- TEA voting concludes on February 16th?
- Information about candidates is available at: www.tucsonea.org. Click on the Elections link.

Member suggestions or comments.

Ideas or comments about the newsletter.

Email: tsneduc@aol.com
Subject: TEA Matters